

Meany Couples Export Curbs To Demand For Protectionism

Eighty-three-year-old AFL-CIO President George Meany is not only seeking stepped-up protectionist measures by the U.S., but now wants curbs on high-technology American exports as well, claiming such measures are the key to "full employment." This was Meany's message to the opening session of the labor federation's 12th biennial convention Dec. 8 in Los Angeles.

Excerpts from Meany's remarks follow:

... When we in the labor movement speak about human rights our definition extends way beyond the First Amendment rights of free speech, free press, and the freedom to worship. We believe in the human right to a job for all workers able and seeking work with decent pay and working conditions. That is why the greatest commitment that this nation can make towards human rights at home is full employment... To us unemployment is not only a waste — it is a denial of human rights...

... Foreign trade is the guerrilla warfare of economics and right now the United States is being ambushed. One

by one our manufacturing industries are being picked off and now the target is the steel industry. What is most galling is that the imported steel is cheaper not because United States wage rates are so much higher but because foreign countries subsidize their steel industries so they can undercut United States companies. Of course, when the United States steel industry is destroyed, the United States would become dependent on foreign sources and, without a steel industry of our own, the foreign countries could charge whatever they want.

... In an era of closed economic and multilateral corporations who operate like Barbary Pirates the United States sticks stubbornly to old policies that are no longer appropriate... When a United States firm sells its latest technologies to a foreign country... they are exporting jobs that technology could produce right here at home... Imports must be regulated. Antidumping laws must be swiftly enforced. Tax breaks that encourage United States firms to go abroad must be cancelled. The United States must make it clear to every other nation of the world: the use of tariff or non-tariff barriers to bar United States products will result in swift retaliatory by this government.

... Free trade is a joke and a myth. And a Government trade policy predicated on old ideas of free trade is worse than a joke — it is a prescription for disaster. The answer is fair trade, do unto others as they do to us — barrier for barrier — closed door for closed door.

Resolution Before AFL-CIO Bars Collaboration With Labor Party

Resolution Number 104 before the national AFL-CIO Convention which began in Los Angeles Dec. 8, seeks to bar collaboration between all AFL-CIO locals and affiliates and the U.S. Labor Party. The text of the resolution, submitted by delegate John J. Driscoll of the Connecticut State Labor Council and titled "Unmasking the U.S. Labor Party," reads as follows:

Whereas a group calling itself the U.S. Labor Party continues to masquerade in the guise of a political party which has some connection with organized labor. This organization is not recognized by any legitimate American union and has no connection with any real labor leaders in this country. Some union members have been deceived by the title assumed by this group and

have permitted its agents to address meetings of union members. The latest ploy of this group is to tell building trades union leaders that it is strongly in favor of nuclear power, and parades as "the only political party in favor of constructing nuclear power stations." The advocacy of nuclear power is a non-partisan issue and has the support of leaders in both major parties as well as the AFL-CIO;

and Whereas the national leaders of the so-called Labor Party have been identified as a small group of extremists one of whose stated aims is the overthrow of the present leadership of American unions on the basis of some pseudo-Marxist aim. This group seems to have plenty of money to spend although the sources of its funds are not known.

Therefore be it resolved that this Convention of the National AFL-CIO go on record as advising all of its affiliates to have nothing to do with the so-called U.S. Labor Party. And be it further resolved that the national AFL-CIO maintain a continuous monitoring of the activities of this group and expose its findings to all affiliates at appropriate intervals.