

[NRFACT]

FACT SHEET ON NATIONAL RANK AND FILE ACTION CONFERENCE, JUNE 27th-28th, 70
held at Packinghouse Labor-Community Center, Chicago, Ill.

The conference was brought to order at 11 a.m. on Saturday by Co-chairman Rayfield Mooty with an address of welcome. Bro. Mooty is Chairman of the National Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Steelworkers. Invocation was by Rev. Arthur Blackshire-Member Local 3911, U.S.W.A., Chicago, Ill.

After the invocation and the singing of the national anthem, Mrs. Addie Wyatt, educational director of the Chicago region of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, brought the greetings of the hosting center.

Upon being elected chairman of the Saturday Session, Bro. Marion Calligaris read the agenda, which was adopted. Bro. Calligaris is President of a Chicago local of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, and, with Bro. Mooty, was co-chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee.

Bro. Chas. Wilson, secretary of the Black Caucus in UAW Local 719, Chicago, was elected conference secretary.

Bro. Jack Weintraub, San Francisco teamster, was elected parliamentarian. Bro. John Thompson, Ex. Bd. member, Local 43-L, Amalgamated Meatcutters, Chicago, was elected sergeant-at-arms.

A Credentials Committee of 5 was elected, Chaired by Bro. Wilson.

A Resolutions Committee of seven was elected, chaired by Bro. John Knox, Local 3-200, International Woodworkers, Prineville, Oregon.

Sister Ola Kennedy of Gary, Indiana, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Steelworkers, gave the first Keynote speech. Bro. Will Parry, Sec'y.-Treas., Northern Washington and Alaska Council, Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers gave the second Keynote speech.

Both keynote speeches were greeted with much enthusiasm. (They will be made available as soon as they can be transcribed and reproduced.)

In a special order of business, the conference heard:

- ...Bro. Mike Turbovich of Western Pa., Chairman of the Miners for Democracy, who reported on the very difficult and most just struggle of the coal miners for safe working conditions and to bring democratic reform to their union.

- ...A message of greetings from the Mayor of Roosevelt, Alabama, Fred Rogers, black steelworker and vice-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of Dist. 37, USWA.

- ...A stirring address was given by Eliseo Medina, Chicago area coordinator of the Farm Workers Boycott Committee.

- ...The delegation representing the organization of widows of the Mannington Mine Disaster were given a tremendous, heart-warming ovation.

- ...A message of greetings from Puerto Rican trade unionists.

- ...A great speech by Rev. Jesse Jackson, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and leader of Chicago's Operation Breadbasket.
- ...An address by the newly-elected Mayor of Newark, N.J., Kenneth Gibson.

After lunch, the conference reconvened in five panels:

1. How to Defend Trade Union and Rank and File Rights:
Chairman: Nick Migas, UAW, Wisconsin
Secretary: Debbie Bell, AFT, Philadelphia
2. How to Combat Racism and Advance the Rights of Black and Minority Group Workers:
Chairman: Lee Cain, UAW Local #3, Detroit
Secretary: Sam Guyton, Local 373, Pittsburgh, Pa.
3. How to Advance Rights of Women Workers:
Chairman: Agnes Willis, Steward, Local 341, IUE, N.Y.
Secretary: Norman Roth, UAW, Local 6, Chicago
4. How to Advance Rights of Young Workers:
Chairman: Grady Bert
Secretary: Joe Kransdorf, Local 65, USWA, Chicago
5. How to Advance Peace and Labor Political Action:
Chairman: Al Evanoff, Dist. 65, Distrib. Wkrs., N.Y.
Secretary: Richard Parrish, Black Caucus, UFT, N.Y.

Saturday evening was marked by a mass rally, co-chaired by Norman Roth, Local 6, UAW, Chicago and Mary Oliver, President of Shoe Workers Local, Chicago. Major addresses were delivered by:

Charles Hayes, Vice-President, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen
Ken Yablonski, son of the martyred mine workers leader, "Jock" Yablonski
Dr. I. Buff, leader in the fight against black lung disease and for mine and industrial safety.
Ernest DeMaio, Regional Director of United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers.
Carl Farris, labor coordinator of Southern Christian Leadership Conference.
William Tate, Vice-President, Distributive Workers of American who brought greetings from the Milwaukee Strategy-Action Conference for Peace and Against Repression.
Eva Jefferson-president of the Student Council, Northwestern U., Evanston, Ill.
A message of greetings on behalf of the city was given by 3rd Ward Chicago Alderman Ralph Metcalfe.
A fine program of singing and chalk-talk was given by a labor cultural group including Peggy Lipschutz, Anita Satisfield.

Sunday morning began with the invocation and an inspiring address by Bro. Rayfield Mooty, who was elected chairman of the day.
Invocation by Bro. Philip G. Greenwade - Seattle, Wash.
The Statement of Purposes was read and adopted (Resolution #1 in your kits)

It was decided to call the continuations committee The National Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Action and Democracy. This action was taken on a proposal in the Report on Continuations and Leadership given on behalf of the Arrangements Committee and Sponsors by Brother Maury Davidson, an initiator of the conference, member of the arrangements committee, and chief steward, Local 43-L, Amalgamated Meatcutters, Chicago. His proposals for the election of the Coordinating Committee were adopted, and 118 members of that committee were elected in state and area caucuses.

The Resolutions Committee, which had read out the Statement of purposes (see above) brought in a statement of support to the auto workers in their impending negotiations with the auto corporations, calling on the whole labor movement for support, which was adopted. It proposed that the "plan of action" for immediate work after the conference (Resolution #2) be referred to the Coordinating Committee for action.

Panel Reports were presented as much as time would allow. All panel reports, unresolved questions and unfinished business were referred for consideration and action by the coordinating committee after time ran out. These will be made available as they become ready.

The conference adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The coordinating committee met after adjournment and elected a steering committee of 21. It set the date for its first meeting in two weeks.

The steering committee consists of 11 from Illinois, 5 from Michigan, 2 from Wisconsin, 2 from Indiana and 2 from Ohio. They come from auto, steel, railroad, shoe, Meatcutters, Painters, Transit and Farmworkers. Among the 21, 10 are black, 1 Chicano, 5 women and 3 youth.

The Credentials Committee reported:

556 delegates; 288 observers and 31 visitors for a total of 875 registered. All told, over 900 attended the conference.

There were 628 men and 241 women. About one-third of the conference consisted of black workers; at least one-third were youth. 157 different rank-and-file movements were represented.

By union affiliation, there were:

UAW-79; teachers-87; steel-43; building trades-29; state, county, municipal-farm workers-26; amalgamated meat and affiliates-50; teamsters-32; hospital-33; longshore-13; distributive-27; ILGWU 11; UE-16; IUE-12; IBEW-3; hotel-6; brewery-4; transit 7; public aid workers-13; bakers-2; rubber-5; railroad-10; miners-8; ITU-13; shoe-14; machinists-5; communications-5; and a number of other unions by 1 each. 70% of the participants were industrial workers; 30% non-industrial.

More complete proceedings will be carried in the next issue of Labor Today. We are told that reduced rates will enable you to order large bundles of the magazine to use in spreading the message of our movement.

If you are interested in tape-recordings of the Keynote Speeches or of the proceedings as a whole, be sure to let us know and we will try to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours for a successful follow-through of
the conference,
Sincerely,

Charles Wilson, Conference Secretary,