

# CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

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## Gompers Believed America and Labor Destined to Go Forward

NEW YORK.—Two more articles evaluating the career of Samuel Gompers appeared in magazines in June.

The magazines — Forbes, which is edited primarily for business men, and Survey, which is edited primarily for social workers — joined in praising Gompers' contributions to American growth.

The Forbes article, based largely on a statement prepared for it by Matthew Woll, AFL vice president and chairman of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee, emphasized Gompers' aggressive faith in democratic and American ideals.

"Gompers' credo was voluntarism," Mr. Woll told Forbes, "a belief that no lasting progress for humanity could be gained except by actions voluntarily undertaken in conformity with democratic ideals and traditions."

The Survey article which was written by veteran journalist John A. Fitch, who attended 8 AFL conventions at which Gompers presided, also stresses Gompers' motivating faith.

"He believed in America," Mr. Fitch writes, "he embraced its democratic principles, he gloried in being a part of it—a citizen. To him everything that contributed to human well-being was American, and whatever threatened the liberties of the people was a betrayal of America."

"So it was that he became the acknowledged leader of trade unionism in the United States, as he molded it to accord with his own philosophy and sense of direction, he thought of it as a fundamentally American growth," Mr. Fitch declared. "America and the labor movement were destined to go forward together, indomitable, indestructible and, in basic essentials unchangeable."

Forbes, recalling conditions at the time of Gompers' entry into the labor movement, said:

"Interested in his own class, the young cigarmaker saw around him a milieu direly needing organization. New York (where Gompers lived) was hopelessly in the plundering grip of Boss Tweed. Capitalism was in its jungle phase, and the 'free labor market' was a wasteland of lost causes."

It credits Gompers with having led labor out of the jungle.

"Gompers delighted in activity, in the rousing fight for progress," it says. "He was no cold philosopher in the style of Marx or Bakunine. Yet he sensed the threat implicit in their dogmas. Declares Woll in 1950: 'Gompers was never attracted by the idea of labor rule. Domination of society by any of the elements within it was repugnant to him.'"

Declare your independence by buying Independence Bonds.

### President Gompers



Washington.—Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, posed for this photograph while at the zenith of his career as the nation's foremost labor leader. The AFL is celebrating this year the centenary of his birth, on Jan. 27, 1850, in London, England.

## Is Citizenship Worth Your Vote?

By GEORGE MEANY,

Secretary-Treasurer American Federation of Labor and Labor's League for Political Education.

(From the July issue of The American Federationist)

WASHINGTON.—In every part of the world there are countless thousands of people who would be willing and eager to give up everything they possess for the privilege of coming to the United States and becoming American citizens. To them American citizenship is priceless. What is it worth to you?

Unfortunately, all the indications tend to justify the conclusion that the vast majority of the American people are inclined to take their precious citizenship for granted. Certainly they have repeatedly neglected both the privileges and the obligations of citizenship.

Perhaps the highest privilege

of American citizenship is the right to vote in a free election. That is also the highest obligation of citizenship. Upon the right to vote and the free exercise of that right rests the whole foundation of our system of self-government. If our citizens fail to vote, democracy is international peace and security

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### THANKS EDITORS

New York.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, director of the AFL Union Industries Show and president International Labor Press of America, thanked editors of the labor press for stories and picture coverage of the show held in Philadelphia last May.

## Green Says We Must Win War To Maintain Freedom In World

WASHINGTON.—AFL President William Green pledged united labor support for the United Nations until Korea is won for freedom, liberty and democracy. "Until the conflict is won, no matter how long it takes, you can rely on the organized labor movement to support the United Nations," Mr. Green said. "We must win in the Far East to maintain freedom, liberty and democracy in the whole world."

### CHEST FORUM

Seattle, Wash.—The AFL National Newsletter of the Community Chests and Councils of America reports that Seattle set a "first" for the Pacific Coast with an all-day labor-social welfare forum. The forum was sponsored by the AFL Central Labor Union, CIO and independent unions, and the Community Chest and Council of Seattle and King County.

Dave Beck, executive vice president Teamsters Union, told the luncheon meeting that "labor's recognition of its right and duty to, and the necessity for sponsoring this form is a priceless heritage guaranteed us by our founding fathers when they wrote our Federal Constitution."

### Heads Musicians

Houston, Tex.—James C. Petrillo was elected by the AFL American Federation of Musicians to his 11th consecutive term as president at the annual convention.

### Home From Europe



New York.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Mrs. Meany return from six weeks' business trip to Europe where the AFL official found in conferences with free trade union leaders that Russia's setbacks forced the Communists to attempt hot war in Korea.

## AFL Convention Call Labor Omnia Vincit

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

A. F. of L. Building Washington, D. C.

To All Affiliated Unions Greetings: June 30, 1950.

You are hereby notified that, in pursuance of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the Sixty-ninth Convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held in the Civic Auditorium, Houston, Texas, beginning at 10:00 o'clock Monday morning, September 18, 1950, and will continue in session from day to day until the business of the Convention shall have been completed.

Many interesting developments have taken place in both the international and the national fields since the adjournment of our last convention. The extension of aid, assistance and help to the impoverished people of Europe through the Marshall Plan and otherwise, has been supplemented through the organization and establishment of a new world confederation of free, democratic unions, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. All of this must be interpreted as a contribution toward the promotion of international welfare, good will and co-operation. No one can adequately appraise the value of the service thus rendered in the promotion of international peace and security

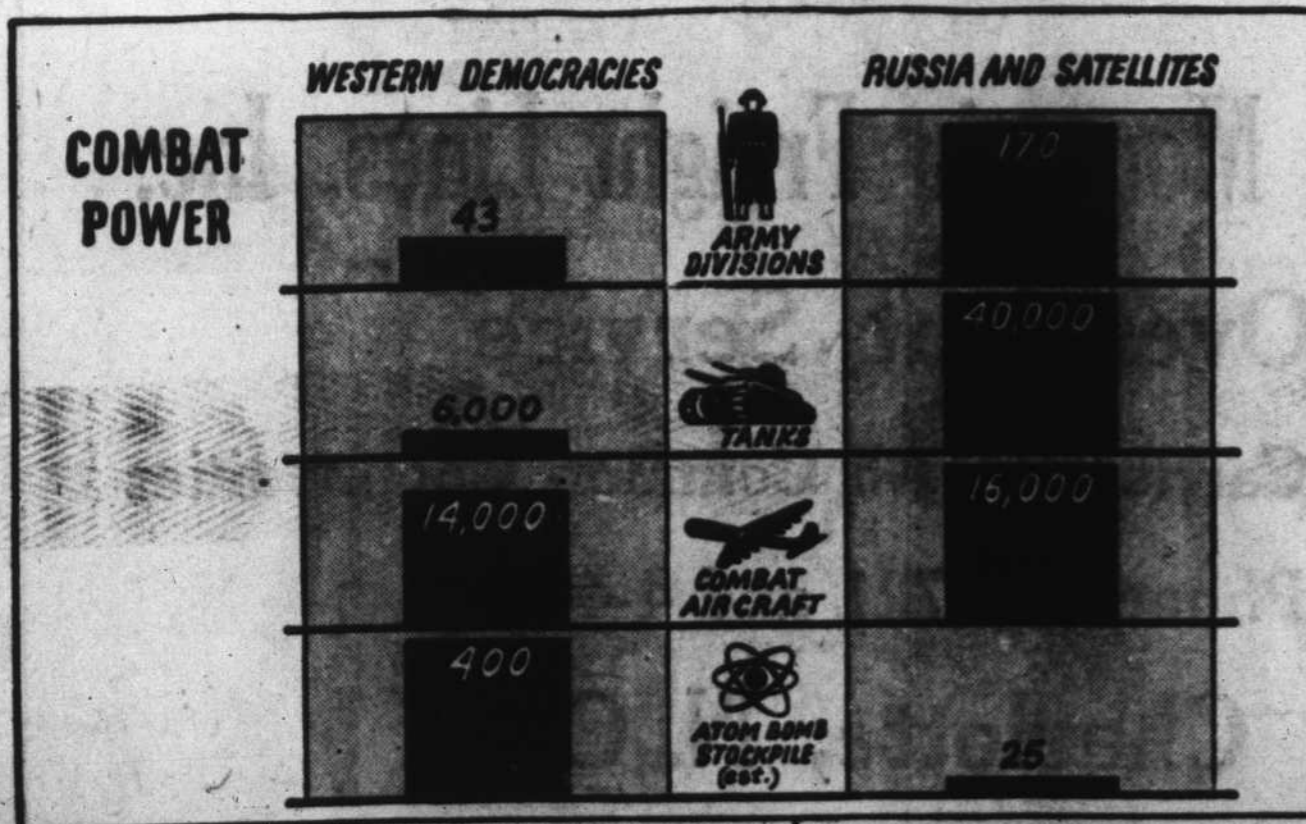
and in the determination to preserve freedom, liberty and democracy.

In the national field, our unions have succeeded in maintaining the economic and social gains which they have made, and in raising their standards of life and living to somewhat higher levels. In this respect we have not lost but instead have gained much. Through the enactment of improved social security legislation, the establishment of higher minimum wage rates, the extension of a shorter workday period in many instances, and the development of a favorable public sentiment in support of adequate retirement legislation, the social and economic welfare of the masses of the people has been advanced.

In fighting for the realization of these social and economic gains we have learned that we must continue as aggressively and militantly as ever for the preservation of freedom, liberty and democracy. Even during this period when we meet again in annual convention, there is abroad throughout the nation a clashing of governmental ideologies and controls. We of the American Federation of Labor who cherish freedom and liberty as a priceless heritage can not and will not surrender to totalitarianism or the totalitarian form of government. Because we cherish freedom we will fight to

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### Russia Holds Combat Edge Now



—From AFL Labor Monthly Survey

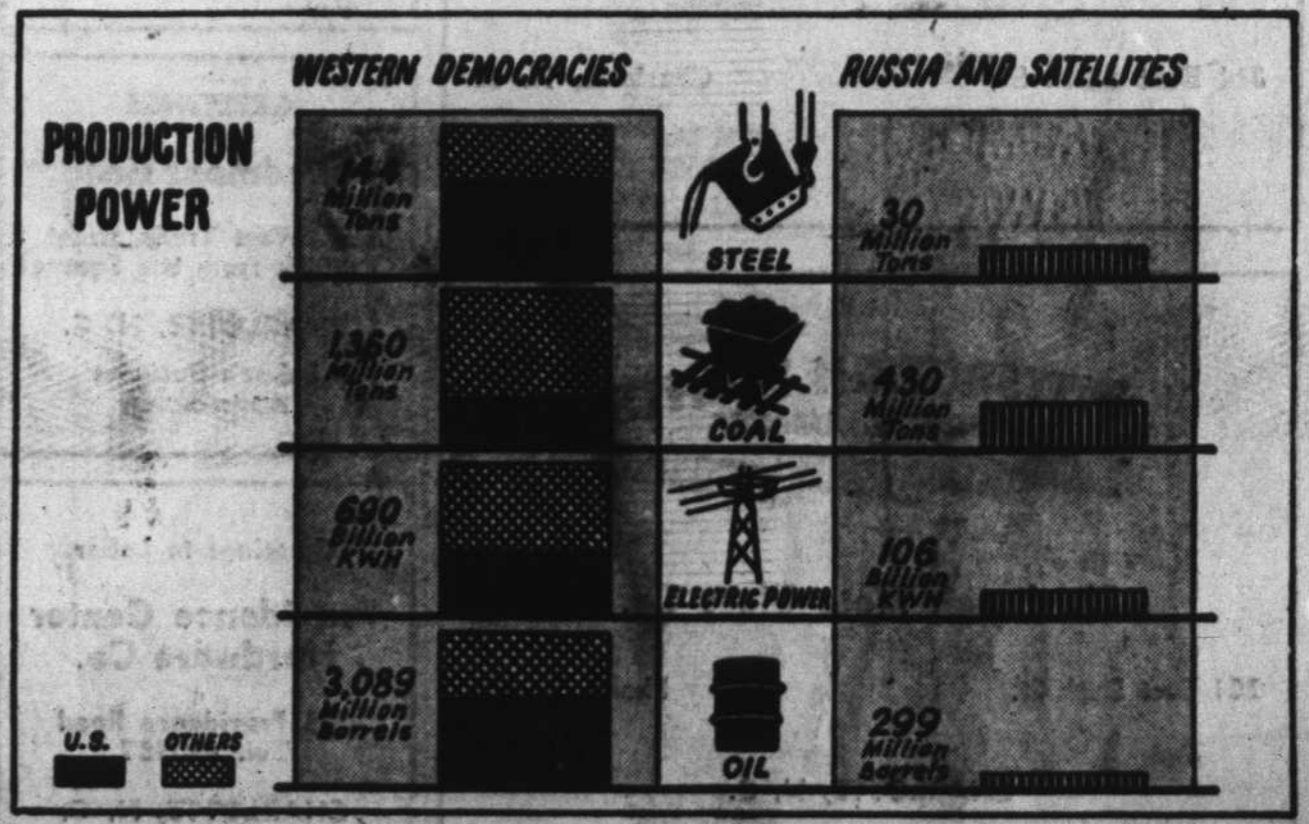
### CARE FOR INDIA

New York.—Food, clothing and books, to bring immediate help to the destitute and scientific know-how for a better future, can now be sent to India through CARE.

Paul Comly French, executive director of the Co-operative for American Remittances to Europe, announced that, effective at once, orders will be accepted for three types of CARE service to that country: A special \$10 India food package; an \$8.50 cotton textile package, and the CARE-UNESCO Book Fund, which accepts contributions in any amount.

Orders or contributions for packages or books can be mailed for the AFL Representative, CARE, 20 Broad St., New York 5, N. Y. The agency has established a mission in New Delhi and the first packages, to be stockpiled awaiting delivery orders, will arrive in India on July 1, 1950.

### But U. S. Has Production Margin



—From AFL Labor Monthly Survey