Support Democracy, Score Discrimination In Labor Movement

Union Democracy in Action is devoted to the support of union reformers, civil libertarians and liberal groups are seeking to promote a new understanding of America's labor unions.

The labor press magazine has submitted a report by NAACP Labor Secretary Herb Hill charging discrimination against Negro and Puerto Rican workers in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). In a feature called "Liberalism, Unionism and Democracy," editor Herman Benson analyzed the cause of union bureaucracy and tried to make union members stand up for their rights.

Political Activity Barred

Mr. Hill charged: "It must be noted that members of the union are not permitted to engage in any internal political activity, they are not permitted to have clubs, groups, or classes within their union except for a six-month period of three months before (elections). How can workers gain support for choices contrary to those of the administration unless they are permitted to organize to discuss their own interests and to press the election of candidates to union office responsive to their needs? . . .

"In order to be eligible to run for President or General Secretary-Treasurer, a member must be a delegate to the convention, which immediately reduces the number eligible to approximately 1,000 out of 400,000 members. The member must be a (Continued on Page 1).

Group Organizes In Pascagoula To Pressure Local Advertisers

A writer for the Pascagoula Chronicle reported that a group of some 200 terrorists have formed in that Mississippi coast town to put pressure on the Chronicle. The group, which met in a municipal building and heard supporting comments from the city sheriff, claims that its purpose is to cope with hurricanes, fires, and other disasters. It seems, however, that the group's first interest is the existence of the Chronicle and its "liberal" tendencies.

SupportsUnions

The group has given some support to the local unions in their differences with the shipbuilders. Industry. The man who is the group's president is reported to be an employee of the Englsch Ship Building Corporation. It is expected that the group will come to prominence again in the papers by pressing and terrorizing the newspapers' advertisers. It seems that the papers are not willing to give a single advertiser space.

The Pascagoula paper is backed by some of the same interests that were behind the State Times, a Jackson daily, that was recently forced out of business because of its "stouter, state political stands.

Change Favors Rural Counties Says Hinds County Rep. Davis

On November 6, all those citizens of Mississippi who have been allowed to register will be able to vote. The big issue on the ballot will be the amendment to the Mississippi Constitution to reorganize the state's legislature. The plan, known as SCR-101, is being presented to the voters for approval.

Reapportionment Plan

Because of the Legislature's great power with establishment of James Meredith, to the University of Mississippi, special reapportionment session barely threw together a reapportionment bill in time. A constituent call for the Senate to consist of one representative from each county, with each county receiving an additional vote for every 21,000 residents.

The representative from Hinds, Russell Davis, in a speech last Monday, pointed out that SCR-101 would permit Hinds County, with a population of 3,000, to have the same voice as Hinds County, which has a population of 187,000. Davis asked the audience, "Isn't that discrimination the value of voter?"

Rural Power

Davis went on to show that under the proposed plan, the balance of power would rest predominantly in Hinds County; Senator Ross Barnett, who gained most of his support from the conservative rural areas of the state, had earlier endorsed the plan. Chancey Judge W. T. Horton refused to prevent the plan from going to the public, but broadly hinted that if it passed, he would replace it with his own plan which gives the more heavily populated areas more voting strength.

COMMENTS

By Charles Butts

The publication of the American Union, ended one of the most important episodes of U.S. foreign relations.

The trouble had been that during the long years of the Civil War, the Union had been a terror in the United States.

The problem rose when the Mississippi Legislature, after a series of arguments, intervened in the Federal Government, and forced the Federal Government to recognize the State of Mississippi. The Southern States, therefore, received a sensation in Washington. Many (Continued On Page 2)
**Editorial Page**

**This May Be The Answer**

Last week we editorially pointed out the impoverished condition in which this state exists. We showed the need for new industry to induce more money into Mississippi so that living standards can be raised. We noted, however, that because of the political maneuverings surrounding James Meredith's admission to the University of Mississippi elbowed by the now world famous "Oxford riots," it may be some time before responsible industry will come into the state.

This belief seems to be confirmed. The atmosphere of so many of us who are here is one very important job to do. If there is not going to be any good industry coming into the state, we must put all our effort into improving those industries that we have.

**Must Organize**

To do this, we must make each business earning profits here in Mississippi do its share toward raising the living standards here in the state. The most effective, and, in fact, the only way to accomplish this is to organize responsible, democratic trade unions within each business. In order to prevent benefits from continuing to be enjoyed by just a portion of the population, the unions must be integrated; otherwise we can never establish true democracy.

But in order to bring about effective change in our existing industries, we, the people, the workers of Mississippi, are going to have to put some real time, effort, and energy into the struggle—rather than just waiting for big daddy Federal government to do everything.

People interested in raising living standards by improving conditions can learn a good lesson from the Meredith case. Right now, when we think of Oxford, we think of the Federal marshals segregating the English. We think of big McShane of the Justice Department who escorted Meredith on each of his attempts to attend classes.

But let us remember well, that the federal government did not come onto the scene until after Meredith and his attorneys had been through grueling months of legal battles. It was only when Meredith had gone as far as he could go that the federal government entered the case. If he and his attorneys had not done their long hard tasks, the government would never have had an opportunity to enter, and never would have entered the case.

**Improve Living Conditions**

The same is true when people wish to improve their living conditions. One may want a better house, a car, a lot of books, or any other material item; they must organize themselves into unions in order to be able to speak together in one voice for their rights, and then the company continues to treat them unfairly, the federal government can be called upon to help.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is an arm of the federal government with the responsibility of insuring fair treatment of labor unions. But, just as in the Meredith case, the government cannot and will not assist those who do not first get organized and can’t organize.

New industry will not come into Mississippi to raise living standards in the near future. We are going to have to organize ourselves, so that we can become an effective voting bloc in asking for rights and wages to allow decent living. We cannot look to the government until we have first looked to ourselves to see what we can do.

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(Continued on Page 4)
Support Democracy... (Continued from page 1)

109 Nations Meet At U.N. Assembly

This is the second of two articles written in honor of United Nations week, October 21-27.

"To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war... to reaffirm faith in the dignity of the worth and the dignity and worth of the human person in the equal rights of men and women of all national and racial groups;... to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom..."

This is the purpose of the United Nations as set down in its charter and ratified by 51 original members 36 years ago. Now there are 106 countries in the world organization—half the members from Africa and Asia.

Preserve Peace

The charter directs the U. N. to seek to preserve peace through discussion, conciliation and, when necessary, political action against aggression. The chief policy making bodies of the U. N. are the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The General Assembly is directed to vote for every member of the nation. Its main function is discussion, investigation and advice; although, it has become a body which not only recommends, but acts. The "Uniting for Peace" Resolution is one such example.

Meredith Case...

(Continued from Page 9)

Missippi and the college from which Meredith sought a transfer was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The University of Mississippi was.

The State of Mississippi went into court claiming that the process of admission that these educational institutions use were separate but not equal.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, made up of nine Southern judges, decided against Mississippi. Thus the state lost its case within the framework of its own doctrine and before a court of her own citizens.

It is not unusual for people to criticize a court for a court's decisions contrary to their opinions and desires. In this case we must agree for the court's decision was made in accordance with Mississippi doctrine and partly upon the evidence from the registrar's office.

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"They are joined together to win a measure of control over a vital part of their lives... their working hours... The labor movement is one of the great movements for human freedom and holds out the promise of a new surge of democracy from politics in industry. However, all the forces in society that lead to bureaucratic, to a minority rising over a majority, to movement in an especially virulent fashion and take their toll by undermining the unions' internal democracy."

The FREE PRESS is concerned with the advancement of democracy in the trade union movement and stands opposed to all forms of discrimination and segregation against union members. We are interested in eradicate of discrimination and/or discrimination against non-members in Mississippi which our readers may know of.

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