

An Alternative for Labor's 'Doctors'

Since some of Labor's so-called "disillusioned friends" have been busy of late diagnosing what they regard as the labor movement's fatal illness, AFL-CIO President Meany ticked off a few of the paradoxical inconsistencies in their diagnoses to the delight of convention delegates:

- They tell us there are not enough strikes, that labor has lost its militancy and on the other hand that there are too many strikes that endanger the public and therefore strikes are out and should be replaced with compulsory arbitration.
- They say collective bargaining has been too successful and that union members are now middle class and no longer interested in burning social problems and on the other hand that collective bargaining is dead and cannot cope with present-day problems.
- They say labor is permitting too much joblessness from automation which is undermining labor's strength, but then declare that there is not enough unemployment because of union featherbedding.
- They claim unions neglect respon-

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Prompt Enactment of Strong Civil Rights Bill Urged by AFL-CIO Parley Delegates

A strong, forthright resolution on civil rights calling for prompt enactment of a beefed-up version of the omnibus civil rights bill recently approved by the House Judiciary Committee was adopted by delegates to the National AFL-CIO Convention in New York this week.

Expressing hope that the bill, now stymied before the House Rules

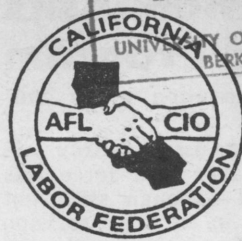
Committee, will be strengthened in its public accommodation section and in the enforcement powers of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission it would create, the resolution declared:

"It would substantially strengthen the hand of the federal government to secure equality in voting, equal access to public accommodations and public facilities, desegregation of public schools, protection against deprivation of civil rights by state and local government officials, non-discrimination in federally assisted programs, and equality of opportunity in employment."

The resolution, which was adopted unanimously, rededicated the trade union movement "to the cause of freedom and equality for all Americans" and called for a double-barrelled approach to achieve full justice for the American Negro and other racial minorities.

First, the resolution stated, "We must set our own house in order, removing the last vestiges of racial discrimination

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Meany Cites 'Curse' in Automation, Asks Convention To Fight for Broad Program

Warning that the growing "curse" of automation threatens an economic collapse that could flush the American system "down the drain," AFL-CIO President George Meany told delegates to the AFL-CIO's 5th National Convention that organized labor must mobilize its strength to support a positive program for all Americans.

Such a program, Meany said, "must take every possible step to improve purchasing power, to win a 35-hour or less work week, a substantially higher minimum wage, tax relief, more jobs and increased

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JFK Pegs Tax Cut Need to Nation's Leadership Role

U. S. leadership of the free world may hinge on prompt enactment of the administration's proposed \$11 billion tax cut bill that offers the promise of new jobs to two or three million now jobless, President John F. Kennedy told some four thousand delegates and guests at the AFL-CIO's National Convention in the Americana Hotel in New York City last week.

"We urgently need that tax cut as insurance against a recession next year," he said.

If we end up with a recession with eight or nine million people out of work, "what then is going to be said about the Leader of the West?" he asked.

"I came here to ask your help . . . not next year but now," the President said, to help solve the "number one domestic issue" of jobs and economic needs.

"The forces of freedom are still in the majority around the world because the United States has been willing to bear the burden," the President observed, but we can maintain these forces "only if we provide for a growing and buoyant and progressive economy here."

In citing jobs as "the basic issue" and assigning a higher priority to the solution of the job problem than to such other salient problems as civil rights and education, President Kennedy explained:

"No one gains from a fair employment program if there is no employment to be had. No one gains by being admitted to a lunch counter if he has

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Nation's Medical Bills Hit \$33 Billion

While Dr. Edward Annis, American Medical Association President, barnstormed the country attempting to discredit labor-backed plans to provide medical care for the aged under social security and low-interest loans for medical students, the nation at large shelled out a record \$33 billion to meet medical bills.

This sum, expended during the fiscal year ended last June 30, amounts to an average of \$700 a family, a report prepared by the Social Security Administration, has disclosed. It includes some \$28.6 billion for "personal health care" or about \$151 for each individual in the nation.

Less than a fourth of "personal health care expenditures" were covered by health insurance, the report said. It also noted that 12½ percent of the \$8 billion

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government spending for public facilities."

In the course of his wide-ranging keynote address, at the Americana Hotel in New York, Meany reviewed some of the "free advice and opinion" passed out by "disenchanted liberals" or "disillusioned friends of labor" which generally harps on the fashionable theme that the labor movement is "all washed up."

These attacks, he noted, generally attempt to maintain that the labor movement has lost its militancy, that collective bargaining is dead, that labor is not doing anything about automation, that it is neglecting its responsibilities in civil rights and that the AFL-CIO should be split to provide inter-union competition. But, Meany asserted:

"The American trade union movement is a long, long way from outliving its usefulness or achieving its final goals, if any of its goals are ever final . . . we know that we have many serious problems and much unfinished business ahead of us . . . and are determined and ready to deal with them."

"I am not troubled too much by the fact that our members today enjoy the highest wages, the best working conditions and the greatest measure of security ever obtained by working people anywhere at any time and I am proud of the fact that this organization, the AFL-CIO and its affiliates, has played a tremendous role in bringing this about."

"I have absolutely no feeling of nostalgia for the days of the great

depression, of starvation wages and chronic insecurity. . . ."

On the civil rights issue, Meany said that the special labor task force was making substantial—though still "not enough"—progress in its drive to wipe out the areas of discrimination in the trade union movement at the community level.

"We have to lead this fight," he declared, and labor's past record shows that "we are able and willing" to do it.

In the course of a press conference, Meany disclosed that only about 170 of the more than 60,000 local unions in the AFL-CIO and its affiliates are still segregated.

"These are the hard core," he said, "and are going to be difficult to merge."

Citing the present \$1.25 federal minimum wage as "a disgrace because it is impossible to live on in any part of the country," Meany declared the number one domestic problem is jobs. And he took issue with the official jobless rate.

Even this rate, which has been above five percent for more than six years, doesn't tell the entire story, he said. If all elements are included the rate is closer to eight percent of the work force, Meany asserted.

Since the question of unemployment always goes back to the question of public and private purchasing power, Meany urged the convention to "declare for a higher, a substantially higher, minimum wage and start a campaign to work for it," along with government spending to meet public needs.

The AFL-CIO chief also ripped into the irresponsibility of the nation's corporate management. Every big corporation in America is "in a mad race to produce more and more with less and less labor without any feeling as to what it may mean to the whole national economy," he charged.

"The fact that they're reducing purchasing power in their own plants doesn't seem to bother them because they feel if they produce cheaper they will get customers some other place."

But, Meany warned, jobs are being eliminated at the rate of "tens of thousands a month." Competent experts, he said, are predicting that in a few years "all the production we need will be furnished by less than 25 percent of the manpower we have."

In view of this, he declared, there is no possible way out of this dilemma but the shorter work week. The only question remaining is how short that work week will eventually be, he added.

While noting that the Los Angeles organizing drive "is not a howling success if we are going to count numbers," Meany reported that it "is moving forward and I am delighted with the cooperation we are getting there."

JFK Stresses Vital Need for Tax Cut

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no money to spend. No one thinks much of the right to own a good home and to sleep in a good hotel or go to the theater if he has no work and no money."

The President attacked the powerful chairmen of certain key committees that have virtually stymied much of the Administration's legislative program.

"They talk loudly of deficits and socialism," he said. "They are campaigning on a platform of so-called individual initiative. But they do not have a single constructive job-creating program of their own—and they oppose the efforts that we are making."

The President also pointed out that the four million jobless hanging over the labor market make it difficult for labor to speak with force at the bargaining table.

Pointing to the sharp differences between the 1945-63 period and the 20 years following the first World War when the country had staggered through a two-year depression, an 11-year depression, and eight years of stagnation on the farms, Kennedy declared:

"It is no accident" that since 1945 "this country has steadily increased in wealth and strength . . . it didn't just merely happen. It is because of the steps that were taken in the '30s to lay the foundations for progress in the '40s and '50s and '60s," he declared.

"It is our obligation in the 1960s to do those things in Congress and in the various states which will make it possible for others in the 1970s and 1980s to continue to live in prosperity," the President asserted.

Union Label Dept. Alters Constitution

Constitutional changes to permit AFL-CIO central bodies to directly charter union label and service trades councils and to authorize women's auxiliaries to become fraternal affiliates of the Union Label Department were approved at the Department's 51st convention which met in New York last week.

Joseph Lewis, the Department's Secretary-Treasurer said these two changes in concert with other actions initiated by convention delegates to step up the union label drive may double the Department's affiliated membership in the next two years. Women's auxiliaries that are directly chartered as fraternal affiliates will pay no per capita dues to the Department but will have a voice at Department conventions.

The Department also designated the next two Union Label Weeks as September 7-13, 1964, and September 6-13, 1965.

Support Urged for March of Dimes

Pointing out that the March of Dimes, following its victory over polio, has launched a program aimed at determining the causes and seeking ways to correct or cure birth defects and arthritis, AFL-CIO President George Meany urged all national and international unions, state and local central bodies and directly affiliated local unions to support the Labor Service Division of the March of Dimes program.

To assure proper crediting of labor contributions, such donations should be directed to the National Labor Division, March of Dimes, 800 2nd Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., he said.

Scope of Collective Bargaining Cited

"If it is the case, as I think it is, that collective bargaining will function effectively only in an economy in which the number of jobs is increasing at a rate commensurate with the increase in the number of available workers, it is also true that collective bargaining can be a vital factor in implementing the process of growth in the economy which is essential to full employment. If workers and management alike could be brought to acceptance of the fact that every man-hour of potential production which is wasted—either in featherbedding or in unemployment—is a drag on the economic growth, we could move faster toward the full employment goal.

"Yet the tendency is to expect too much of collective bargaining in this respect, and to blame it too much for the operation of forces which control it more than it controls them. Collective bargaining is a private process; and it is as unrealistic to expect a man to give up his job easily to a machine, because of a national advantage in maximum productivity as it is to expect an employer to feel a broader responsibility for maintaining his payroll than what his calculations of his own profits and losses, may suggest."—Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

An Alternative for Labor's Doctors'

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sibilities in the field of civil rights but never have "an unkind word" about the powerful employers who are largely responsible for widespread discrimination in employment. On the other hand they say labor is "stupid" to be active in civil rights because it is handicapping organizing activities in the south.

- They say labor is too divided and its energies dissipated by internal bickering and then also claim there is too much unity, that an authentic split is needed to provide competition.

"I have some sympathy for the economic needs of the writers of these cracks. As the saying goes they must publish or perish. It's just unfortunate that they chose the wrong alternative," Meany observed.

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from within the ranks of the AFL-CIO." Secondly, the statement said, "We must cooperate with our neighbors in the general community to assure every American the full rights of citizenship."

In a progress report on the special task force committee set up under President Meany's leadership last July to carry the civil rights struggle to the nation's major cities, Meany disclosed that the task force has already worked out plans with central bodies to spur community action in Cincinnati, Boston, Washington, D. C., Milwaukee, Oakland, San Francisco, Denver and Houston as well as a number of other cities.

The response from central bodies has been such that the committee plans to double the AFL-CIO staff assigned to the community projects, Meany said.

"I don't know of any time when I

Nation's Medical Bills Hit 33 Billion

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taken in by health insurance plans was spent on "operating expenses."

Speaking in Richmond, Virginia, on the aged medical care problem, the AMA spokesman contended that the hospital care for the aged plan would not do enough for the aged on the one hand and on the other that it would do too much for those over 65 who have not contributed to social security.

In New Orleans, he dismissed charges that medical care today costs much more than in the past saying:

"Of course it does—but look how much more you are getting."

In Roanoke, a clergyman attacked the AMA's opposition to low interest loans for medical students asserting that the AMA opposed the three percent federal loans because the AMA itself wanted to continue making loans to students at six percent.

Not so, said Dr. Annis. "To say that the AMA is protecting its 5½ or 6½ percent interest is not in accordance with the facts," he asserted.

The AMA opposes the 3½ percent loans because it considers them "a bribe" to get students to study medicine and dentistry, he avowed.

Evidently the AMA regards a 3½ percent loan as "a bribe" but a 6 percent loan as an inducement.

Despite AMA opposition, which was abetted by an abortive attempt by Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona to kill the student loan provisions, Congress recently passed and President Kennedy signed a measure authorizing \$236.4 million to construct, replace and rehabilitate teaching facilities for physicians, dentists and others and to provide loans to medical students.

have seen the American Trade Union Movement, right down to the grass roots level, more conscious and more awake than on this particular problem," Meany declared.

The resolution also:

- Called on affiliates "to give their vigorous support" to civil rights legislation in Congress and to state and community legislation to guarantee fair employment practices, fair housing and equal access to public accommodations.
- Urged the President to expand an executive order on housing to assure the elimination of segregation.
- Called for federal action to wipe out discrimination in hospitals and other health facilities built with funds under the Hill-Burton Act.
- Urged the U. S. Employment Service to carry forward its program of eliminating discrimination in employment office operations and to enlist communities in an effort to achieve fuller use of minority workers' skills.
- Pledged to enlist the practical cooperation of all affiliates in the efforts of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity to remove and prevent discrimination in government jobs and other government contracts.
- Called on all affiliates to establish vigorous civil rights programs of their own, to review the practices of their locals to see that all members are fairly represented with their rights fully protected under collective bargaining agreements, to hold all meetings on an integrated basis, and to seek effective anti-discrimination clauses in all their contracts.
- Urged the establishment of apprenticeship information centers in every community to facilitate access to training for all qualified applicants.
- Urged that wide publicity be given to the AFL-CIO's civil rights compliance procedure which, adopted in 1961, established machinery for dealing with complaints of discrimination by unions or employers.
- Endorsed the special task force committee and called on affiliates to give their full cooperation to its efforts to promote community-wide civil rights action.
- Called for "constant review" of labor's civil rights activities by AFL-CIO officers "so that proper actions may be taken to assure that the social revolution in which the nation is now engaged will achieve its goal of full civil rights for all."

Service Union Reporter Wins Top ILPA Award

"The Service Union Reporter," published by the California State Council of Building Service Employees, walked off with the top award for entries in the state and local central body publications category at the annual convention of the International Labor Press Association in New York last week.

Some of the nation's top newspapermen who are currently studying at Harvard University on Nieman Fellowships served as judges of the annual ILPA journalistic contest.

The monthly publication, edited by Luther Daniels in Los Angeles, won the ILPA's top award for "best regular column" as well as for "editorial excellence."

AFL-CIO President George Meany, while commending the editors for what he called "tremendous improvement" in the labor press, urged them to continue to strive to make themselves effective in the fields of civil rights and foreign policy.

In the civil rights field, Meany said, labor press editors could often be particularly effective in local areas where the Federation is placing its major emphasis. A special task force is encouraging local labor movements to "take the lead" in stimulating community civil rights programs, he explained.

In the foreign policy area, he observed that the advocacy of withdrawal from the United Nations is "a theory of isolationism and it could not result in anything other than disaster for us."

The ILPA delegates approved a recommendation to hire a full-time field secretary for two years to stimulate the creation of new labor newspapers and to advise existing ones, and decided to ask the AFL-CIO Executive Council to select a special topic each year for the ILPA journalistic awards.

ILPA award winners in the international publications category were: editorial excellence, newspaper format, the Machinist; magazine format, Canadian Labor; best front page, newspaper for-

Doctors Discriminate Against Doctors At Patients' Expense, Assembly Unit Told

The ethics of the medical profession in California toward its own members were sharply challenged this week at an interim committee hearing in San Francisco on a measure to enact a Fair Hospital Practices Act which was introduced in the last session of the legislature.

The bill (AB 2031) authored by Assemblyman Nicholas Petris (D.-Oakland) would require hospitals to grant hearings to doctors denied medical staff privileges. The proposed law would be supervised by the State Health Department.

The gist of the testimony heard at the hearing on Monday was to the effect that doctors are discriminating against doctors at the expense of patients.

In commenting on the measure, Petris said that doctors who are competent to practice medicine had the right to practice in a hospital but many of them are denied staff rights for reasons other than medical competence and, as a result, they can't treat their patients properly.

Asked if there were persons who were ill who were unable to get into a hospital, Petris replied:

"Certainly . . . the doctor has to fight the establishment at the very time his patient needs treatment. This is an enormous problem. I think it has been detrimental to public health."

A San Francisco surgeon, Dr. Stanford W. Ascherman, said he was a staff member on four hospitals but that his privileges were withdrawn over a period of a few months from all of them.

"I was never informed of the charges against me until I entered litigation. None of the hospitals have any provisions in their bylaws by which a doctor can receive fair and objective considera-

mat, ICAW Union News; magazine format, Firemen and Oilers Journal; best single editorial, Catering Industry Employee; best original cartoon, Seafarers Log; best feature article, RWDSU Record; best regular special column, Allied Industrial Worker; best original photograph, ILGWU Justice.

tion. They behave truly as a private club," he asserted.

"I don't think doctors in organized medicine would truly give another doctor a fair hearing," he added.

A Southern California physician who signed a pre-paid health contract with the Culinary Workers' Union early in 1958, testified that his hospital privileges started shrinking at virtually the same time.

The physician, Dr. Vincent DePaulo, said he was a senior staff member at Santa Monica hospital when he first began discussing the hospital plan with the union in 1957. This year the hospital's medical staff refused to allow him to practice at the hospital at all, he said.

DePaulo also testified that one of his partners, whose initial application for medical staff privileges at the hospital was rejected because he was in a pre-paid group practice, was granted staff privileges after he opened a private office.

As a result of his loss of staff privileges, Dr. DePaulo said he was required to get his patients into the hospital by agreement with other physicians and was permitted to see them only during visiting hours.

A San Diego surgeon who is a leader in a 200-physician group health plan, Dr. Benjamin Lewis, also testified in favor of the Petris measure.

Present procedures, he said, are "autocratic, arbitrary and monopolistic" but, he noted, "it is really the active medical staff of the hospital, not the hospital, which discriminates."

If enacted, the measure would apply to publicly assisted hospitals and to hospitals supported wholly or partly by charitable contributions solicited from the public.

While conceding that there is a need for hearing procedures to protect doctors denied staff privileges, a California Medical Association spokesman attempted to belittle the issue saying:

"This is a relatively small problem affecting a relatively small number of people."

But what if it affected you?

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