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MEANY OPENS GOMPERS ROOM AT ILO; U. S. CENTENNIAL PROGRAMS INCREASE

THIRD PRINTING READY OF GOMPERS' CREDO

NEW YORK.—"Samuel Gompers' Credo," a pamphlet containing significant excerpts from his speeches and writings, published recently by the AFL Gompers Centennial Committee, has gone into its third printing because of the huge and mounting demand for copies.

Scores of international unions, state federations and central labor bodies have sent in individual requests for 25 to 3,000 copies. Many of these note that they wish to distribute the "Credo" not only to officers and active members but to newspapers, radio stations, schools and civic leaders in their localities.

AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman of the Gompers Centennial Committee, said that the response to the pamphlet was a "heartening indication of the widespread interest in the constructive philosophy of the AFL and its founder."

"The pamphlet is one of the most outstanding pieces of literature that the American trade union movement has produced," Charles J. MacGowan, president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers, wrote to Mr. Woll.

Ordering 3,000 copies, Mr. MacGowan expressed the conviction that "this pamphlet goes a long way toward filling the crying need for a booklet or pamphlet which would introduce to our officers, local and international, the basic philosophy underlying the policies of the American Federation of Labor."

Volney Andrews, secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor, in ordering 2,000 copies to which the federation will add 4 pages of information on its own organization, revealed that it will be sent to news and radio writers, public officials and educators throughout the state.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union, headed by David Dubinsky, distributed 1,500 copies of the pamphlet to its convention delegates at a special "Gompers Day" in Atlantic City.

The 48-page "Credo" contains quotations on the philosophy and purposes of the AFL organization, government and law, civil liberties, politics, Americanism, war and peace, and totalitarianism.

Copies are available at the Gompers Centennial Committee, 55 West 42nd St., New York 18, New York.

AFL Auto Union Winner \$150 Fund

Decatur, Ill.—Monthly pensions running to \$150 have been won by Local 837 of the AFL United Automobile Workers of America.

The new agreement was signed with the A. E. Staley Co. of Decatur, Ill., and will cover approximately 3,000 employees. The pension program provides for a minimum monthly payment of \$100 for employees retiring at 65 years with 30 years experience. Based on prevailing earnings, however, officials of both the local union and the company estimate that more than 80 per cent of the employees will receive more than the minimum. The plan, including primary social security benefits, is financed entirely by the company and is guaranteed in the current contract.

It was estimated that the Staley plan calls for a pension \$10 higher than that of the Budd Company in Detroit, heretofore thought to be the most liberal in industry.

\$200 Pension Top Won By AFL Local

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—A wage increase of 12½ cents an hour will be paid to nearly 6,000 AFL electricians in Chicago beginning August 7. The new rate will be \$2.65 an hour.

The increase was voted by a joint arbitration board which has processed all disputes for more than 30 years between the Electrical Contractor Association of Chicago and Local 134 of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

J. Walter Collins, secretary-treasurer of the arbitration board, said 1 per cent of payroll will be deducted by the employer from wages to support the Employees Benefit Fund, one of the oldest welfare programs in existence in organized labor.

Another 1 per cent of payroll is paid into the fund directly by the electricians when they pay their quarterly dues. The fund supports a pension plan, a \$1,000 death benefit, hospitalization and surgical plans, disability insurance, unemployment assistance and other provisions.

Under the pension plan, electricians who retire at 65 can draw pensions up to \$200 a month, including federal social security. There are now almost 100 pensioners on the rolls of Local 134.

The wage increase agreement was perfected only a few days before the golden jubilee celebration of Local 134 in the Chicago Coliseum, May 27, marking 50 years of steady growth since it was chartered June 22, 1900, by the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (as the IBEW was then known.)

KEEPS RENT CONTROL

Washington.—The U. S. Senate voted 36 to 28 to retain rent controls until December 31, 1950. The House immediately took up the measure.

The bill, to replace the one which expires on June 30, will permit local governments to continue rent controls beyond next December 31 until June 30, 1951, if local government bodies take such affirmative action.

The Senate immediately called up the bill to expand Social Security.



Heads Railway Execs

Washington.—George E. Leighty, president AFL Order of Railroad Telegraphers, was elected chairman of the Railway Labor Executives Association representing 20 standard railroad brotherhoods and 2,500,000 workers to succeed late Harry W. Fraser, president Order of Railway Conductors.

Musicians Re-Elect Petrillo President

Houston, Tex.—The AFL American Federation of Musicians re-elected James C. Petrillo president at the annual convention.

He was chosen for his 11th consecutive term.

Other officers of the federation also re-elected are Charles I. Bagley, Los Angeles, vice president; Cleo Cluesmann, Newark, N. J., secretary, and Harry J. Steeper, Jersey City, treasurer.

Three incumbents were among the four members named to the international Executive committee from the United States. They are John W. Parks, Dallas, Tex.; Herman D. Kenin, Portland, Ore.; and George V. Clancy, Detroit. The fourth member is Stanley Ballard, Minneapolis.

Meany At Brussels



Brussels, Belgium.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany (right) chats with J. H. Oldenbroek (left), secretary-general of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and Elmer Cope (center), CIO European representative, during break in May 25-27 sessions of the executive board of the anti-communist international labor organization.

ILGWU Film Hits Broadway; Is Acclaimed Socko Success

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—Labor, specifically the American Federation of Labor, has arrived on Broadway with the world premier of the International Ladies Garment Workers biographic film on June 15.

The movie, "With These Hands," was made by the ILGWU. It received the formal blessing of President William Green, who appears in it with ILG President David Dubinsky.

"This is a film," says President Green on the screen, "not only for the ILGWU, or the labor movement. This is for America, and for a free democratic world."

Produced as part of the ILGWU golden jubilee celebration by Promotional Films, the movie tells the story of the union as seen in the life of a cloakmaker who is shown at the outset applying for retirement under the union pension fund. Playing the part of the cloakmaker is a Broadway star who has appeared in Hollywood films, Sam Levene.

Shown as a series of flashbacks are the struggles to organize the union, the strikes, the picketing, the beatings, all climaxed by a re-enacted scene of the horrible 1911 Triangle fire in which 146 shirtwaist operators were burned to death in a windowless, door-barred factory. There is also the story of the communist bid for power in the

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany formally dedicated the Samuel Gompers Memorial Room at the headquarters of the International Labor Office. The event was one of many held or planned for far corners of the world in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder and first president of the AFL.

Rutgers Holds 20th Annual Labor Meet

New Brunswick, N. J.—AFL President William Green returned to the campus of Rutgers University to deliver the keynote address at the 20th anniversary Labor Institute.

Mr. Green visited Rutgers 20 years ago, then as an anxious observer of a brand new venture in bringing education and labor together to discuss unemployment from labor's viewpoint.

He told his 149 listeners—New Jersey Federation of Labor unionists, educators and government leaders—that they were making history. The intervening years since have proven the correctness of this prophecy.

The education-minded labor leader was not the only observer at this first formal meeting of American college and union representatives in June, 1931. Representatives of universities as far west as Michigan had come to see if the project would work.

The University of Michigan people were so convinced of the values of pooling labor information that by the following June a similar institute was underway at Ann Arbor. Today, models of the Rutgers Institute are found in 75 colleges and universities in 40 states.

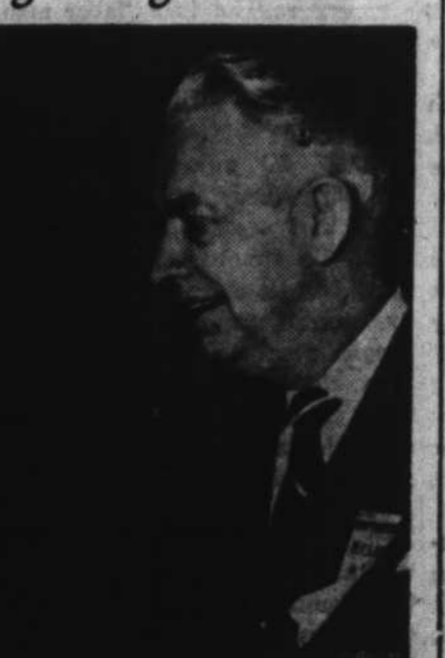
Labor was even more impressed with the outcome of that meeting 20 years ago. Before the 8-day session was concluded, the delegates unanimously requested future conferences and the State Federation of Labor at its next annual meeting petitioned Rutgers to make it an annual affair.

In 1947, the New Jersey Legislature, recognizing the contributions which the institute has made to labor-management understanding, created the Rutgers Institute of Management and Labor Relations.

SPEAK AT TAMIMENT

New York.—AFL President William Green, Vice President Matthew Woll, and Joseph Keenan, director Labor's League for Political Education, will head the list of speakers at the annual conference of the Tamiment Social and Economic Institute, in Pennsylvania, June 22-25, which will be devoted to "Gompers—and a Century of Labor."

Talk Organizing



Washington.—Harry O'Reilly, director AFL organizing, discusses his favorite subject of winning more AFL members with George S. Runn, newly-re-elected president of the National Federation of Insurance Agents Council, one of the organizations spearheading AFL efforts to add 1,000,000 new members in 1950.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the formal programs celebrating the Gompers Centennial increased in number and interest as international unions, state federations, central labor councils, educational institutions and summer study centers gave a day, week end or whole period of study to honoring Mr. Gompers.

In response to Mr. Meany's speech of dedication, President Paul Finet of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions pledged that "this room will never be used for secret talks to advance war or division in the world."

The beautifully-appointed room is the gift of the American Federation of Labor to the ILO and will be used by workers, employers and government labor experts of 61 countries for committee meetings.

Mr. Meany said: "I come here as representative of the millions of members of the American Federation of Labor in the United States and Canada to help dedicate this room to the memory of the late Samuel Gompers, the first president of the AFL."

The fact that there is an International Labor Organization is due to men like Sam Gompers. Mr. Gompers was chairman of the committee of trade unionists from 10 countries who met at Versailles in 1919 and drafted the plan which led the peace conference to set up the ILO.

"For 31 years now the ILO has been working, not only as a gathering of diplomats, but with delegates from the workers and employers' organizations, too. Today it is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

"There are still millions of Americans who do not know that this great labor-management conference exists to fix minimum standards of employment, safety and social welfare by means of international agreements which become binding on those member countries which ratify them.

"They have heard vaguely about the ILO but they do not realize how important it is to the success of President Truman's 'point four' program for extending technical assistance to the underdeveloped areas of the world.

"The ILO has been providing technical assistance for 31 years. It is one of the world's great repositories of knowledge concerning the problems of migration, vocational guidance and the technical training of workers. It also is the leading institution for the study of industrial safety and hygiene, for the protection of women and young workers in industry, and for many other things of which Sam Gompers, if he were alive today, would certainly be proud.

"I am very happy, also, that the ILO is represented on this occasion by my good friend, Paul Finet, of Belgium, who is worker's vice president of the ILO conference now meeting in this beautiful city of Geneva. Mr. Finet has worked closely with the AFL in his capacity of first president of the New International Confederation of Free Trade Unions."

Ring Up \$1,000,000 Sale!



Washington.—L. to r., Mrs. Thelma Dawson, administrative secretary Washington Building Trades Council; Mrs. Lindsey P. Rawley, women's chairman District of Columbia Savings Bonds Division, and AFL Vice-President William C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers, ring replicas of Liberty Bell to signal that AFL Government Employees Council went over \$1,000,000 goal in Flag Day sale of U. S. Independence Savings Bonds.