

AFL Leaders Close A Busy Winter Meet

Miami—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor closed one of its busiest meetings in years with the adoption of a 1949 legislative program headed by repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Before adjourning, the council took action on a situation in Canada in which Communists have been permitted to become potent



PRESIDENT C. A. FINK may be seen standing in the audience addressing some of the delegates representing the North Carolina Building Trades Council at the meeting held in Charlotte Sunday, February 13. The picture was taken while several committees were out in adjoining committee rooms to the regret

of the cameraman and The Journal. At any rate, it was snapped just a short time before the business session was resumed and the meeting adjourned, which was in our favor, for the session lasted several hours with no intermission for "chow" and those boys were headed for the eating places when we gathered up our tools and left.

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in the Trades and Labor Congress. In addition, the AFL leaders endorsed the recommendations of a joint committee of the federation and the Inter-American Confederation of Workers in regard to "local rate" employes in the Panama Canal Zone.

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needs to be done, the council asserted.

"The AFL finds that local rate employes are paid wages that do not permit them to live in accordance with the minimum standard of living advocated by the American labor movement," said the council's statement.

The council recommended adoption of a series of needed corrective measures and suggested to all affiliated international unions having jurisdiction over local rate workers that they "initiate organizational drives for the purpose of extending the protection of trade unionism to all employes of the Canal Zone who fall under their respective jurisdictions."

U. S. POPULATION RISES; TOTAL PUT AT 148,000,000

Washington.—The Bureau of the Census reported the population of the United States stood at about 148,000,000 at the year's end, roughly 12.5 per cent higher than the 131,669,275 counted in the last decennial census in 1940.

The final approximation for 1948 represented a population increase during the year of about 3,000,000.

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The council reiterated that the AFL intends to concentrate its efforts in the current session of Congress on the drive to remove the Taft-Hartley Act from the statute books.

"We favor outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act," the council said, "with simultaneous reenactment of the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act)."

The council said it would also urge Congress to repeal the Hobbs and Lea Acts, also directed against organized labor.

The council made it clear, however, that while the AFL will fight to erase the Taft-Hartley Act and the other anti-labor statutes, "this should not obscure the fact that there are many other major planks in the federation's legislative program which vitally affect the interests of American workers and for which we will fight unceasingly."

Among the subjects embraced in the legislative program were foreign policy, national defense, inflation control, housing, social justice, Labor Department and government employes.

After receiving documentary and oral testimony on the dispute between the officers of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress and various international representatives of AFL unions in Canada, the council found that the evidence "discloses a shocking picture of the influence wielded by the Communists in Canada in the affairs of the Trades and Labor Congress."

"The Executive Council is extremely desirous of maintaining the fine relationship that the AFL has had with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada for many years," a council statement said.

"We wish to state very emphatically, however, that this can only be achieved on the basis of the tried and true principles that have characterized free trade unionism on this continent during the last century.

"We will not and cannot accept a solution to our difficulties which in any way represents a compromise with the Communists."

The council, in a statement on the Canal Zone situation, said a report submitted by Anthony Matz and Serafino Romauli "clearly indicates that in the last few years considerable progress has been made in bettering the conditions of the local rate employes." However, a great deal still

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