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# Educational, Political Drives Planned By LLPE Committee

Washington—The administrative committee of Labor's League for Political Education, the AFL's political arm, mapped plans for intensification of its educational and political campaigns.

The 30-man steering committee at a meeting here agreed to amend the league's by-laws to permit the collection of funds from unions to finance a 14-month political education drive.

On the political front, committee members decided to evolve plans for the strengthening of local political organizations for the primaries and elections of 1950.

In other action the committee formally named Joseph D. Keenan director of the league. Mr. Keenan served in this capacity during the last election campaign and guided LLPE's successful efforts to oust from Congress many supporters of the Taft-Hartley law.

Mr. Keenan told reporters that a 5-member committee would supervise the changes in the league's by-laws to permit the organization to accept 10 cent contributions from all AFL members for the purpose of "political education."

The committee consists of William Green, president of the AFL; George Meany, secretary-treasurer; Harry C. Bates, Bricklayers Union; Richard Walsh, Stage Hands, and W. C. Birthright, Barbers Union. Its report will be made to the administrative committee at the next meeting of the AFL executive council which opens in Miami on January 31.

The by-laws will have to be amended according to Mr. Keenan, to comply with the requirements of the Taft-Hartley Act and the Corrupt Practices Act relating to union contributions for campaign purposes.

Therefore, a political educational organization will be formed side by side with the section which will have the direct responsibility for pressing the candidacies of office seekers.

To finance the educational program for the next 14 months, Mr. Keenan said he expected that at least \$650,000 would be collected. In the last three weeks, he declared, \$125,000 had been contributed by various unions.

This money will be spent solely in urging voters to register, persuading them to pay poll taxes and to be ready to take part in the 1949-50 primaries and the 1950 elections.

A table showing dates of the primaries in the various states was scanned by the committee members and gave added emphasis to the decision to press for labor participation in these campaigns.

The educational arm of the AFL league will seek to arouse sentiment against labor-restricting laws on the federal and state levels.

A drive for \$1 memberships in the league for the 1950 campaign was also discussed and agreed upon.

Except for some elections next year, Mr. Keenan said, the league would carry on its educational activities until February 1, 1950, when it would resume its political work.

By early 1950, he added, the league would be prepared to direct its political work on behalf of general election campaign candidates for Congress and state legislatures.

## SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OFFICERS MEET IN ATLANTA

Atlanta, Ga. — The Atlanta Southeastern Conference of officers of State Federations of Labor and staff organizers of the American Federation of Labor was held in Atlanta, December 18th and 19th. Attending the conference were all organizers and State Federation officers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. National officers in attendance were Harry E. O'Reilly, Director of Organization for the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.; Joseph D. Keenan, National Director for Labor's League for Political Education, Dr. Nelson Cruikshank, Social Legislative Representative for the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C., and Paul Ornburn, Representative for the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, Washington, D. C., all of whom addressed the conference during its sessions.

During the first day of the conference, retiring Southern Director of Organization George L. Googe, presided over the meeting and announced to the Conference, along with Director Harry E. O'Reilly, the appointment of J. L. Rhodes, as Southern Director of Organization.

Committees on Legislation, Organization and Political Education and a Committee on Union Label and Women's Auxiliaries were appointed for handling of business coming before the Conference. Several resolutions of importance were introduced from the committees and were announced as policies of the conference. The organizing committee emphasized the strengthening of the labor movement in its economic and

political position by close work in relationship with the existing machinery of the American Federation of Labor in all of the localities in the territory. In connection with this phase of the work it was pointed out that the American Federation of Labor maintains through its business representatives, the international union representatives and the various officers of the local unions and trades councils, a staff of men numbering two thousand in the territory which represents the greatest activity of any labor organization towards organizing and educational efforts. The organization committee went further in its resolution to point out that the program involving National and state legislation should be patterned to more closely follow the interest of public welfare in the realm of public thought; that since the organized labor movement and the union members in all localities of the Southern territory are part of the public and anything affecting public welfare likewise affects the union members.

The committee on Legislation brought in a resolution expressing the unabridged right to contract between labor and management in order to accomplish this end that the labor laws of the several southern states should be repealed in order that the people may exercise the rights to which they are entitled. The Committee Resolution further stated that the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law passed by the 80th Congress should be repealed. Preservation of the right to secret ballot in voting, both in the party primaries and in the general elections was strongly advocated that the voters may be free to expression of their choice of public officers, the creation of Legislative Committees for each of the State Federations of Labor for the purpose of studying these problems was recommended.

Labor's League for Political Education reported a tremendous advantage having been gained by the members of organized labor in the South because of their highly active work during the National elections and that the effect of organized labor's thinking due to work done by it followed through in all localities by all voters. The Committee recommended that extensive work be carried on by individuals and in agriculture, small business and special emphasis be stressed on the political program and what it means to the average American citizen.

The Union Label Committee, following the presentation of an educational film by the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor made its reports. Statements were made that the public interest in the Union Label was increasing and that the union label was an emblem of fair employment standards in merchandise and manufactured articles and

that the union label shows conducted by the Union Label Department and has received tremendous public acceptance. The Committee recommended continued educational work by the State Federations of Labor and Central Bodies toward the use of the Union Label and consumption of union made products.

A special committee of officers of the State Federation of Labor gave special consideration to the matter of full and complete affiliation of all local unions with the City Central Bodies and the State Federations of Labor be made to the American Federation of Labor.

The Conference held in Atlanta is the first section of a series of two conferences. The Atlanta conference was called for the purpose of convenience to the Southeastern states, whereas a like conference will be called sometime after the first of January in the Southwest territory, perhaps at Fort Worth or Dallas. The State Federations of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas officials along with the staff of A. F. L. organizers working these States will be in attendance.

## ARIZONA VOTERS BACK STATE CLOSED-SHOP BAN

Washington—Voters in Arizona supported antilabor legislation by approving an enabling act under the 1946 anticlosed shop amendment to the state's constitution.

The legislation approved by the electorate would: prohibit any compulsion against a person to join a labor union or strike against his will; prohibit conspiracies to violate the act; provide that any person injured or threatened with injury by any illegal act shall be entitled to injunctive relief; provide that any person violating provisions of the act shall be liable for damages to the person injured.

The original amendment, which the Arizona State Federation of Labor contended was unconstitutional, is scheduled for hearing before the United States Supreme Court.

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