

AFL-CIO's IUD Conference:

# One Step Forward, Two Steps Backwards

Three weeks ago, a source in the AFL-CIO bureaucracy told a reporter, "Energy is going to be the major issue at the Industrial Union Department's conference ... it will set the tone for our national convention...."

If the IUD conference, held in Atlanta two weeks ago, sets the tone for the upcoming national AFL-CIO convention, then the AFL-CIO membership is in big trouble.

## LABOR NEWS

Rather than addressing the energy question with a direct statement on behalf of nuclear energy development, the conference took a "smorgasbord" approach, adopting a resolution that was, in the terms of one IUD spokesman, "six of one, half a dozen of the other ... a little production, a little nuclear, a lot of conservation ... basically we sidestepped controversial issues...."

An analysis of the proposal shows only slight difference with the statement the AFL-CIO Executive Board adopted; these differences — a strong statement on behalf of nuclear power and the endorsement of "\$100 billion commitment to energy research and development" — were reported to have been included in the proposal as concessions to forces in the IUD, especially in the United Steelworkers union and in the AFL-CIO leadership, who would have liked to have seen a much stronger statement for growth and nuclear energy.

Though one source within the IUD leadership circles acknowledged "tremendous discontent among rank and file unionists" over the Carter energy program and the AFL-CIO's indecisive attitude towards it, he reported that top AFL-CIO leaders have decided — for the time being — "not to overturn the applecart and to give the Carter program some cautious support.... we want to get something passed."

It remains unclear whether this week's veto of the Clinch River fast breeder project will jolt these wavering labor leaders in time to make a more definitive statement at the AFL-CIO national convention. Only last week, an IUD spokesman had commented that "there was no need for a (conference) resolution on the breeder because it looks like Carter will turn his head and let it go through...."

### *From Bad to Worse*

If the IUD, which represents more than 4 million workers, was treading water on the energy question, it missed the boat completely on almost every major foreign and domestic policy issue and in some cases took

positions so incompetent that if implemented they threatened to "sink" the U.S.

Into the latter category fall the resolutions on the economy, on foreign trade, and on "full employment" and the Humphrey-Hawkins bill in particular. These, plus the previously mentioned energy smorgasbord and a resolution on Israel are the most significant of the more than 40 resolutions passed at the conference.

The call for protectionist legislation emanates from several disparate sections of the IUD leadership, especially the steelworkers and textile unions. These leaders have seen plants close, their members forced onto unemployment and welfare lines, and feel pressed to "do something." Their call for protectionism ignores the underlying causes of unemployment in their sectors — the depression-caused collapse of world trade which has reduced the global demand for the products they produce. This fact was missing from comments made on the subject by I.W. Abel, the former President of the United Steelworkers union and retiring IUD head.

It is precisely the failure of the IUD and the rest of the AFL-CIO to come to grips with the energy question and to support policies of expansion of the world economy based upon nuclear energy development that has backed them into the "protectionist trap." The incompetent economists who drafted the policy resolutions have stood reality on its head — rather than shut off trade, in the name of fair trade arrangements as they propose, the solution lies in rapidly expanding trade. Rather than cut technology transfers to the underdeveloped sector except under "controlled circumstances" as the IUD's economists propose, it is rapid development of the industrial and agricultural potentials of the Third World through American technology that is the immediate order of business.

It is the same muddled thinking that has led AFL-CIO leaders to support Humphrey-Hawkins and similar "public service, public works employment programs." "We know that Humphrey-Hawkins won't really put our laid off workers back to work at their jobs," said the office on an IUD member union, "We hope that it will 'pick up the economy' and this will stimulate the rehiring of our boys...." This spokesman professed to be "unclear" on how a nuclear energy development program "would put people to work in high-technology jobs."

The several thousand delegates and guests were also treated to one of Sen. Daniel Moynihan's (D-NY) maniacal diatribes on how the U.S. was selling the state of Israel down the river and how it was the responsibility of the assembled unionists to prevent it. Those sentiments were said to have been shared by several members of the AFL-CIO's "Jewish Lobby," including Secretary Treasurer Lane Kirkland. In this light, the

resolution passed by the IUD on Israel reflects an enormous degree of restraint and at least tacit support for the Carter Administration's Middle East initiatives for peace. Sources report elements in the IUD leadership resisted efforts to rewrite the resolution to condemn the Carter Administration for "involving the Russians" in a peace settlement. Although restrained, the inflammatory remarks against the PLO "menace" reflect the "Jewish Lobby's" influence.

Many key industry leaders were reported to be watching the IUD conference "very closely" to try to get a reading on where the labor movement's leadership was headed on major policy issues, especially the energy question. One spokesman for such layers stated, "We're looking for a sign that labor wants to move on nuclear power ... we've heard some rumblings to that effect lately."

The IUD leadership has clearly muffed a major opportunity to extend their hand to the other side of the emerging labor-industry coalition; industry leaders contacted after the conference report that they are still "confused" about which way the AFL-CIO will go.

It remains to be seen whether the IUD and other AFL-CIO trade union leaderships will correct their mistakes by next month's national convention.

## The IUD Resolution on Energy

No issue confronting this country is more important or more critical than our supply of energy. Energy is the lifeblood of our society. It means far more than the fuel which powers automobiles, airplanes, buses, and ships; it means the jobs, products and services working men and women need to live and prosper.

A comprehensive national energy policy is long overdue. Based on the needs of the American people, that policy must emphasize conservation of existing supplies of fossil fuels while also developing other sources of energy so that we can be assured of an energy supply which is adequate to meet the growth needs of our economy....

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved:*

That we call upon Congress and the Administration to act expeditiously to adopt a National Energy Plan which includes the following recommendations:

1. The importation of crude oil and petroleum products must be placed in the hands of a government agency which would determine the amount of oil to be imported, negotiate its price, and provide for its domestic distribution. Only by this means can the price and quantity collusion between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the multinational oil companies be ended.
2. The federal government must make its own, independent estimate of our remaining supplies of both oil and natural gas.
3. Congress must adopt policies which encourage the fullest possible development of oil and gas resources on federal lands and on the Outer Continental Shelf, consistent with the need to protect our environment....
4. Congress must maintain strict price controls on domestic oil and gas.

5. We must go all-out to develop our coal reserves and resources....

6. We must make a national commitment to expand our use of nuclear energy. Nuclear power will make it possible for us to meet our electricity generation needs between now and the beginning of the next century....

7. We must adopt a comprehensive national policy to reduce fuel consumption in business, industry and residential structures....

12. We must make a massive \$100 billion commitment to energy research and development....

13. We must adopt legislation which will eliminate the monopolistic hold which a handful of giant corporations have over the domestic production and supply of oil, gas and other forms of energy....

14. We must adopt legislation which requires that a reasonable portion of oil imports be carried on U.S. flag vessels....

### *Resolution on the Economy*

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*Therefore, Be It Resolved:*

That the Industrial Union Department 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 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 competitive advantage....

### *Resolution on International Trade*

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....

That we urge the Administration to ensure 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 unfair trade and to see to it that the various agencies place a high priority on such enforcement activities.

*Resolution on Textile and Apparel Imports*

The need to regulate imports of textiles and apparel has long been recognized on the international scene. Still these imports have been escalating. Imports of apparel have multiplied to an unprecedented degree in the case of both the U.S. and Canada. As a result, employment of garment workers in both the United States and Canada is down and unemployment is up. Many potential jobs failed to materialize. This deprived many new entrants into the labor force of an opportunity to earn a living. An intolerable situation has thus developed. It calls for correction....

*Resolution on Raw Materials*

The United States must develop a comprehensive national policy for raw materials in order to secure the stable supply and price of basic metals essential to its industries. Without a reliable adequate supply, the U.S. economy can neither survive nor grow. Almost every industrial job in the U.S. is at stake as well as the nation's general economic well-being....

The New International Economic Order is the banner under which the producing nations are moving toward that goal. The action program of the NIEO includes measures that have serious implications for U.S. industry. These include increased efforts to form more and stronger producer associations, to raise the real price of exported commodities, and to promote the processing of raw materials in the producing countries....

*Now Therefore, Be It Resolved:*

We urge the U.S. government to move quickly to plan and develop a comprehensive raw materials policy and program to assure our economy of the steady flow, present and in the future, of the raw

materials necessary to the American industrial process.

Such programs must of necessity include economic stockpiling of certain raw materials; either multilateral or bi-lateral commodity agreements between the U.S. and other countries which are suppliers of raw materials; development of new domestic sources of such materials; exploration and research for and of new raw materials; the beefing up of recycling and other conservation methods; the maintenance of standby facilities to extract and process certain raw materials when and if necessary; and strong antitrust surveillance of those corporations engaged in the supply of such materials....

*Resolution on Full Employment*

...For the Industrial Union Department, the creation of jobs is central to any economic recovery plan and to any proposals for dealing with our urban crisis....

*Resolution on Israel*

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We are hopeful that a Geneva Conference, for which President Carter's Administration has worked so steadfastly may make a genuine contribution to peace and well-being in the Middle East. We are in sympathy with Israel's profound reservations about according a role to the Palestine Liberation Organization in a Geneva Conference of sovereign nations. The PLO's record of guerilla warfare against civilians and children, and the lasting (sic) of the PLO leadership to endorse in any way the provisions of United Nations Resolution 242, which must serve as the foundation for any workable structure of relationships in the Middle East, clearly indicate the PLO's refusal to accept the legitimacy and the future security of the state of Israel.

We believe that the Geneva Conference may, under the proper procedures, and with the necessary elements of mutual respect among the nations involved prove a welcome first step in the direction of building peace in a troubled section of the world....

## Fitzsimmons Holds Firm At Senate Hearings

*We reprint below excerpts from the opening testimony of International Brotherhood of Teamsters General President Frank Fitzsimmons before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee on Nov. 2.*

Since the hearings, the U.S. press has slandered Fitzsimmons, implying that he had admitted "being in the wrong" in his handling of authorization of an insurance contract to a now-bankrupt firm under the ownership of West Coast entrepreneur Joseph Hauser.

This slanderous press coverage, especially in radio

and television accounts of the proceedings, coheres with information obtained from the office of Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill) prior to the hearings that the Senator, the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, was intent on staging a "big media event"; the outcome of the hearings, the source reported, would be "to create the climate for further investigations into other areas of wrongdoing in the Teamsters.... we want to put people in jail...."

The *Executive Intelligence Review* has since learned that Percy is said to be briefing "anyone who will listen