

# AFL-CIO votes depression program

*A look at how the labor federation's policies are made*

As Labor Day approaches, it is customary to assess the "state of organized labor." Most media will focus editorial comment on the nation's largest bloc of organized workers, the AFL-CIO, and comment upon the impending retirement of President George Meany or the question of who is likely to get labor's backing in the 1980 presidential election.

We, however, choose to examine something else. The real state of the AFL-CIO is reflected in a series of policy resolutions passed two weeks ago at the AFL-CIO Executive Council midsummer meeting here in Chicago. Each is a prescription for a depression collapse or foreign policy disaster for the United States.

The principal components of this program are as follows:

The AFL-CIO leadership fully endorsed the thrust of the New York Council on Foreign Relations-authored Carter energy program modeled after Adolf Hitler's. They even went further—the Executive Council effectively repudiated the Federation's support for nuclear power. The policy resolution for the first time placed conservation ahead of production in its list of "national priorities," while moving such dubious sources of energy as solar power, wind, gasohol, tidal, and geothermal ahead of nuclear power. AFL-CIO spokesmen such as Albert Zack, Sr., the long-time director of public relations, and Martin Ward, the plumber's union president, were explicit about the Executive Council's action marking a change in policy. "Nuclear energy is no longer very popular with the American people," said Ward. According to Zack: "The American people are afraid of nuclear energy..."

On the SALT II treaty, the Federation adopted a position identical to that of CFR member and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, a position which calls for support of SALT's ratification coupled with a major mobilization to force through Congress a multibillion dollar program to develop the MX missile, a key component of the CFR's war-losing "counterforce strategy." This, according to the AFL-CIO Executive Council, will remedy the "emerging strategic imbalance" that exists between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Said an AFL-CIO spokesman: "We are not in favor of an indiscriminate arms buildup, but we are most definitely in favor of an arms buildup. ..."

This policy will hasten a breakdown of detente and is intended to lead to a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

On the economy, the AFL-CIO reiterated its long-standing call for a large-scale Works Project Administration—pick and shovel jobs program—which a spokesman indicated should be linked "in some way" to the Carter synthetic fuel program—to help get the United States through its "third recession in a decade. ..."

The Executive Council listed several other "priority social programs" including the Kennedy-sponsored "right-to-die" health care legislation. They added a second plug for an arms buildup, stating that under no circumstances should money be shifted away from defense spending to fund these "social" programs. The AFL-CIO leadership thus endorsed a social program that will lead to collapse of social services in the U.S. and bring closer the economic collapse which they profess to fear.

On trade, the AFL-CIO leadership reaffirmed its support for the CFR policy of enforced backwardness, starvation and disease for the Third World. A resolution deplores the transfer of "critical technology"—which a spokesman stated meant emphatically that nuclear technology should not be exported. It particularly singled out trade in advanced technologies with the East Bloc and the Soviet Union on the ground that U.S. trade policy is helping the Soviets gain a strategic military advantage. This, too, is the line being circulated by CFR circles and the State Department, and it will cost millions of high technology jobs for American workers.

On Nicaragua, the Executive Council warned of the danger from certain "Cuban-Marxist" elements within the new government and cautioned the U.S. to move with "restraint" in assisting that government. This is nothing more than a cover for support for the CFR-authored policy of blocking U.S. aid to Nicaragua, thereby creating the conditions of famine and starvation that could topple the new republican leadership. (See LATIN AMERICA)

How is it possible that the Council on Foreign Relations can exercise more control over the AFL-CIO

Executive than the Federation's members—so much control that it virtually dictates policy?

Lane Kirkland, the AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer and the man slated to replace the ailing George Meany when he finally retires as Federation President, is the single most powerful person in determining the Federation's policies. Kirkland, a member of both the CFR and its offshoot, the Trilateral Commission, is in turn controlled by a network of policy advisors and lawyers linked to various circles in the Anglo-American intelligence establishment and various think-tanks like Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Rand Corporation, and the Brookings Institution. These networks have been "in place" since the days of Jay Lovestone, the former "Bukharinite" U.S. Communist Party leader who has served for years as doyen of AFL-CIO foreign policy. They are the people who control George Meany.

There is a difference between a person like Meany and a Lane Kirkland. Meany, at least, has a background in organized labor, in the plumbers' union. He pushed himself into a position of power and then was captured—early in his career—by these Anglo-American intelligence networks and the CFR group. Kirkland is a protégé of these networks at least since his days at Georgetown. He has been pushed up the ladder through CFR channels. Kirkland is a test-tube creation devoid of ties to the remaining "traditionalist" circles in the labor movement, a fact which adds marginally to the

CFR's control of the AFL-CIO should Kirkland step into the presidency.

But Kirkland's role and the role of "policy advisors" does not adequately explain CFR control over the Federation.

The passage of resolutions such as the package which emerged from Chicago between two CFR-dominated factions—one right-"liberal" and another left-Fabian—backed by related think-tank input. Policy is arrived at through "consensus," with the handful of independent unionists, especially those from sections of the building trades,

"strength" is commonly attributed to his being a more skillful mediator between the two "factions," since he is less "autocratic" than Meany.) Caught in the middle, these often well-meaning sheep are left without any ability to formulate an opposing policy and are often reduced to mere spectators in the stage-managed debates.

The AFL-CIO Executive is commonly portrayed as being composed of two elements of the American social democratic movement—the "right-wing" Social Democrats USA and the "left-wing" Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee. Kirkland, Jacob Clayman of the Industrial Union Department, Meany and Martin Ward of the plumbers are generally identified as the leaders of the SDUSA wing. Jerry Wurf of AFSCME and William "Wimpy" Winpisinger of the machinists are most often mentioned as leaders of the DSOC

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## The AFL-CIO resolutions

*Following are excerpts from key resolutions passed by the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Chicago on Aug. 7.*

### The National Economy

... The recession-inflation-energy crisis requires immediate action. The economy's downward course must be reversed and the recession must not be allowed to feed upon itself. The AFL-CIO Executive Council, therefore, calls on the Administration and Congress to move promptly on the following programs:

- Expanding job-creating employment and training programs for adult workers and youth to meet present needs and the additional job needs of workers laid off because of the recession. New and/or expanded training programs will be needed to

provide workers with the complete skills necessary for development of alternate energy sources and installation of conservation equipment.

- Enacting a stand-by public works program that can be ready to meet worsening unemployment...

Regulating exports of food and other raw materials to prevent shortages and rising prices. A National Grain Board is urgently needed to deal with specifically heavy grain purchases by the Soviet Union...

The experience of the last 10 months under the Administration's so-called anti-inflation program confirms the warnings of the AFL-CIO. Last October we called for a fair and effective anti-inflation program based on equality of sacrifice, with effective controls on all forms of income and all prices.

We firmly believe that a comprehensive, mandatory, legislatively

based anti-inflation controls program would be more effective and fair than the current Administration program.

### Energy

We agree with the President's call for conservation, a crash program to develop alternate sources of energy, the Energy Mobilization Board, the Energy Security Fund and for a windfall profits tax....

Conservation is of major importance in reducing the nation's dependence upon imported oil from insecure sources.... Alternate energy sources must be developed from each of the three primary categories: (1) essential renewable sources—solar, wind, gasohol, tidal and geothermal energy—for which varying degrees of technology exist and which appear to have minimal environmental effects; (2) nonrenewable sources—coal and nuclear for

"minority." This latter grouping is prominently involved with Douglas Fraser and the United Autoworkers, who are not members of the AFL-CIO at this time. It is Fraser who is the recognized leader of the Left-Fabian wing of the labor movement.

Much is written in the media of the "policy differences" between the SDUSA and DSOC wings of the labor movement. While there are some marginal differences on issues such as defense spending and certain aspects of foreign policy, they all take place within the confines of the CFR-controlled debate within the Executive Council.

The point is that SDUSA and DSOC are themselves fronts for the CFR, whose penetration of the AFL-CIO dates back to the turn of the century. DSOC, whose forerunner was the Fabian League for Industrial Democracy and the networks of former UAW President Walter Reuther, is run by the "left side" of the Council on Foreign Relations—the same people who control terrorist and environmentalist operations run through the networks associated with the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Policy Studies. This same group overlaps with what is commonly called the Kennedy machine.

SDUSA is run by the "right side" of the CFR, the people who control the destinies of James Schlesinger and General Alexander Haig.

The DSOC group is given a "soft profile" on environmentalist issues that allows for alliances with

individuals such as Ralph Nader. The SDUSA grouping works with pro-nuclear groups linked to the Mont Pelerin Society's Heritage Foundation and is given a technology supporting profile. SDUSA therefore generally captures the well meaning sheep in the building trades and other unions on these issues—they defer to SDUSA leadership like Kirkland on nuclear power. Not surprisingly, the building trades have failed to mobilize a significant defense of nuclear power and instead were conned into supporting the virtually non-nuclear energy policy resolution. Said Martin Ward recently: "We consider it a victory when any statement adopted is not antinuclear."

With these facts in mind it should not surprise anyone that AFSCME's Jerry Wurf is a member of the CFR along with Kirkland and that a half dozen AFL-CIO Council members are also members of the Trilateral Commission—including Martin Ward and J.C. Turner of the Operating Engineers, both of whom are mentioned as potential candidates for Meany's job should Kirkland falter.

With this configuration, the CFR is given maximum leverage on the AFL-CIO Executive. There is corroborating evidence of this in other actions besides the recent Council meeting. For example the current activity of council members respecting the presidential reelection hopes of Jimmy Carter.

Last Spring, it was the AFL-CIO that helped the CFR to launch its destabilization of Carter through

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which technology exists but which also pose environmental problems; and (3) new areas—such as waste matter, oil shale, tar sands, and other synthetic fuels and solar power installations—which require new technology and may have potential environmental problems.... To finance the high cost of technology to develop synthetic fuels, the President has proposed a multibillion dollar Energy-Security Fund which we support. Since private capital has failed or refused to risk making loans to develop this technology, the federal government must also bear the responsibility and expense for expanded research into any potential environmental hazards which may result from development of synthetic fuels....

#### **SALT II**

The Strategic Arms limitation negotiations, begun ten years ago,

have so far failed either to curb the nuclear arms race or to stabilize the strategic balance of power. Whatever restraint we have seen has been in the form of unilateral U.S. decisions to cancel or delay new weapons systems, while the Soviet Union has engaged in the most massive military buildup in peacetime history. These facts are no longer contested....

In its resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of SALT II, the Senate should stipulate that under the terms of the treaty, parity requires the modernization and development of U.S. strategic forces—including, and most particularly, the MX missile based in such a mode as to survive a first strike by Soviet missiles....

#### **Nicaragua**

... While present political circumstances are unclear, there are sub-

stantial reports indicating that the Government of National Reconstruction is becoming more and more a junta ruled by one man. Further, the Castro dictatorship has opened friendly relations with at least two members of the junta and has offered to send doctors and teachers to Nicaragua immediately.

Further reports indicate that the junta is attempting to construct a unified labor organization, forcing all elements, including communists to merge.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council calls upon the junta to recognize ILO standards, including Convention 87 (Freedom of Association), and to not only permit but encourage the revitalization of the CUS. The Council insists that AFL-CIO direct relations with the democratic labor movement in Nicaragua be maintained without governmental or other interference....

bitter statements by both Meany and Kirkland about the Administration's betrayal of labor's interest. Once the destabilization was well under way, Kirkland and company moved to control its pace. Meetings were held with the White House staff. Kirkland and Martin Ward visited Carter at his Camp David retreat to discuss national policy, etc.

Two weeks ago six AFL-CIO Council members announced the formation of a "Labor Committee to Elect Carter." This group was led by Trilateral Commission member Glenn Watts of the Communications Workers and SDUSA and Zionist leader Sol Chaitkin of the Garment Workers.

Then, two weeks ago, Kirkland gave some faint praise to Carter while attacking Congress.

Does this mean that the AFL-CIO is moving toward backing Carter? To the contrary.

The CFR has decided that the AFL-CIO should make sure that certain portions of the Carter fascist energy and social programs be rammed through Congress in the next session. This requires, as Kirkland stated recently, that the AFL-CIO have a tactical alliance with the Carter people on certain agreed upon policy thrusts—like the synthetic fuels program.

The support for Carter—even among those half dozen union leaders who endorsed him is tepid to say the least. Watts is already participating in a UAW-initiated campaign against the "oil profiteers" which is widely acknowledged to be a flexing of muscle for the Ted Kennedy for President movement.

When the CFR pulls the rug from under Carter, the

AFL-CIO leaders will take their new positions on the chessboard.

Many are slated to move behind Senator Kennedy. The Executive Council has endorsed most of Kennedy's CFR-scripted domestic program, including the threat to nationalize the oil companies inserted into the energy policy statement. The machinists' Winpisinger has already been assigned the prominent role of trying to build a grass roots movement for Kennedy.

Kirkland meanwhile is known to have a preference for Gen. Alexander Haig, though whether he supports Haig openly depends on whether the CFR script demands it.

To have maximum leverage in the election scenario, it is likely that Kirkland will replace Meany before the Summer of 1980. He would also like to see the UAW and even the Teamsters brought back into the AFL-CIO, but the prospects of this consolidation appear dim.

As we go to press, a revolt appears to be building in the local chapters of the labor movement as members discover that the AFL-CIO now has a pseudo-environmentalist position on nuclear energy. Several building trades leaders have expressed disgust with what has taken place, while some in New Jersey and Pennsylvania are talking about leading a revolt against Kirkland.

"They are going to kill thousands of jobs and destroy the economy," said one local leader of actions of the Executive Council. "Hell, you can't expect us to sit back and take this crap."

—L. Wolfe