

Resolution No. 16:

Subject: SAFETY.

Committee recommends concurrence.

W/s that the recommendation of the committee be endorsed.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 17:

Subject: FAILURE OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS TO PROVIDE
ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DELEGATES TO CONVENTION OR TO
COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COLORED DELEGATES.
Committee recommends concurrence.

W/s that the recommendation of the committee be endorsed.

J. ATKINSON, LOCAL 1-80:

I think there should be a correction in Paragraph 2. I went up to where the Negro delegates were, they had no cots to sleep in. They slept on the floor. Some of them were sleeping in hammocks.

G. MITCHELL, LOCAL 1-357:

I speak in opposition to the resolution. I do so because I do not think at this time, when we are trying to gain unity, that we should endorse any resolution that names any person. The brothers in this Convention are not conversant with the facts as far as Brother Benedict is concerned. I would like to say this. I had an opportunity to speak to the Negro delegates. Yes, they did feel bad about not getting into hotels far more than the white people. They did not beef about it. They said that if this is the best we can do we will accept it with proper grace. I have only the greatest admiration for these Negroes. This resolution places the full responsibility on International Officers and not upon ourselves, the responsibility to see that the Negroes, Chinese, East Indians, anyone, is admitted into any hotel. Vancouver prohibits the same people from appearing in this hotel and other hotels in Vancouver. Before we go out in Convention and condemn anyone we should look at ourselves, and I am proud to say that most of our hotels will let these people come in. We have a long way to go right here.

Brother Benedict was Secretary of the International, and as such has certain responsibilities to the membership for their welfare at that convention. Like all other Secretaries, he must have certain assistance. Brother Peck was delegated to assist. Unfortunately when we got down there, to the amazement of both Brother Peck and Brother Benedict, half the rooms had been cancelled. We cannot lay the blame on Brother Benedict or Brother Peck. I do not think the resolution is fair.

PRESIDENT PRITCHETT:

I heard no words in this resolution of condemnation of any International Officer. I certainly heard words of criticism. It is my understanding that the agreement entered into by the International Officers and

The District Officers, ratified by the C.I.O. Committee and since ratified by the membership, does not deny criticism of International Officers or District Officers. The fact remains that the housing situation in Eugene was abominable. Two minutes after I arrived in Eugene, I had a delegation of District No. 1 who had been housed in the basement of a hotel with 19 others, with one door and one window nailed up, no space to move between cots. We are fighting against this kind of treatment in the logging camps and wherever we see it. Coupled with this, the Negro delegates were subjected to housing that is not fit for humans, and you talk about grace, that smacks of being subjective. The Negro people do not want to be subjective and required to have good grace. They are human beings with red blood in their veins and should be housed where the rest of the population is housed. In the next Convention we should select a city that has housing facilities and the Secretary should see to it that the housing is well organized so that there will not be these discrepancies in the future.

V. SEKORA, LOCAL 1-417:

I wish to oppose the resolution. I do not think we should single out the name of any individual. I do not believe that I was very well acquainted with the situation, but Brother Benedict had nothing to do with the housing situation nor the picking of the city where the Convention was held. If anyone is to be criticized it should be Brother Peck as he made a very poor job. If we are going to pick on somebody we should start at home, there were no arrangements made here. I say we should start and pick on the District Officers in B.C.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT J. FADLING:

I don't wish to debate the issue, I am here to advise and assist you in any action you may care to take. It is your responsibility. I merely want the record to show that the International Officers, Brother Benedict in particular, has no apologies to make in their efforts in attempting to solve the most serious question of race discrimination. We did our best. I further challenge that the resolution came from the Midwest District for one reason, during the election period to besmirch Brother Benedict's name. It went out all over the International.

We have an organizational program in Northern Washington, as many of you are probably aware, We have the racial problem there, many of the workers in the industry are coloured. A great many of the operations are unorganized. We see the resolution going into these places. There is no constructive criticism in it. Writing a resolution attempting to solve the racial discrimination would be worthwhile. It does not do this. We have no apologies to make in our efforts in attempting to help the coloured brothers. We have lived up to the International Constitution relative to race, creed and colour. If we have been delinquent in our duties then charges should be filed against the International Officers.

I say this is a serious charge. It is not only a smear on the International Officers but on the International C.I.O. itself. I

challenge you to take it into the C.I.O. and the South and see what results you get. I myself the night before the Convention, met with these brothers. One of the things I discussed with them was discrimination, and they left the Convention with an understanding of what the score was and what our efforts had been. We have no discrimination against any of our coloured brothers, we support them and we intend to continue to do so, even if you pass the resolution.

G. MITCHELL, LOCAL 1-357:

Brother Sekora and I are up for a little ridicule. I expected it much sooner. I gave up my room in the Osborne Hotel to go and bunk with Brother Sekora so that other delegates might be housed. I am not acting in the form of a martyr, but I don't like people to make statements when they do not know what they are talking about. When I said they had good grace I meant that in the manner that they felt it was just as much an injury to us. They felt that the people of Eugene should not know, it would have been bad publicity for the International Woodworkers. That is what I meant by good grace.

PRESIDENT PRITCHETT:

President Fadling wishes to have it recorded in the minutes that he meant Norther California not Northern Washington.

DARSHAN SINGH, LOCAL 1-118:

I rise to speak in support of the motion. I think, in a way, it is a shame that we have to discuss such a question on the floor of the Convention, when the whole traditions of our organization is such where in the past very few such incidents have taken place. When they have we have fought them resolutely. It is a serious problem. I am surprised to hear Brother Mitchell say that these brothers thought it was just as much an injury to the other brothers as to the coloured brothers. The question is what was done to combat this situation. There was no resolution passed on the Convention floor against this revolting condition. There was no protest raised and no measures taken to prevent the reoccurrence of such a situation. These brothers, the Negroes of course, take it with good grace. I have taken it with grace too many times. I think the International Officers would have stood vindicated if they had protested from the Convention floor. I know the International Officers are not guilty of deliberately practicing racial discrimination. The point is we must take steps to do something about it. I agree that in the future we should choose a city where there is no discrimination, where human dignity is respected, and a man called a man.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT CLAUDE BALLARD:

I am sorry that I did not hear the resolution. I have heard some of the discussion. The question has been raised as to the position of the

International Officers on racial discrimination. I wish that before discussion of that kind was entered into, that the record say also that where these brothers come from they really have racial discrimination. The record of our people in the South and the International Officers is clear in that respect, to work with all groups in eliminating racial discrimination in the South. Now as far as the position of the International Officers in Convention, there was no great issue raised by the Officers in Convention, but when the question was raised as to the seating and attendance at the banquet, there was a very steadfast position taken by the Officers that these coloured brothers would be able to attend that banquet and they did attend it.

I think before too much criticism is levelled, the record should be more closely scanned. We have helped them gain better wages, hours, and working conditions. I have not heard any criticism from any coloured delegates at the Convention. Certainly as far as our record is concerned we are not a bit ashamed of it. The advances we made in wages, hours and working conditions, and in some places, for the first time gained them the right to vote. It is not all we want, and we won't get what we want for 10 or 15 years of intense work in the South, nevertheless, it is being done. The Negroes for the first time are getting a decent living wage under better working conditions down there. We don't have to make excuses for it.

BERT WILSON, LOCAL 1-217:

The first day of the District Convention, hotel rooms were turned back because we did not have anyone to put in them. Arrangements were made for all the delegates to this Convention.

Question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

The following delegates wish to have their vote recorded as opposed to the resolution:

S. Mitchell, Local 1-357.

R. Eddie, Local 1-357.

J. Alabury, Local 1-357.

A. Smith, Local 1-357.

K. Boverman, Local 1-357.

G. McEntie, Local 1-363.

A. Boverman, Local 1-357.

M. Sekora, Local 1-417.

R. Blake, Local 1-357.

Resolution No. 18:

Subject: TRANSPORTATION FOR SERIOUSLY INJURED LOGGERS.

Committee recommends concurrence.

W/S that the recommendation of the committee be endorsed.

J. HIGGIN, LOCAL 1-363:

I feel that this resolution should not be passed and forgotten about as so many of them are. I feel that it is a definite necessity to urge the Compensation Board to at least have a seaplane in readiness at all