

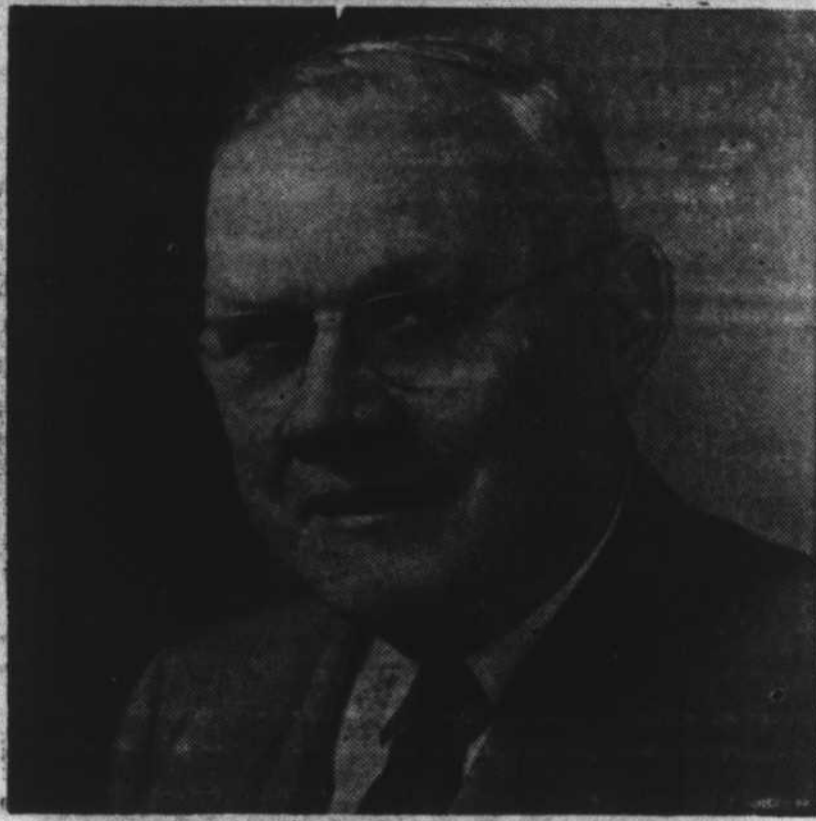
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WILLIAM GREEN
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN FEDERATION of LABOR

President Green On Labor Day

On this Labor Day, the 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor would do well to take stock of the status of our trade union movement in the community, in the nation, and in the world.

Our first consideration must be given to security—the security of peace, the security of our precious freedom, and the security of our standards of work and living.

Events have proved beyond question that the only serious threat to world peace stems from the Kremlin. Because of Soviet Russia's aggressive imperialism, we were forced to intervene as the agent of the United Nations to defend Korea. Because of the Communists' far-flung preparations for further aggressions against peaceful nations of Europe and Asia, we were compelled to initiate a vast national defense program, supplemented by military and economic assistance to our allies.

As we take inventory of these basic policies and programs, we are justified by the results in reaching the conclusion that America followed a wise and courageous course. Labor should be proud of the fact that it consistently supported firm resistance against Soviet aggression and full collaboration with the free nations of the world. Moreover, from the beginning, The American Federation

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GEORGE MEANY
SECRETARY-TREASURER
AMERICAN FEDERATION of LABOR

George Meany's Labor Day Address

On this Labor Day of 1951, one thing should be clear to all of us in the Trade Union movement. As trade unionists, and as citizens of our great country, we have an even greater responsibility to our nation and to our members. We must fight as never before, to defend human freedom from the ominous threat of totalitarian aggression. To do this, we must keep our country strong, and we must maintain our freedom here at home.

We are the strongest and richest nation on earth because the standard of living of the great mass of the American people, generally, is higher than the standard of living of any other people. And our standard of living is so high because of the never-ending fight of our free trade union movement over the past 100 years, for progress.

Back in the early days, our prime method was organization. In those days, Gompers closed his speeches with one word, repeated three times — "Organize! Organize! Organize!" Of course, organizing the unorganized still remains a major objective of the AFL. But in order to preserve the things we have gained, and make further advances, we have got to think of new methods.

We have got to think in terms of methods that we, to some extent, shied away from in the past.

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A SALUTE TO PETER MCGUIRE

Let American Labor on this Labor Day salute the humble carpenter, Peter J. McGuire, who in May, 1882, stood before the newly organized Central Labor Union in New York City and proposed that one day of the year be set aside as a general holiday for the working masses. He asked that this day be set for the first Monday in September. His idea was enthusiastically embraced by delegates present and a committee was named and preparations begun for the initial celebration of Labor Day. This beginning bore fruit two years later when the delegates to the fourth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Chicago adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set aside as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling or nationality."

During the next few years organized labor set about the task of securing state and national legislation designed to make the Labor Day a legal holiday. Oregon enacted the first law in 1887 and ultimately 23 states proclaimed Labor Day a legal holiday. The labor committee of the House of Representatives presented a favorable report on a bill in May of 1894 making Labor Day a legal public holiday. In June of that year congressional action was completed and President Grover Cleveland signed the measure.

One sees in national recognition through congressional action the guiding spirit and hand of Samuel Gompers, American Labor's great leader, to whom the pen used in signing the bill into law, was later presented.



180,000 Southern Workers Share In Wage Increases

Approximately 180,000 workers shared in more than 175 wage settlements which were made in the South during the past month, according to Brunswick A. Bagdon, Southern Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of wage changes levelled off after a continuous decline during the preceding six months. In July, however, the number increased about 5 per cent over the low point reached in the preceding 30-day period.

Over 80 per cent of these settlements involved wage increases only: less than 15 per cent included both wage and fringe benefits; and about 5 per cent provided for additional fringe benefits only. Agreement extensions with no changes in wages or supplementary benefits were made in less than one per cent of the settlements.

Wage increases of 5 cents to 10 cents an hour accounted for more than 45 per cent of the changes. Increases of over 10 cents to 30 cents an hour accounted for about 35 per cent while increases of less than 5 cents were granted in less than 15 per cent of the settlements. No attempt has been made to determine whether these wage changes are permissible under existing Wage Stabilization Board regulations.

The greatest wage activity during this period occurred in Chemicals, Construction, Foods, Government (non-federal), Metal Products, and Public Utilities. There was no single settlement in the South, however, which set a pattern for an industry and-or area.

State, county and municipal employees continued to receive substantial wage increases during the month. Increases of \$10 a month to \$425 a year were granted in 60 settlements affecting more than 40,000 non-federal government workers.

It is anticipated that there will be a large number of demands from labor for additional paid vacations and shift differentials now that the Wage Stabilization Board has announced that such fringe benefits can be obtained by workers without being offset against the permissible 10 per cent general wage hike.

A DISCUSSION—LABOR LAWS AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION

Proceedings of the thirty-third convention of the International Association of Governmental Labor Officials, Boston, Mass., September 18-20, 1950, are now available in "A Discussion—Labor Laws and Their Administration," recently published by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Standards as its Bulletin No. 145.

Copies of this publication may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, Washington 25, D. C., as long as the limited free supply lasts. Additional copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 50 cents each.

FOUR DECADES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT TRAGEDY

WASHINGTON, D. C. — From 1909 to 1948 Government employment in the United States rose from 186 public employees for every 10,000 in population to 371 for every 10,000, according to an article in the July Monthly Labor

Review, official publication of the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Payrolls increased from \$18 per

LET'S START SOMETHING— UNION LABEL WEEK . . . !

By RAY F. LEHENEY,

Secretary-Treasurer AFL Union Label Trades Department

If one person tells something to ten persons and, in turn, those ten each tell the same thing to ten other persons — and so on down the line — by the time that the sixth series of individuals is reached, then a million people will have heard the original story. Mathematicians call this "arithmetical progression" — it is just plain common sense for union workers to orally broadcast in this person-to-person manner and spread the gospel by word of mouth. It's legal. There is no money involved. It is the working man's TV. We call this word-of-mouth broadcasting, Tell-a-Person — you see. It beats everything in advertising.

When one asks a friend or neighbor to do a personal favor for him it is far more effective than a squawking commercial over radio and television which costs the sponsors over a billion dollars annually.

Let's not be self-conscious! Let's be Union-Label-conscious and spread the message about going Union and buying Label. It is the best guarantee for union wages and our very jobs. It is important to others also. If each union-minded man or woman will sell this union-buying idea to ten other consumers, ten million members of AFL unions and auxiliaries can reach a million people every ten days. That would be the greatest publicity drive that ever took place for any product or service. It would pay off in good dividends to every individual who plays a part in this unique Tell-a-Person broadcast. It will help to maintain our unexcelled labor standards, stabilize American prosperity and bring greater security to your land and mine.

Let's not talk to ourselves about it. Let's do something about it! Let's go out and "broadcast" over the fence to our neighbors or call our friends on the telephone and ask them to demand the Union Label, Shop Card or Union Button every time they patronize any business firm! That is a practical way to get definite results. Let's all try out this system for the seven days during Union Label Week — September 2nd through 8th. Let's start something. Let's go!

capita of total population to \$61. The article, by Carol P. Brainerd, says the greatest share of this expansion occurred in State and local governments, with education the chief contributing factor. In 1948, education absorbed 43 per cent of State and local employment and payroll and accounted for 102 employees per 10,000 from a total of 138 for all functions.

LABOR'S Declaration!

BUY UNION

I Promise to Patronize Firms which Display:

- UNION LABELS
- SHOP CARDS & UNION BUTTONS

UNION LABEL WEEK

September 2-8, 1951