

AFL-CIO Convention Falls Behind Plan To Wreck U.S. Economy

The 12th biennial convention of the AFL-CIO concluded in Los Angeles earlier this week with the reelection by acclamation of the Federation's 83 year-old president, George Meany.

Over the course of the five day-long convention, Meany and AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Land Kirkland succeeded in putting the largest section of the American trade union movement on record in support of policies that would, if implemented, both destroy the U.S. economy and wreck world peace.

U.S. Labor Party chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. termed the activities of Meany and Kirkland "Treasonous."

"They (Meany and Kirkland) have exposed themselves as friends of the British Isles," said LaRouche. "They must now be held accountable as members of the British conspiracy to destroy the U.S. economy and the U.S. dollar. It is urgent that responsible leaders in labor move quickly to disassociate themselves from the Meany-Kirkland AFL-CIO. Such actions are a matter of necessity if the economy and the country are to survive."

The "Meany" Program

The Meany program, outlined in his keynote address to the convention, released earlier by the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and supported in several policy resolutions by the delegates, included the following principal elements:

- A call for trade war against anyone who undersells American products; as a correlative, a call on the U.S. to cease the export of technology according to the specious argument that such exports would reduce American jobs. As the *Chicago Daily News* editorialized, the implementation of the AFL-CIO's trade policy would mean an end to U.S. participation in world trade—and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of layoffs.

- Similarly, the Federation supports the destruction of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank and other vehicles for financing high-technology trade.

- A call for the U.S. government to implement a program to create some 16 million "pick and shovel" jobs under a "Humphrey-Hawkins" full employment program. The hyperinflationary effects of this job-creation program have already been proven by its model, the employment program of Hitler's Finance Minister, Hjalmar Schacht. According to sources close to the current British fight against the U.S. currency, the passage of full-employment legislation along the lines specified by Meany and Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-

Minn.) would send the "dollar into a final tailspin from which it would never recover."

- A declaration of war on business over the right to organize, demanding that the government give absolutely no aid via tax breaks to "greedy business leaders." These inflammatory statements fuel the counterproductive climate of a labor-industry confrontation fostered by R. Heath Larry, a former vice-president of U.S. Steel and current head of the National Association of Manufacturers. Recently, Larry has been touring the country urging business to declare war on labor and take a hard line against new union organizing and demands for wage increases; Larry is part of a "right-wing" network which includes a number of "right-to-work" organizations linked to National Right to Work Committee head Reed Larsen and professional fundraiser Richard Viguerie, among others.

- A provoked labor-industry confrontation would disrupt growing collaboration around nuclear energy exports and other urgent issues.

- A call for an international crusade on behalf of "human rights," singling out the Soviet Union for special "retaliatory" treatment. While this Cold War rhetoric is not new from the ruling circles of the AFL-CIO, the calls by Meany and Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) for economic retaliation against the Soviets over the "dissident" issue helps undermine a new SALT agreement.

Stay Away From the USLP

Integrated into these policies, the Meany leadership of the AFL-CIO submitted a resolution proffered by John Driscoll, the head of the Connecticut State Labor Council, that orders AFL-CIO affiliates to have nothing to do with "the so-called U.S. Labor Party." The resolution, like the other basic policy positions submitted and approved by the convention, demands the membership choose sides against the Labor Party's successful program for high-technology, nuclear-based industrial expansion. By forcing the resolution through the convention, Meany has acknowledged that the U.S. Labor Party represents the leadership of an international labor-industry alliance for progress.

The Mondale Option

The conference proceedings are already beginning to produce signs of a polarization in the labor movement. Top Teamster leaders reached yesterday expressed the opinion that the anti-Labor Party resolution was, in fact,

an attack on them, since they had been collaborating with the Labor Party. Several called for publicly disassociating the Teamsters union from the policies of the Meany leadership of the AFL-CIO. This sentiment was echoed by several local building trades leaders, who expressed shock at Meany's efforts to cut off the labor movement from its allies.

President Jimmy Carter was conspicuous by his absence at the convention. According to at least one report, Carter was advised not to go to Los Angeles and take the chance of being upstaged by his "popular" Vice President.

Carter's absence was then turned into an excuse to heap criticism on the White House for having "turned its back on the labor movement," and Meany also used it to embarrass the President by openly embracing Mondale and his Fabian mentor, Humphrey.

Meany's bitter attacks on Carter as "business oriented" are key and code for the fears emanating from the pages of the Washington Post, the London Times, and similar sewers that industrialist inputs into the Administration could pull off a policy reorientation that would threaten the City of London's vital interests.

Meany introduced the Vice President as "certainly the one man in the executive branch of government who understands what the AFL-CIO is about..." The delegates' applause was featured prominently on the evening news.

Meany Endorses Humphrey-Hawkins

AFL-CIO President George Meany stressed in his remarks to the federation's convention Dec. 8, his endorsement of the policies embodied in the Humphrey-Hawkins legislation now before Congress. The following are additions to the excerpts from Meany's speech which appeared in the last issue of the Executive Intelligence Review:

...Recently, President Carter announced his support for the full employment bill—the Humphrey-Hawkins bill. We take that announcement as a solemn commitment.

...Full employment promises must be backed up with comprehensive, effective programs that will meet that goal...

...The 4 percent unemployment rate set forward in Humphrey-Hawkins is a realistic goal.

...In January of 1969, when Arthur Burns returned to Washington...unemployment was 3.4 percent and inflation was 4.2 percent.

...That was nine years ago—nine years filled with economic misery caused by the economic policies of Dr. Burns.

...Enacting the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act—and then providing policies to make it work—will set America back on the road toward full employment.

...We believe the way to restore confidence throughout America is to set a goal of 4 million new jobs a year—every year—for the next four years.

...That means 76,000 jobs a week—every week—for the next 208 weeks.

...With that kind of commitment, the President would meet both of his major goals—full employment and a balanced budget.

...Real job creating programs are what the economy needs—tax cuts for business will not do the job.

Schlesinger Lies

In his lengthy address to the Convention, James Schlesinger, Secretary of the Department of Energy, lied concerning his intention to help the passage of a bill for the licensing of nuclear plants in Congress. The bill is designed to expedite the process of licensing, which is now an extraordinarily long and arduous process. These are excerpts from his presentation:

...Today I am here to talk to you about the matters involving our energy program and the energy service of the United States, which bears directly on the well being, not only of all of us, but the future of the country.

...We must deal with the problem of energy with vision and with foresight, otherwise the changes in the sources of our energy supply, if we fail to take appropriate action, will overwhelm us.

...It is (the Carter energy package—ed.), as I have indicated, complex litigation, touching on every aspect of American life...(but) the entire program is based upon the premise that the economy must continue to expand, that we must provide more jobs, that production must rise, and there must be increased productivity. Unless we have that economic expansion in the face of growing energy difficulties, we will find that we are unable to maintain either the economy or the American way of life...

This brings me to a philosophy of recent years which can only be characterized as an anti-growth philosophy, the feeling that we have expanded too much...we can have nothing to do with that kind of unrestrained attitude, which is anti-growth. (Applause)

Restraining growth means restraining the growth of jobs, it means unemployment, it means the failure to provide the best parts of the American way of life to a growing number of our citizens...I know that the AFL-CIO has strongly endorsed getting on with the creation of new sources of energy and the building of nuclear plants. We have in the works and, as soon as Congress has a spare place on its agenda, we will send to the Hill a nuclear licensing bill which is designed to expedite the process of licensing and permit us to make better use of nuclear energy. We can have no truck with anti-growth philosophy because it endangers the living standards of every American.

...I point to the necessity for the avoidance of shortsightedness by the business community. The business community, indeed the political community, have tendencies which will not serve our highest needs if they are exhibited: The tendency not to look beyond the next profit and loss statement, or the tendency not to look beyond the next general election.

AFL Elevates Mondale:

"VP Not Always Second Best"

On Dec. 9, Peter Bommarito, Chairman of the AFL-CIO Community Services Committee, presented the

Philip Murray-William Green Award to Vice-President Walter Mondale. The following are excerpts of Bommarito's remarks of introduction of the Vice-President:

Vice President Walter F. Mondale was Jimmy Carter's choice but he is his own man. Senator Walter F. Mondale was Hubert Humphrey's choice but he is his own man...

Look at the record: From 1965 through 1970, Senator Mondale voted right on every bill designed to serve the people...

While the roll is too long to read—it must be said that Senators are known by the votes they cast and not by the companions they keep or by the speeches they make...

Walter F. Mondale passed the test—as Senator... But will Vice President Mondale do as well as Senator Mondale? What yardstick does one use to measure a Vice President's accomplishments? Can Vice President Mondale measure up to Senator Mondale's 122 percent COPE rating...

...Under our constitution, the Vice President is always in second place, but is not, necessarily, always second best. In the case of Vice President Mondale, the American people are fortunate in having a first rate man. This is why Presidential candidate Carter picked him, and in picking him, Mr. Carter told a morning news conference on July 15, 1976 that "I have absolutely no doubt that I have made the right decision."

We agree with that decision, and we agree also with Mr. Carter's comment at the same news conference that Mr. Mondale has a "Great feeling of understanding and comprehension and compassion for people who need the services of government most."

Moynihan-Bukovsky Rave: U.S. Must Protect "Human Rights"

On Monday, Dec. 12, the principal speakers at the Convention were Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY) and Vladimir Bukovsky, who came to the U.S. after a prisoner exchange between the Soviet Union and Chile. Moynihan advocated threatening that unless the Soviet Union stops "oppressing its people...they'll goddam well feed themselves next winter." Excerpts from that speech follow:

...(Totalitarian governments) more and more have come to depend for the well being of their economy on the economy of the West.... We know that our capital markets are more and more the source of their investments. We know that our manufactured goods are more and more the basis of their own capital investments... We know that the Soviets have decided that North Dakota is going to be its granary, its reserve, and that gives us the right and the ability to make claims... How much of a price must we pay for the education of this new crowd in the Department of State? Wouldn't it be refreshing if our Secretary of State, just once, flew to Moscow and went to the Kremlin and said: "I am here on behalf of 25 million American trade unionists, and I'd like to ask you why isn't Andrei Sakharov at the AFL-CIO convention?" (According to press reports, Soviet dissident acknowledged that he had received an invitation to the convention, but not in time to attend—ed.)

Here are Bukovsky's remarks which echoed the sentiments of Moynihan.

(Communist power has brought the Soviet Union) to a desperate situation—backward technology, devastated agriculture, the lowest living standard in Europe and the monstrous absence of human rights...

Beginning with almost the first years of the Soviet regime, Western businessmen have been helping the Communist leadership strengthen its powers... trade and economic relations are a powerful weapon of interference in the life of a country—so interfere, but interfere on the side of the people.

The AFL-CIO Program

We present here two excerpts from important policy resolutions discussed and circulated to the 2000 delegates to the AFL-CIO's biennial convention. For the most part the resolutions were passed without discussion from the floor by voice vote.

It is important to point out that many of the resolutions emerged from previous conventions, such as last month's meeting of the Industrial Union Department or the Building Trades Convention two weeks ago; as such they demonstrate the strong control of policy by Meany and Lane Kirkland.

International Trade

RESOLUTION NO. 68—By Delegate Jacob Clayman, Industrial Union Department: Delegates representing the Air Line Pilots Association.

WHEREAS, Distortions in this country's foreign trade are putting Americans out of work at a dizzying pace. While it is impossible to be precise about the numbers, it is clear that hundreds of thousands of workers are jobless today as a result of America's appalling lack of defense against unfair imports. Knowledgeable sources in the most obviously hard-hit sectors suggest that, at a minimum, the following industries have suffered trade-related employment losses in recent years in these proportions:...

RESOLVED: That the AFL-CIO calls upon the Administration to reassess American policy with regard to trade. Full employment cannot be achieved domestically unless our workers are protected against dumping and unfair trade actions by other nations. We urge the adoption of comprehensive international economic policies for this country which are geared to the welfare of the domestic economy and American workers.

That we urge the Administration to insure that current trade negotiations and agreements protect the vital interests of American workers and industry. U.S. tariffs are already low when compared to those of many other nations, and the U.S. does not rely upon the various non-tariff barriers that other countries use to circumvent free trade.

That this convention calls upon the Executive to order vigorous enforcement of existing statutes that would prohibit much of the current trade and to see to it that the various agencies place a high priority on such enforcement activities.

The Economy

RESOLUTION NO. 64—By Delegate Jacob Clayman, Industrial Union Department.

RESOLVED: That the AFL-CIO calls on the Administration, the Congress and the appropriate government agencies to take immediate action on the following:

•The immediate adoption of a national full employment policy. The Employment Act of 1946 contained more promise than action. We need a Humphrey-Hawkins Act which will provide that the President and Congress spell out specific programs to create jobs for every American willing and able to work. At long last we must recognize that in our modern society a worker is entitled to a job as a matter of right.

•Steps to bring a halt to the flood of certain manufactured imports, including the repeal of tax laws that provide incentives for the installation of modern plants and equipment abroad rather than at home. We specifically urge reform of those provisions in the federal tax code which allow for the deferral of taxes on unrepatriated profits generated abroad. We ask for reform of the foreign tax credit which makes it possible for large multinational corporations to shift profits so as to minimize U.S. taxes.

We also urge the negotiation of effective Orderly Marketing Agreements or other systems of import control to deal with actions by certain countries to "export their unemployment" by selling in U.S. markets below costs or that permit production under slave wage conditions and thus gain an unfair labor competitive advantage...

Tax Reform

RESOLUTION NO. 71—

WHEREAS, The AFL-CIO commends President Carter for his recognition of the need for "a complete overhaul of our income tax system" and his call for a simplification of the system that will "lower taxes for middle and low income families and eliminate hundreds of tax breaks." We share his commitment to the creation of a more equitable system, and...

We call for the elimination of the present tax subsidy for Domestic International Sales Corporations (DISC); the DISC provision in the Revenue Act now permits U.S. Corporations to channel funds into export subsidiaries and avoid taxes on substantial portions of these subsidiaries' profits.

We are apprehensive at reports that the President is

considering as part of his tax revision proposals new loopholes for stockholder dividends. We reject the notion that corporate stockholders should be given privileged tax treatment on their dividend income...

Human Rights

RESOLUTION NO. 74 —

RESOLVED: That the struggle for Human Rights at home and abroad shall continue to be a major concern for the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the AFL-CIO seek all possible avenues to: (1) encourage and support trade unionism free of government control; (2) strongly urge the continuation of the United States government's active and vocal commitment for basic human rights in the world; (3) allow no excuse for supporting repressive governments solely for economic reasons; (4) publicize disregard for human rights wherever it occurs at home or abroad, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the AFL-CIO encourage President Carter and those individuals, organizations, and countries making positive efforts to promote and achieve basic human rights for all people.

Resolution No. 150 World Affairs

The AFL-CIO believes that human rights must be a cardinal principle of U.S. foreign policy. We strongly endorse and commend the position and actions of President Carter in speaking out unequivocally on specific cases of oppression, as well as in general terms.

Abuses and threats to basic human rights are the most searching issues that divide the world today, and the clearest tests of American ideals and resolve. Where these issues are concerned, whether in Southern Africa, Chile, Uganda or the Soviet Union, "there are no longer any purely internal affairs"....

Economic Trade and Aid

The AFL-CIO urges the U.S. government to more efficiently negotiate economic trade agreements with our free world trading partners to enhance the economic and employment opportunities of American workers. At the same time, the U.S. should reject trade concessions and technology transfers that provide obvious benefits to totalitarian states....