

PROCEEDINGS

Seventh Annual Convention

International Woodworkers of America

District Council No. 1

C.I.O.



January 2nd and 3rd, 1944

New Westminster, B. C.



Resolution No. 17. SUBJECT: NO STRIKE PLEDGE.

Committee Recommends Concurrence.

CARRIED.

Resolution No. 18. SUBJECT: INDIA.

Committee Recommends Concurrence.

DARSHAN SINGH (1-118): I don't think the importance of this resolution should be underestimated. At the last two annual conventions of the CIO resolutions to this effect were passed. I would like to say that Indian labor, despite their many difficulties, have played a very prominent role in mobilizing the Indian people to play their part in the war effort. I might say also that Indian labor certainly appreciates the great gesture of friendship that has been made by North American labor of the CIO by voting five hundred thousand dollars to Indian Famine Relief.

I would like to say there is one particular word I would like to change in the resolution. I wish to move an amendment to have the resolution changed so that instead of reading: "...TO GRANT FULL DOMINION STATUS TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA...."; to read "...TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDIA."

PRITCHETT: As much as I would like to accept the amendment it would be a violation of our Convention Rules. If there are no objections I would suggest that the Committee present the rest of the resolutions and then go back into session and reintroduce this resolution as part of their report.

Resolution No. 19. SUBJECT: WAGE CONTROL ORDER.

Committee Recommends Concurrence.

CARRIED.

Resolution No. 20. SUBJECT: POLITICAL ACTION.

Committee Recommends Concurrence.

PARKINSON (1-80): Would it be at all possible for the District Council Executive to interview M. J. Coldwell tomorrow to get information from him which would help us to establish amicable relations between our two organizations?

PRITCHETT: For your information, arrangements are being made for such a meeting.

ULINDER (1-80): I would just like to clear up a point or two on the CCF program for affiliation. It mentions in the resolution a statement of taxation without representation. On September 5th, at the time of the

ternational and parent body, the C.I.O., without any qualifications or conditions that for the duration of this war there must not be any strike or stoppage of work. Each member and leader of our Union must make it his responsibility to discharge with scrupulous care this sacred obligation. Any leader of organized labor who deliberately flouts this obligation and any employer who seeks to provoke or exploit labor are playing into the hands of fascism;

- (2) We must recognize that for the duration of this war, issues in dispute between labor and management must be adjusted through the peaceful means of collective bargaining, conciliation and arbitration;
- (3) Further, we must recognize that to assure the prosecution of a total war program that will prevent special groups from exploiting labor or benefitting from the sacrifices of others, organized labor has the special task of mobilizing the people on the legislative and political fronts behind a win-the-war program designed to meet the basic economic problems arising out of the war, and to protect the interests of the common people.

(adopted.)

Resolution No. 16.

SUBJECT: INDIA.

- WHEREAS: The people of India are our allies in this war and their active assistance and good will is essential for victory over fascism; and
- WHEREAS: The solving of the Indian problem is of paramount importance in the future course of the war in the far East and the defeat of the Japanese Fascist aggressors; and
- WHEREAS: The starving conditions of millions of Indian people is harmfully affecting the war effort and the prestige of the United Nations; therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this Convention go on record as urging our Federal Government to appeal to the British Government to establish a Provisional Anti-Fascist National Government for the people of India in accordance with the principles laid down in the Atlantic Charter; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That we urge upon our government the immediate necessity of sending food and supplies in sufficient quantity to India

thereby alleviating the needless hunger and suffering.

(adopted.)

Resolution No. 19.

SUBJECT: WAGE CONTROL ORDER.

- WHEREAS: The new set up of the National War Labor Board is so constituted that there is only one of six members representing the employees and that one is appointed by the government, giving no recognition to labor's demand for adequate representation on Government Boards; and
- WHEREAS: The power of the National War Labor Board has been increased to the point where all Regional Board decisions must be submitted to the National Boards for review and the National Board may vary or revoke any Regional Board's findings at its discretion; and
- WHEREAS: All appeals from findings of a Regional Board must be made within thirty days of the finding and then only with the consent of the Regional Board, or by the granting of an appeal by the National Board if a request is made within sixty days; and
- WHEREAS: The cost-of-living now payable will be incorporated in the basic wage rates after February 15th, thus the present inequalities in the cost-of-living bonuses will be frozen with no clear and adequate policy given to meet future rises in the cost of living as the order states there are only two conditions on which raises may be granted: (a) To rectify gross inequalities or gross injustices; (b) If it is considered within the employer's ability to pay higher wages without raising prices and Section 20 of the Act leaves a loophole for companies that can prove that a wage increase will result in an increase in the prices of their product; and
- WHEREAS: The Government's answer to labor's demand for a 50¢ per hour minimum wage has been to establish the minimum at 35¢, thus perpetuating a low wage policy and thereby failing to provide for even the minimum wage level necessary for the lowest possible level compatible with maintenance of health and efficiency; and
- WHEREAS: The only thing the order is very specific and sharp in is the penalties imposed for violation of the order, particularly insofar as employees are concerned; and
- WHEREAS: The former Order P.C. 5963 signally failed to meet the needs of the Canadian worker; and
- WHEREAS: The new Order P.C. 9384 is still further from answering these needs; therefore be it