

Editorial

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AFL UNIONS APPROVE ALL-OUT POLITICAL DRIVE DURING 1948

In an historic move, the American Federation of Labor has charted the course its political organization will follow in its efforts to oust the foes of labor from Congress and the state legislatures.

More than 200 officials of the AFL's 105 national and international unions, at a special conference in Washington, formally organized "Labor's Educational and Political League" and called upon the AFL's nearly 8,000,000 members for voluntary contributions of a minimum of \$1 each to finance its undertakings.

Plans for the league call for an intensified drive to get out the labor vote in 1948 and to inform AFL members concerning the position taken by candidates for election on the Taft-Hartley law and other vital problems affecting organized labor. A report embodying these purposes and setting forth details of organization and operation of the league was submitted by the AFL Executive Council and unanimously and enthusiastically approved by the conference.

AFL President William Green was named chairman of the league and George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, was elected to a corresponding position in the political organization.

The meeting set up a national committee composed of the AFL Executive Council and the presidents of the 105 national and international affiliated unions. This committee will have general supervision over the activities of the organization.

To direct its operations, the league will have a 30-member administrative committee consisting of the AFL Executive Council and 15 additional members. This committee was authorized to expand its numbers as circumstances dictate by the appointment of not more than 5 additional members.

Swinging into action immediately following the general conference, the administrative committee met and authorized Mr. Green and Mr. Meany to appoint 43 subcommittees on finance, organization, and the selection of an executive director for the league. These committees are scheduled to report to the administrative committee at its next meeting expected to be held before the end of the year.

To carry the organization down to the "grass roots" level additional working committees will be set up by the national unions and their local affiliates, state federations, and city central bodies.

Funds in the form of voluntary contributions will be raised by the national and international unions. Half of the suggested \$1 minimum contribution will be turned over to the national league with the other half remaining for use in the area in which the contribution was made. The league may reallocate its funds for use in any state or congressional district where conditions warrant the use of a greater sum than that normally retained in the area.

The program for the league leaves the way open for co-operation with "non-Communist organizations" which see eye-to-eye with the AFL on political issues. This rules out co-operation with the CIO at the national level, AFL President William Green declared.

Commenting upon the step taken by the AFL, its first venture into the political arena on a large scale, Mr. Green characterized the action as "historic" and an intensification of the old Gompers policy of "rewarding our friends and punishing our enemies." He voiced labor's determination to fight for the repeal of all anti-labor legislation and said the organization of the political league became necessary "because a reactionary Congress has fastened its shackles on labor."

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, told the conference that establishment of the league was not a departure from the AFL's political policy but was meant to give effect to that policy in the light of modern conditions.

He predicted success for the AFL political undertaking and declared that labor's foes will find that "you cannot step on the people and get away with it indefinitely."

Alexander Rose of the Hatters Union called the move to set up a political organization a decision of "great historical importance." He declared that labor was now determined "to break the greatest monopoly of all, the political monopoly."

Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters Union, emphasized that the conference would lay a foundation for the future and that the result of the league's activities would be of great value to the workers in the nation regardless of the result of the 1948 election campaign.

JOE WORKER
By NAT SCHACHNER and DAVID BERG

JOE WORKER PRESENTED TO THE AGENT FOR BETTER HOMES CO. THAT DAVE EPSTEIN WAS THE REAL APPLICANT FOR A HOUSE IN THEIR NEW DEVELOPMENT. HE WANTED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. IT HAPPENED!

DO YOU SAY THE NAME WAS DAVE EPSTEIN?

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT NAME, BERT? I ASKED MY DAD HAD IT, AND HIS DAD BEFORE HIM.

OH, I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT. I'M SORRY, BUT THE SYSTEM WERE ALL SOLD OUT. NOT A HOUSE IS LEFT.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME YOU'D SIGN CONTRACT WITH MEYER WELL, I'M ASSIGNING MY RIGHTS TO DAVE EPSTEIN. SO TROT OUT THAT CONTRACT.

BR-THAT WAS-ER-A CLERICAL ERROR! I JUST REMEMBERED-WE SOLD OUR LAST HOUSE THIS MORNING. SCORRY! GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN.

WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?

SO HE OWNS BETTER HOMES.

HASSLER!

NOW DOES DAVE EPSTEIN KNOW THAT SMITH'S REAL NAME IS HASSLER.

NATIONAL LABOR SERVICE

THAT SOUNDS FISHY TO ME. MISTER, CAN YOU SHOW US ON YOUR BOOKS THAT ALL YOUR HOUSES ARE SOLD?

WE DON'T HAVE TO SHOW YOU ANYTHING. I SAID GOOD BAY.

NOW LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. JUST AS SOON AS I READ YOUR APPLICATION, I KNEW THIS OUTFIT SMELLED! WHY THE BLAZES SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A MAN'S COLOR, REGION OR NATIONALITY?

WE DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS LIKE THAT WHEN WE WANT MEN TO FIGHT FOR US. WHY SHOULD YOU WHEN I WANT TO BUY ONE OF YOUR HOUSES AT THREE TIMES ITS REAL WORTH?

I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE-

SMITH!

HASSLER!

NOW DOES DAVE EPSTEIN KNOW THAT SMITH'S REAL NAME IS HASSLER.

NATION TO ACHIEVE 60,000,000 JOBS IN 1948 FOR SECOND TIME

Employment in 1948 will probably hit the previously set record of 60,000,000 jobs, Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, predicted.

Meanwhile the Census Bureau reported that employment in November dropped just over 600,000 because of a seasonal decline in farm work. Non-agricultural employment continued to rise, however, to new levels, the bureau declared.

Mr. Goodwin said his "best information" was that national employment would hover around record levels most of next year. Although farm labor would be scarce, he said, the employment service was planning a campaign to recruit agricultural workers.

In this connection, the Government has reached a new agreement with Mexico to permit the importation of Mexicans for farm work next year when this country's farm labor supply runs short.

Watson B. Miller, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, said the agreement was an extension of a wartime practice begun in 1943. The wartime arrangement, however, limited the importation of Mexican labor to 100,000 annually. The new agreement will have no limitation.

Mr. Goodwin said that the employment service would take over the responsibility for recruiting farm labor at a time when "less labor will be available for agriculture than since the end of the war."

"The demand for farm labor in 1948 probably will be the greatest in peacetime history," he said.

Mr. Goodwin said that officials of the employment service over the country were consulting with farmers, farm organizations and food processor groups to determine future farm labor needs and to develop programs for supplying them.

He said the job was a big one and would "require the closest co-operation between the employment service, farmers and other groups and individuals concerned with the maximum production of food."

GREEN URGES HELP FOR FARM STRIKERS

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed for financial assistance for the striking members of the National Farm Labor Union which is conducting a strike against the huge Di Giorgio Farms at Bakersville, Va.

In a circular letter to all national and international unions, Mr. Green declared the management of the farm has refused to recognize the union or to engage in collective bargaining for increased wages and improved working conditions. He declared: "Reports indicate the existence of a fine spirit and morale among the strikers, but because the National Farm Labor Union, which is one of the newest international unions to be chartered by the American Federation of Labor, is not financially able to extend the help and assistance which the strikers need at the moment, we, the officers of the American Federation of Labor, are appealing to you for financial contributions for the purpose of supplying food and assistance to the striking farm workers herein referred to. "It is reported that this strike is effective. The workers need help and support, however, in order to win. Please make a generous contribution to these gallant strikers and help them to the extent of your financial ability."

After reading The Journal, pass on to your neighbor!

THE MARCH OF LABOR

NEARLY THREE MILLION MARRIED COUPLES IN THE U.S. WERE LIVING DOUBLED UP WITH OTHER PERSONS IN 1947.

A FIVE-STORY GYMNASIUM IS TO BE ERRECTED IN NEW YORK AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO MEMBERS OF THE A.F.L. WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II. APPROVED BY NINETY A.F.L. LEADERS, THE PROJECT WILL COST \$500,000 AND WILL SERVE 10,000 YOUNGSTERS OF ALL RACES AND CREEDS EACH YEAR.

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION AND THE GEORGIA WORKERS EDUCATION SERVICE STAGED A SIDEWALK EDUCATION SERVICE SHOW WHAT THE FARMER GETS FOR HIS PRODUCTS AND WHAT THE CONSUMER IN THE CITY PAYS FOR THE SAME THINGS.

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