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Year's News Briefs

Editor's Note: The following is a summary of the year's news highlights in both the A.F.L and C.I.O., starting with September,

1952 SUMMARY

BY LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATED

SEPTEMBER: The AFL convention, for the first time in history, endorsed a presidential candidate, Democratic Nominee Adlai Stevenson. The convention acted after hearing both Stevenson and Eisenhower, LLPE Director McDevitt urged the delegates to put political action ahead of everything but emergency union work until after the November election.

The convention also: re-elected Green and other top officers, renewed its unity bid to the CIO and UMW, and called for effective price controls, rent controls where necessary, public housing, extension of social security, federal FEPC and national health insurance. Meeting prior to the convention were the AFL Metal Trades, Building Trades and Union Label Departments and the International Labor Press of America which presented 30 plaques to outstanding AFL publications.

Added to the list of unions indorsing Stevenson and Sparkman were the AFL Machinists, CIO Oil Workers, CIO Rubber Workers, Sam Gompers California AFL, CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO Textile Workers, CIO Woodworkers and CIO Paperworkers.

A strike of 38,000 IAM members at Lockheed and Douglas aircraft plants in California was called off Sept. 29 at the request of President Truman. Negotiations were moved to Washington for White Executive Type House and federal mediation assistance.

A soft coal strike was averted when Lewis signed contracts with Northern and Southern coal operators calling for a \$1.90 a day wage hike and 10-cent a ton increase in welfare fund payments. Hard coal operators agreed to a 20-cent a ton increase in welfare payments, pany. He could have held high with a wage raise to be settled after soft coal negotiations. UMW's political posts. He could have millionth medical benefit check paid the hospital and doctor bill for been the \$50,000-a-year head of a with a wage raise to be settled after soft coal negotiations. UMW's the birth of twin sons of a West Virginia miner. Lewis answered the AFL's unity call by a proposal for a conference to effect immediate

Westinghouse settled with IUE for wage boosts of 7.5 to 18 an hour for 45,000 employes, but General Electric refused to make an acceptable offer for its 71,000 employes, represented by IUE. A strike against GE set for Sept. 29 was canceled to allow for a meeting of the IUE-GE conference board which had power to set a new

Eastern railroads finally granted the union shop to 17 non-operating rail unions. Settlement of 58 grievances, some two years old. canceled strike action against the New York Central Railroad by the Engineers, Conductors and Firemen. An increase in the cost of living for the sixth straight month brought a 2-cent an hour pay incréase for 1,250,000 rail workers.

UAW-CIO asked General Motors to revise the wage scales and minimum pension provided in the 5-year contract increases which runs until 1955. UAW also won Wage Stabilization Board approval of substantial increases at three North American aviation plants, on the ground that aircraft pay should equal that in the auto industry. A \$1 million damage suit was filed by UAW against International Harvester for violation of the vacation clause of the Melrose Park. Ill., contract. A contract granting a full union shop and 10-cent an hour wage hike ended a strike of 18,000 URW members against Goodrich.

The NLRB asked the US Supreme Court to overrule a lower court ruling which would force union members to cross picket lines or be fired. David Cole, veteran arbiter, replaced Cyrus Ching as head of the Federal Mediation Service. Harry Bridges' 1950 perjury conviction and deportation order was upheld by a federal appeals court

Eisenhower and Taft, labor's No. 1 enemy, made up after conference at Columbia University and Taft announced that he and Ike see eye-to-eye on Taft-Hartley. Stevenson, in his Labor Day address in Detroit and in his speech at the AFL convention, called for repeal of T-H.

The ITU started publication in Charleston, W. Va., of Labor's Daily, only daily labor newspaper in the US. SIU opened the first union-owned and operated night club in Brooklyn. The New Jersey CIO won a 10-year fight for on-the-job voter registration at several large industrial plants in Middlesex County, but GOP election officials blocked attempts to extend in-plant registration to other counties.

OCTOBER: Political action was the theme of the month, Stevenson got additional endorsements from the AFL Teamsters, United Mine Workers, CIO Electrical Workers, Ohio AFL, CIO Chemical Workers, cigarmakers lost a long and bitter CIO Marine Workers, Chicago AFL and others.

Philip Murray declared an Eisenhower victory would bring a "blitzkrieg against labor" and Walter Reuther told a UAW veterans conference in Washington that the real fifth column in America is the Wall Street gang that wants to turn the clock back to the 1920's. PAC reported CIO voter registration at an all-time high and PAC Director Jack Kroll, who correctly predicted Truman's 1948 victory, said the next president would be Stevenson, both houses of Congress would be Democratic and Ike would get a maximum of 150 electoral

Sen. Wayne Morse (R. Ore.) announced he was disillusioned with Eisenhower's alliance with the reactionary wing of the GOP and would campaign for Stevenson. A few days later he resigned from

Some 350,000 soft coal miners struck in protest against a WSB decision cutting 40 cents from the \$1.90 a day wage boost negotiated by UMW. WSB labor members voted against the cut, pointing out that the miners do not have certain fringe benefits enjoyed by other unions. At the request of President Truman, Lewis asked the miners to return to work, pending an appeal to WSB to restore the cut.

Dan Tobin retired after 45 years as president of the Teamsters. and was succeeded by executive vice-president Dave Beck. AFL Textile Workers defeated the CIO Textile Workers 7689-278 in an NLRB election for bargaining rights for 11,000 employes of Dan River Mills in Virginia. James S. Killen, AFL Pulp-Sulphite vice-president, was

(Continued on Page 2)

MR. GOMPERS

Samuel Gompers, a founder ar first president of the AFL. He held the AFL's top post for 37 years until his death in 1924.

Million Dollar

WASHINGTON (LPA) - The man could have had a guarantee of a million dollars in 10 years as president of an insurance com-

and for 37 years president of the American Federation of Labor. little baffled that anyone should think he was interested in any career other than the one he had

He gave his life so wholeheartedly to the union movement that. as President Coolidge put it. "hi name was almost synonomous with the cause he represented." influence was so indelibly stamped

or the AFL that its policies often were regarded to as "Gompersism." He provided the indispensible leadership that welded the feeble, disorganized union movement of the late 19th century into a powerful labor federation that brought raised living standards and new dignity to working people.

Gompers was born into a poverty-stricken neighborhood London's crowded east side January 27, 1850. At 10 he was appprenticed to a cobbler, but he didn't like the work and soon switched to his father's trade cigar-making. His family came to America in 1863 and two years later, at 15, Gompers got his first union card in the cigar-makers union. He handled his first grievance case at 16 and won.

At 26, he was president of his union and at 27 he was a delegate to the national convention. It was at this time, in 1877, that the strike and Gompers was blacklisted and out of work for months. His family almost starved. But his wife Sophia, a tobacco stripper whom he had married when he was 17, had a courage to match her husband's. With four children and a fifth coming, she kept the family alive on a diet that sometimes was no more than soup made of water, flour, salt

'In his autobiography, Gompers ecords a memorable incident from his period. He reports that one ght when he came home, Sophis told him a caller had offered her \$30 a week for three months if Gompers would quit the union Well, what did you tell him?"

"My wife, indignant at the nuestion." Gompers wrote, "ahswered: 'What do you suppose I told him with one child dying and another coming? Of course,



JOHN MeBRIDE

John McBride, "unknown" second president of the AFL, who defeated Samuel Gompers for the 1894-95 term. Also second president of the United Mine Workers, be died in Arisons in 1914. he died in Arizona in 1917, where he went into the cigar-making business and entered politics.

AFL's 2nd Chief Little Known; Was UMW Head

COLUMBUS, O. (LPA)-A forgotten grave in this city is the final resting place of the "unknown" second president of the

News stories following the death of William Green in No-But Samuel Gompers, founder the only man other than the great Samuel Gompers, who had held that office.

the AFL presidency after the lat- followed throughout his life. ter's death in 1924. But 30 years earlier, an Ohio miner held the AFL's highest office for one year. He served from 1894 to 1895 and was the only man ever to defeat Gompers for the AFL position.

The man was John McBride. also second president of the United Mine Workers and at one time a member of the Ohio legis-

When Gompers was re-elected by the AFL in 1895, McBride, suffering from poor health, took his family to Phoenix, Ariz. One of the first things he did after father in the mines. arriving there was to engage a contractor to build a home for him. The contractor had never before used union labor, but Mc-Bride insisted that his home be an all-union job. It probably was the first home in Pheonix built on that basis.

Shortly after, McBride and nan named Beavers formed a

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WILLIAM GREEN Third AFL President

Twenty-Eight Years

Washington-(LPA)-When the AFL convention opens later this month, it will be the first time in 28 years that the man wielding the presiding officer's gavel will not be William Green, the Ohio miner whose early ambition was to be a minister, but who became AFL President instead.

His death on November 20. 1952, marked the end of long years of devotion to the advancement of the working man that began when he entered the mines

vember, 1952, described Green as come a minister when poverty the second president of the AFL, forced him out of school at 14 There is no disputing the fact had turned him toward that prothat Green succeeded Gompers to fession shaped the principles he

His hometown friends, labor associates, public officials and businessmen remember him as a mildmannered man whose method was to counsel the middle road rather than extreme measures as he worked to make a reality of his vision of a better life for the world's little people.

Born March 3, 1870, into miner's family in Coshocton, Ohio, Green joined the Coshocton Miners Union-later to become Local 272 of the United Mine Workers-at the same time he joined his

It wasn't long until he was raising his voice at union meetings against the squalor of company towns, wretched wages, and primitive working conditions that resulted in mine accidents that maimed and killed and left the families of the victims without any means of livelihood.

He was particularly incensed by partnership to manufacture cigars. the use of the mine screen through (Continued on Page 6)

Peace, Freedom' And **Prosperity Goals Of** World Free Labor



Fourth AFL President

President Meany's Labor Day Address

By GEORGE MEANY

as a breaker boy when he was 16. this Labor Day to extend frater-Green gave up his plans to be-come a minister when poverty workers throughout the world. AFL in 1886 (LPA). From its inception, the American a railroad construction project.
But the personal qualities which our international friendships.

We realized that when the freedom of workers in one land was expunged, the freedom of workers in all lands was threatened. We understood that when the prosperity of workers in one nation was undermined, the welfare of workers everywhere became insecure. The experiences we have undergone in two world wars have served only to confirm these basic

WORLD-WIDE CHALLENGE

Today free labor faces a worldwide challenge from the forces of dictatorship, its inveterate enemy. Almost a generation ago, Mussolini and Hitler found they first had to destroy the freedom of labor before they could climb into power. Today Franco and Peron are following their example.

Their sphere of influence is limited. The big threat to the peace of the world and the freedom of workers at this moment comes from the Kremlin. The Communist dictatorship has enslaved millions upon millions of pay homage to those who from workers behind the Iron Curtain, rude nature have delved and It had ground these workers down with a merciless oppression that is a throwback to the days of

workers rise. Through the win- men in the ranks of the working dow of Berlin—the only window people — men active in uplifting left open in the Iron Curtain, we their fellows, and leading them saw men and women in Eastern to better conditions. It came from Europe out of sheer desperation a little group in New York City. defy Soviet tanks and machine the Central Labor Union, which guns with their bare fists. Spon- had just been formed and which taneously, without plan, without in later years attained widespreaweapons and without hope, they influence. quit their jobs and marched On May 8, 1882, the writer through the streets, gaining the made the proposition.. He urged support of whole communities as the propriety of setting aside one they voiced their protests.

CRACKED UNDER STRAIN

nunist dictatorship was too the day should first be celebrat incible for an insursection to sucseed. Yet it cracked under the Berlin, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, and the proceeds of the



PETER J. McGUIRE

First Labor Day celebration President, American Federation of
Labor
In behalf of the free workers of America, it is my privilege on this Labor Day to extend frater
Pirst Labor Day celebration was held in New York in 1882 after Peter J. McGuire (above) urged the infant New York Central Labor Union to sponsor a holiday honoring working people. McGuire had founded the Carpen-

Day Dream Of N.Y. Carpenter

By PETER J. McGUIRE Father of Labor Day

On this day the hosts of labor hout their Hosannahs! From a thousand groves and hillsides, by rippling brooks and gurgling streams, comes the glad acclaim No festival of martial glory or warrior's renown is this; no pageant pomp of warlike conques no glory of fratricidal strife attend this day.

It is dedicated to Peace, Civiliation and the Triumphs of Industry. It is a demonstration of fraternity and the harbinger of a better age-a more chivalrous time when labor shall be best honored and well rewarded.

Pagan feasts and Christian observances have come down to us through the long ages. But was reserved for this century, and for the American people, to give birth to Labor Day. In this they honor the toilers of the earth, and carved all the comfort and gran-

More than all, the thought, the conception, yea the very inspira-This year we saw some of those tion of this holiday came from

day in the year to be designated as "Labor Day," and to be established as a general holiday for We had been told that the Com- the laboring classes. He advised strong, too overpowering, too in- by a street parade, which would cced. Yet it cracked under the esprit de corps of the trade and strain of this mass uprising. The labor organizations. Next the courage of the workers of East purade should be followed by a picnic or festival in some grow onfounded and confused their divided on this semi-co-operativ

Even when the Red commissars | Each union or organization

Labor Day Statement

By DAVID A. MORSE, Director-General

GENEVA .- On this Labor Day of 1953, the men and women whose resourcefulness and energy have made the United States the most abundant land in history will recapitulate their achievements and demonstrate anew their resolution to attain peace and continuing prosperity for themselves and their children.

But at the same time they will recognize that this goal is not to be easily achieved—that its attainment will require unity of effort, clearsightedness and a calm yet resolute approach to the many difficult problems which this country and the world community must face and solve,

We live today in a dynamic age in which vast forces must be nderstood and mastered if we are to avoid disaster and pro-ide assurance to mankind of the possibility of fulfilling its great potentialities. Dangers face us on every side. The relabetween nations continue to imperil peace. The world omy remains distorted. Misery and need exist side by side with waste and unused resources.

These circumstances give rise to grave problems in whose solution American labor has the highest stake. They are however, problems which I am confident can be solved—perhaps slowly but nevertheless certainly—with the help of existing international institutions and provided we tackle them with

I believe also that the American labor movement, uniting its efforts with those of the workers of other lands and empl to the full the means available in the International Labor Organization, can contribute significantly to their solution. The ILO for its part stands ready to meet any demand that may be made upon it to the end that fear and want may be abolished and peace made lastingly secure.