

# AAL Won 1,924 Polls In Year

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor won 1,924 National Labor Relations Board collective bargaining elections in 1949.

These figures were made public for the first time by Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, as a conference of 200 AFL organizers opened here to plan an intensive campaign for 1,000,000 new members during the Samuel Gompers Centennial Organizing Drive.

The AFL was victorious in 38 percent of the 5,071 elections conducted during the year. The total victories were more than twice as many as those of the CIO and unaffiliated unions.

AFL triumphs exceeded the combined total of CIO and unaffiliated unions.

The AFL led the field in every single tabulation made by the labor board in collective bargaining elections. AFL unions filed the most petitions, took part in the most elections, won most elections, won more than rival CIO and independents which competed in the same plant and in union shops authorizations.

On this successful performance, the AFL planned to build for a greater year in 1950 to honor the founder and first president, Samuel Gompers, on the 100th anniversary of his birthday.

The 1,418 elections in which "no union" won a majority of the votes will be the special target of AFL organizers. The Taft-Hartley law's many restrictions cost most of these polls but plans will be devised to cut down the number of elections where "no union" wins.

AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, Mr. O'Reilly and Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, were scheduled to address the organizers' sessions.

The conference was called by President Green for "the formulation of plans and policies having for their purpose the organization of 1,000,000 new members in 1950."

**ASKS ILO STATUS**  
Geneva.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, recently formed anticommunist labor international, has applied for admission to a consultative status before the International Labor Organization.

Officers of the United Nations affiliate urged approval of this request at the opening of a 4-day meeting of the governing body.

It is certain to precipitate a fight on the Polish members of the governing body to exclude labor group from a status already held by the World Federation of Trade Unions, now wholly Communist-controlled, from which the new international split last year.

The governing body, which functions as the International Labor Organization's executive council, consists of worker, employer and government delegates from 16 countries.

## See AFL World Role In Gompers Spirit

New York.—"The highly constructive role recently played by the American labor leadership in strengthening the spirit of the unionists in western Europe, in their struggle to avoid being reduced to mere Soviet tools," would "have been impossible without the Gompers tradition," Dr. Selig Perlman declares in the Reporter Magazine.

The article, entitled "What Gompers Bequeathed," deals generally with Samuel Gompers' democratic beliefs and contributions to organized labor, but stresses his work, as president of the AFL, in the field of international relations.

"In no other respect is Gompers more entitled to contemporary recognition," Dr. Perlman says. "Gompers, the immigrant from London, considered himself a living link with European labor, and he showed equal concern for workers in Latin America. . . . Even Gompers' detractors will not dispute his role at Versailles, where President Wilson's high regard for him was instrumental in the creation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is an outgrowth of Gompers' work and ideas. In future years, he says, it may be regarded as "the beginning of the recognition of Gompers as the leading intellectual not only of American labor but of free labor throughout the world."

Remember Gompers! Buy stamps!

## Stalin Agent Sent To UN by WFTU

BY ARNOLD BEICHMAN  
New York.—One of Stalin's ranking secret agents in this country today representing the Communist World Federation of Trade Unions before the United Nations.

The name he goes by is William Gebert, although he has been variously known as Bronislaw Konstantie or Boleslaw Gebert. He was a charter member of the American Communist party, an officer on its Central Committee who specialized in trade union and Slav affairs in the United States.

According to a congressional investigation of the American Slav Congress, in which this Soviet agent was a prime mover, Gebert was decorated by the Communist Polish government in Washington, D. C., and was told publicly:

"You are our great support. You gave us information of great importance."

The World Federation of Trade Unions, which the AFL steadfastly refused to join because of its Communist domination, has sent Gebert here to represent the organization before the UN's Economic and Social Council. The WFTU is a non-governmental organization having consultative status before the UN. Gebert is secretary of the Central Committee of Polish Trade Union and is also a secretary of WFTU.

Back in 1933, Gebert was picked up for deportation. Nothing happened and on August 16, 1947, he fled to Poland on the Batory, the same vessel on which another Soviet agent, Gerhart Eisler, fled last year.

In 1932, speaking at secret Communist party meetings in the U. S., Gebert said what was needed was the building of "an iron wall of defense around the Soviet Union," of knowing "justly" where U. S. war industries are located and told Communist functionaries to penetrate the U. S. armed forces.

Washington.—U. S. smokers used 3 1/2 billion more cigarettes in 1949 than in 1948 but there was a decrease of about one package of cigarettes per capita. The Department of Agriculture suggested that the demand for cigarettes may be leveling off after a series of record-breaking years.

**GRANT INSURANCE.**  
Chicago.—Stewart-Warner Corporation signed a contract with Local 1031 of the AFL, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers covering 2,500 employees. The agreement provides no wage increases.

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