

AFL-CIO Votes Financial Aid For Steelworkers

The clasped-hands symbol of unity and brotherhood of the AFL-CIO emblem was the backdrop this week under which the Federation's General Board put its unanimous stamp of approval on the militant seven-point program of financial, moral and physical support for the strikebound Steelworkers. (See inside page for text of the seven points.)

Two hours later, the Federation's third constitutional convention, in San Francisco, loudly cheered the board's action in establishing a multi-million-dollar defense fund, and unanimously roared its approval of a resolution pledging labor's solidarity behind the USWA.

The convention's action in support of the USWA came after Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell warned the convention the Administration would probably invoke Taft-Hartley injunctions against the union within the next 30 days.

Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther bitterly declared: "There can be no moral justification for the President intervening . . . to bail out the industry."

In the face of the most intensive management onslaught in labor's history, delegates representing the 13.5 million members of the AFL-CIO solemnly declared that "the struggle between the Steelworkers and the basic steel industry is a struggle for the survival of the entire labor movement."

The financial drive is keyed to a plea to rank-and-file trade unionists throughout the Federation to donate one hour's pay per month into the defense fund.

Unofficial estimates indicated this could yield between \$25 million and \$30 million monthly—enough to provide each striking steel worker and his family with \$60 a month to help ease the economic pangs engendered by the industry-forced work stoppage.

At the end of the conflict, the money remaining in the fund will go to establish a permanent AFL-CIO defense fund to aid any affiliate faced with similar management efforts to crush the union.

"The Steelworkers' hour of need is the labor movement's hour of

(Continued on Page 3)

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'Filthy' Bracero Camp Closed by Secy. Mitchell: Labor Questions Action Delay

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, in San Francisco last week for the AFL-CIO convention, took time out from his efforts to woo labor on the administration of the new anti-labor law to inspect a few "bracero" labor camps in the Santa Clara area.

The Secretary of Labor, charged with administration of the Mexican National importation program in agricultural labor, found one of the camps so "filthy" that he immediately ordered it closed and the braceros moved.

Just as AFL-CIO convention delegates in San Francisco tagged Mitchell's efforts to convince labor that he would not use the new labor law for a "witch hunt" into labor as an "admission that the law gave him such power," Norman Smith, director of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in Stockton, labeled the bracero camp closing a "token gesture" which should mislead no one.

Smith warned, "It is a reshuffling of the cards, but the deck is the same. The braceros are still here."

In a sharp statement issued to the press, the AFL-CIO organizing head questioned all the press fanfare about the closing of one camp, when

the whole Mexican National program is being administered as a system for the exploitation of Mexican Nationals and the destruction of the domestic agricultural labor supply.

Smith said:

"We have reported and will continue to report the many, many violations of law and regulations affecting braceros. Braceros have been gypped of their wages, deprived of their legal rights, and robbed of their human dignity by greedy growers. In this process, the growers received aid and comfort from those federal and state officials who should protect braceros' rights, and such rights as domestics possess.

"It is ironic that here the might of the Department of Labor protects

(Continued on Page 3)

California-Nevada Labor Fights Squaw Valley Discrimination

California and Nevada labor have joined forces to prevent Squaw Valley—the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics—from becoming an international discrimination blight on America.

The commitment to joint action was completed recently when the Nevada State AFL-CIO, meeting in convention at Reno, September 11-12, 1959, adopted a statement of policy on the internationally explosive issue that paralleled an earlier policy action adopted by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at its convention in San Diego this August.

In the precipitating action taken by California labor in San Diego,

convention delegates warned that "an immediate problem on which we should all join forces is posed by the 1960 Winter Olympics which is being held in California."

"It is important," delegates warned, "that these Olympics not

(Continued on Page 2)

Text of 7-Point Program To Backstop USWA

Following is the text of the seven-point program in support of the strikebound Steelworkers, which was unanimously adopted by the AFL-CIO convention:

1. That an adequate Steelworkers Defense Fund be established within the AFL-CIO.

2. That this fund be raised by solicitation from each national and international union of a sum equal to one hour's wages per member, per month, for the duration of the strike.

3. That state and district bodies of each national and international union be encouraged to supplement these contributions by such donations as they can afford.

4. That this fund be administered by the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO and used to support the present Steelworkers' strike. If, upon the termination of the strike any portion of the fund is unexpended, such portion be transferred to a Special Defense Fund to be used by the AFL-CIO in situations similar to those now confronting the Steelworkers.

5. That a letter of appeal be sent immediately by President

Meany to all national and international unions.

However, a just settlement of the steel strike will require more than the collection of funds. Of equal importance, is the need to get to the American people the facts about the issues in dispute and the justice of the union's position. For this purpose, it is recommended:

6. The establishment of citizens' committees of public spirited men and women who will use their good offices, their influence and their prestige on behalf of a just settlement of the steel strike.

7. The development of a program to communicate information about causes and developments in the steel strike through national television, radio, newspapers and magazines, and all other mass media. For this purpose we urge a central information bureau be established through which information concerning the strike can be transmitted.

Finally, it is recommended that this seven-point program be given the widest possible publicity through press, television and radio.

TV Stations Carrying 'Americans at Work'

Four TV stations in scattered areas of the state are now carrying "Americans at Work," an AFL-CIO-developed TV public service feature.

The stations, areas and time of showing are as follows:

KIEM-TV, Eureka, Saturday, 12:45 p.m.

KFRE-TV, Fresno, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

KCRA-TV, Sacramento, Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

KFSD-TV, San Diego, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

George Craig, AFL-CIO television field director, this week urged local organizations to check local stations for confirmation of schedules. In areas where the weekly series is not being covered, local bodies should check into the situation as, under FTC rules, all TV stations are required to devote certain time to public service features.

Completed productions in the series include the following:

Newspaper, Glass, Plumbers, Bakers, Pottery Workers, Bookbinders, Shoe Makers, Paper Makers, Auto Workers, Machinists, Ladies' Garment Workers, Subway Workers, Letter Carriers, Railroad Passenger Workers, Rubber Workers, Railroad Freight Workers, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Meat Cutters, Street Car and Bus Workers, Government Workers.

Also included are: Fire Fighters, Brewery Workers, Teachers, Building Services, Railroad Maintenance Workers, Postal Workers, Men's Clothing Workers, Communications Workers, Hatters, Doll Workers, Tobacco Workers (Cigar), Oil Refinery Workers, Retail Clerks, Barbers and Beauticians, Tobacco Workers (Cigarette), Communications Workers (Linemen), Wood Workers, Movie Making, Maritime Workers, ICBM (Building Trades), and Pharmaceuticals.

More Joint California-Nevada Action

(Continued from Page 1)

create an international incident arising out of discrimination in housing accommodations against minority groups," adding:

"Hotels, motels and resorts have often refused to rent accommodations to people because of race, color, creed or national origin."

The California AFL-CIO action noted that the problem is not merely a problem in our state, but a Nevada problem also, since many people will be living east of our border, and "Nevada practices in this field have been notoriously bad."

California convention delegates called upon labor and government in Nevada to join forces with labor and government in California in opposing such discrimination "which would blight the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play at the 1960 Winter Olympics."

The recent action taken by the Nevada State AFL-CIO reiterated

the warnings of California labor, and underscored Nevada's notoriously bad discrimination practices.

Convention delegates to the Nevada meeting, in turn, urged labor and government in their state to join forces with the labor movement of California to take the necessary action which will prevent the discrimination from taking place.

Follow-up action is being coordinated through William Becker, secretary of the California Fair Employment Practices Committee, with which California labor has aligned itself in fighting all forms of discrimination and in securing passage this year of the state FEPC law.

Becker, who is also northern California representative of the Jewish Labor Committee, addressed the recent Nevada State AFL-CIO convention on discrimination problems, and specifically, the dangers of an international incident at the 1960 Winter Olympics.

More 'Filthy' Bracero Camp

(Continued from Page 1)

the bracero, not the domestic worker. Secretary Mitchell should pause to think of the elementary protection American workers do not receive, including little or no protection from these surplus Nationals being brought in to take their jobs.

"The Secretary's office responded with unseemly haste to the appeals for more imported labor in the recent phony 'labor shortage' in peaches. The growers wanted, and got, a surplus of Nationals for tomatoes. The Secretary helped.

"We would not deny the warm light shed by this token action, which shines 'like a candle in a wicked world.' But let the Secretary turn the floodlights, not just a candle, on this disgraceful mess and clean the stain from fair-play loving Americans. He can do this by sending this imported army of wage-breakers back beyond the borders from which they came, to Mexico, instead of to another camp."

Smith concluded, "It seems strange that the Secretary must come this long distance to make inspections personally. Where are his compliance officers, his Bureau of Employment Security?"

More Steelworkers Aid

(Continued from Page 1)

crisis," Meany told the General Board, composed of the principal officers of all the unions affiliated with the united labor movement, just before they voted unanimously to adopt the seven-point program.

Affiliates quickly rallied to the Steelworkers' side, pledging immediate contributions of nearly \$3.5 million dollars, coupled with indications of at least another \$1.1 million monthly in treasury funds, in addition to contributions scheduled from rank-and-file members.

All indications pointed to a generous outpouring of funds for Steel workers and their families, caught up in an industry-forced strike which began July 15 and which has now become the longest steel walk-out in the nation's history.

The shutdown has idled 500,000 members of the USWA; forced layoffs of another 150,000 workers in related industries; and has choked off 85 percent of the output of the nation's mighty steel-producing complex.

Policies Shifts Needed To Bar New Recessions

A "decisive shift" in government and business policies "is urgently needed" if the nation is to avoid another recession, the AFL-CIO convention declared in a resolution setting out a 15-point program for achieving a full employment economy.

The convention, meeting in San Francisco, warned that the government's tight-money policies, its tax program and its emphasis on budget-balancing at the expense of an expanding economy are providing the breeding grounds for a future economic decline.

The "extraordinary rise in profits as compared with consumer buying power," the resolution declared, also is a threat to creating a "recession-breeding gap between the economy's rising ability to produce and its ability to consume."

Citing statistics showing that the improvements in the economic situation since the 1958 recession have failed to keep pace with the increase in productive capacity, rising productivity and the growth in the labor force, the convention called for an economic growth rate of 5 percent a year "if America is to respond to the major economic problems of the second half of the Twentieth Century."

The dangerous slowdown in economic growth, said the AFL-CIO, "represents the success of government and business policies." It accused the government of setting out "early in 1953 on a deliberate course of cutting the pace of economic progress through tight-money policies" accompanied by its "restrictive obsession with attempting to balance the federal budget regardless of national needs."

The Administration's tax policies, it added, have helped develop the recession-breeding situation "by providing special privileges for corporations and wealthy individuals while neglecting the mass of American consumers."

To meet the challenge to the

nation's economic future, the convention urged:

1. A 5 percent rate of economic growth to maintain a balanced and growing full-employment economy.

2. The Council of Economic Advisers to spell out economic goals for each major sector of the economy necessary to attaining full employment.

3. A continuing increase in wages and salaries to provide the growing consumer markets necessary for growth and to give workers a share in the economy's progress.

4. A sharing of soaring profits with the public based on low unit profit margins from a growing volume of sales.

5. A halt in the government's tight-money, high interest rate policies.

6. Abandonment of attempts to balance the federal budget at low levels of income and output.

7. Revision of the federal tax structure to close tax loopholes.

8. Planned public service programs in education, health, housing, roads and airports to begin in 1960 with federal leadership and financial aid.

9. Federal aid for depressed areas.

10. A permanent improvement in unemployment insurance to extend duration and raise benefit payments.

11. Amendment of the Wage-Hour law to extend coverage and increase the minimum from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour.

12. Improvements in the Social Security Act to increase benefits and include medical care provisions for beneficiaries.

13. A progressive reduction in the workweek by amending the Wage-Hour law.

14. A national investigation and analysis of the price structure to aid in developing solutions to the problem of a slowly rising level of prices.

15. Rejection of any amendments to the Employment Act of 1946 which would weaken or destroy its present emphasis on the national objectives of economic growth and full employment.

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FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Gov. Brown Blasts Anti-Labor Trend

Governor Edmund G. Brown last week blasted out against the nation's anti-labor forces when he told convention delegates to the AFL-CIO's opening session in San Francisco that it is time the full story was told "on how labor reform legislation was exploited to enact new economic weapons against organized labor."

Governor Brown called for the defeat of "those who have used labor reform unfairly to interfere with matters which should be left to free and private negotiations between labor and management."

He blamed a "hard core conservative coalition" in the Congress as well as the Eisenhower Administration for what he called "the whole shabby history" of recently approved restrictive labor legislation.

"Legitimate objectives in the labor field were perverted," Governor Brown said. "Extremists in Congress took control."

He cited as a "typical step backward" a section of the Landrum-Griffin bill forbidding a union from peacefully picketing to tell the buying public that a store is selling goods made under sweatshop or non-union conditions.

"An even more basic grievance for attention by all of us here is the ever more rigid illiberality of the Eisenhower Administration in basic economic and social fields," he said.

"It becomes increasingly apparent," the Governor declared, "that the present Administration is the architect of an anti-inflation campaign that is turning out to be only a banker's binge."

He said home buyers, people in debt, businesses in need of capital for expansion, and state and local governments facing the problems of growing populations are being squeezed because the Administra-

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AFL-CIO Convention Adopts Arbitration Principle in Jurisdictional Disputes

The AFL-CIO this week took a major stride toward the solution of internal disputes by approving the principle of final and binding arbitration to settle such disputes.

The Federation's third constitutional convention, in San Francisco, voted to direct the executive council to develop a detailed plan and procedures to be submitted to a special AFL-CIO convention for approval.

The convention acted on a resolution submitted by the council which contained the report of a special committee on union disputes created at the council's August meeting in Unity House, Pa.

The committee reported that, after study of the problems involved, "there is merit in the creation of an arbitration board, consisting of prominent and well-qualified persons, from which would be selected a panel to hear and determine disputes arising in subject areas, with power of final and binding decision. . . ."

The committee stressed that such arbitration would be limited to the union is fighting inflation by paying bankers higher interest rates.

"I think it is again time, as President Franklin Roosevelt once said, to drive the money changers from the temple and from the seats of government," Governor Brown said.

"And I think that labor, with its profound stake in the prosperity and well-being of this nation, has the prime responsibility to help bring that about next year," he added.

"Instead of less political action, I urge more in the coming years by organized labor," the Governor declared, "I urge it not only in the community at large but especially within your own ranks."

settlement of disputes only "and shall not include the determination of the work or trade jurisdiction of affiliates."

The special council committee is composed of AFL-CIO Vice Presidents Al J. Hayes (chairman), Joseph A. Beirne and Joseph D. Keenan, Walter P. Reuther and Secretary-Treasurer William F. Schnitzler. It declared that "satisfactory final disposition of disputes and differences . . . cannot be accomplished without appropriate amendments to the constitution of the AFL-CIO which will expressly provide authority for such disposition with meaningful sanctions for prompt enforcement."

Internal disputes to be covered by the proposed arbitration plan include the no-raid clause in the constitution; the agreement between the Industrial Union Department and the Building Trades Department; the dispute between the Metal Trades Department and the IUD; boycotts; the transfer to national and international affiliates of directly-affiliated local unions; or organizing ethics in competitive organizing campaigns; and anti-contracting out provisions in union contracts.

Reviewing the council's action in establishing procedures for enforcing the no-raiding principle under Art. III, Sec. 4 of the constitution, the special committee commented that "while this procedure has resulted in the settlement of a number of disputes, certain difficulties have arisen and the committee has therefore given consideration to whether some other procedure looking toward prompt, final and binding determination of raiding disputes would better serve the interests of the federation."