

Ad Hoc Committee gets unanimous endorsement

Unanimous endorsement of the Ad Hoc Committee to End Racial Discrimination in its picketing and efforts to win a civil rights agreement at the Oakland Tribune was voted by Central Labor Council delegates Monday night.

The motion, by George Stokes of Teachers 771, left the kind of support to be furnished up to the CLC Executive Committee and staff. Several delegates seconded the motion.

Stokes' motion followed a report by Assistant Secretary Richard K. Groulx and brief talks by Tracy Sims and Mike Myerson of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Stokes commented that as a teacher he was trying to get young people to recognize and do something about social problems. He said the "notoriety" Miss Sims has been given in the press indicated the she "must be doing a fine job."

NO UNION CONFLICTS

Stokes added that any union fears of job conflicts with locals at the Tribune had been dispelled by Myerson, who told delegates the proposed civil rights agreement specifically gave precedence to existing collective bargaining agreements.

Myerson said copies of the agreement the Ad Hoc Committee wants William F. Knowland, Tribune general manager, to sign had been given to all unions at the paper.

He stressed that the Ad Hoc Committee had told Knowland it was willing to discuss changes in the proposed agreement.

However, Myerson said, Knowland said he would sign no agreement at all and refused to submit one to the State Attorney General or State Fair Employment Practices Commission to determine whether it was legal.

Myerson stressed that the Ad Hoc Committee is not asking that any present employees be displaced, but that the percentage of Negroes on the Tribune's payroll be gradually increased with normal turnover.

The Ad Hoc Committee, Myerson stated, is generally in sympathy with labor's goals, has worked with Alameda County unions in the past and will continue to do so.

The committee considers itself an ally of labor since a large proportion of working people are members of minority groups, Myerson told the council.

12 GROUPS INCLUDED

In answer to a question, Miss Sims said the Ad Hoc Committee is a coordinating body for 12 youth and student civil rights groups in the Bay Area. It was formed in November at Mel's drive-ins in San Francisco, she said.

Miss Sims is the chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and Myerson heads the committee's Tribune Project, she said. She added that the Ad Hoc Committee is part of the San Francisco United Freedom Movement, and its East Bay activities have the support of the Oakland Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

CLC OKs Ad Hoc Committee picketing at Oakland Tribune

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Assistant Secretary Groulx, who introduced Myerson, Miss Sims and Norman Chastain, also of the Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the CLC Executive Committee had voted to recommend inviting the group to appear before the whole council.

Groulx pointed out that previously the Labor Council had taken no position on the Ad Hoc Committee's demonstrations in front of the Tribune building the last two Friday nights, although CLC representatives had acted as observers.

The Ad Hoc Committee, Groulx added, had also met with the CLC Executive Board to explain its activities, as well as with unions involved. Groulx said about 200 pickets marched Sept. 4. He described the line as "orderly."

Groulx said the Ad Hoc Committee feels there is a clear indication of discrimination at the Tribune because only 13 to 18 out of some 2,000 employees are Negroes, according to information. Groulx said the committee seeks a Negro percentage at the Tribune closer to that in the community as a whole, which is 25-30 per cent.

He, too, stressed that the Ad Hoc Committee is not trying to disrupt any collective bargaining, closed shop, hiring or apprenticeship agreement.

However, Groulx added, some of the unions have indicated that even though their apprenticeship programs are open to all it may be possible for them to encourage more members of minority groups to apply in the future.

He emphasized that "no differences between unions and the Ad Hoc Committee over minority employment exists."

The differences, Groulx said, are between the Ad Hoc Committee and the Oakland Tribune.

BULLETIN BOARD NOTICES

Groulx charged that the bulletin board notices which Tribune General Manager Knowland boasted of placing several months ago, as evidence of an "Equal Opportunity Policy," were really posted to keep from signing a non-discrimination clause with the Newspaper Guild.

The Guild, Groulx reminded CLC delegates, nearly had to strike to get the non-discrimination clause.

CLC President Russell Crowell commented that "the Ad Hoc Committee has acted in a completely responsible manner all the way through." He added he was "disturbed" at the way the Tribune had covered the story.

"Discrimination is wrong and it is practiced by some of our major concerns and by some of our local unions," Crowell said, adding that the unions were not always able to control the situation.

Crowell said that discrimination "must be corrected, and it is the responsibility of the organized labor movement to correct it."