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## AMERICA OWES SAM GOMPERS GREAT DEBT U. S. LABOR BACKS ALL-OUT WORLD MOBILIZATION EFFORTS

AFL, CIO, Machinists and Railroad unions are joining in an unofficial committee on defense mobilization. The labor groups are not satisfied with the way controls are going and want to make their collective voice heard.

Layoffs hit industries throughout the country this week, as unions had warned they would. The main cause was shortages, and it was aggravated labor leaders say, by uncoordinated government rulings on stockpiling and priorities for strategic materials. Such developments were stirring labor to action.

Labor already had three representatives (AFL President William Green, CIO President Philip Murray, and IAM President Al Hayes) on the official committee which advises mobilization director W. Stuart Symington. Agriculture, business and public are also represented on the committee, which discusses general policy. Union spokesmen feel, however, that they do not exert enough influence on actual decisions through their participation in the group.

Earlier in the game, a much larger labor delegation met with Symington to express labor's concern for an active role in the defense effort. It was from this group that the idea for a permanent labor mobilization committee grew.

AFL delegates to the proposed 14-man panel include President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, it was learned. Joseph Keenan, head of Labors League for Political Education, who served on the World War II War Production Board, will act as the AFL expert on production. President Harry Bates of the Bricklayers, who is slated to be on the government's Wage Stabilization Board, will be the wage expert. The fifth man, in charge of manpower, is expected to be either Lewis Hines, or Walter Mason, both of the AFL legislative department.

CIO President Philip Murray will be on the committee, United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther will act as the CIO's production expert. President Jacob Potofsky of Amalgamated Clothing Workers will represent CIO on manpower, President L. S. Buckmaster of the Rubber Workers on prices, and President Emil Rieve of the Textile Workers on wages. Rieve is also slated for membership on the Wage Stabilization Board.

From the International Association of Machinists, President Al Hayes and Vice President Elmer Walker, both of whom have taken an active part in previous mobilization meetings, will be in the group.

George E. Leighty, president of the Railway Labor Executives Association took part in the July meetings with Symington. He, and possibly another delegate, will most likely represent the rail unions.

It has not been made clear yet whether John L. Lewis has been asked to participate. The United Mine Workers are noted or their opposition to official government boards. This, however, would be an unofficial board, and the union's Secretary-Treasurer, John Owens, participated in the original meeting with Symington last July.

Except for the Wage Stabilization Board, no labor people have been named yet for definite positions in the new defense setup. Union representatives are expected to get advisory positions in the Office of Defense Manpower, and unionists have been promised a spot on the National Production Authority.

The unofficial mobilization committee is expected to meet sometime after the CIO convention is over.

By ANDREW C. BOSS, S. J.  
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(From the U.S.F. Labor-Management Panel)

If we wish to find the man most responsible for making our capitalistic system acceptable to the rank and file of the American people we don't turn to business or politics but to labor. Samuel Gompers did more for America than any industrialist, such as Carnegie, Gould, Hanna, Rockefeller, or any politician, such as Roosevelt, Hoover, Coolidge or Wilson.

Throughout history every grass-root protest against a corrupt political power or unjust economic system has usually ended in bloodshed and tyranny. Most reformers have been either idealists or men of violence. In America we have been more fortunate than the rest of the world.

At the end of the 19th century the workers were growing restless and threatening under an obviously ruthless industrial system, but this mass movement was not to end in bloodshed and violence. In America this movement came under the influence of a man endowed with a hatred for violence in all its forms.

Sam Gompers was not hypnotized by any pie-in-the-sky socialism. Mr. Gompers was an individualist, ready to meet the rugged individuals of industry in their own bailiwick—wages and profits.

Gompers formulated a bread and butter philosophy of labor. He would not throw out capitalism but like a hardheaded business man would use capitalism for the best interest of the workers.

He sold the free enterprise system to the American worker. He taught labor a way of life within that system. It is difficult to find anyone in the 20th century who has done more to preserve and foster the American way of living than Samuel Gompers.

This is America's first great indebtedness to Mr. Gompers.

Business should take warning that organized labor is not to be fought as an enemy. The American business - managerial class can thank Gompers for being instrumental in preserving our mixed-capitalistic-free-enterprise system of economics.

And every union man ought to give thanks not only for higher wages, shorter hours and greater security, but for the fact that all these were achieved without sacrificing freedom or human dignity to a regimented economy.

In 1924, the year he died, Gompers said: "I have been jealous that the American labor movement should retain the character of a crusade for human justice."

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#### EMPLOYMENT FIGURE CONTINUES TO RISE

WASHINGTON—With employment in the nation's factories continuing to rise, nonfarm wages and salary employment set a new all-time high of almost 45.3 million in mid-October.

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the gain of 39,000 over mid-September was much smaller, however, than the sharp increases which occurred between July and September. Moderate gains in manufacturing, trade and government were partly offset by minor seasonal reductions in construction and some of the service industries.

As a result of the rising demand for goods and services by business, more than 1.8 million employees were added to the payrolls of non-farm establishments from June to October, 1950.