

Resolutions Adopted At Convention

APPRECIATION OF DON ENRIQUE A. JIMENEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

WHEREAS:—Don Enrique A. Jimenez, President of the Republic of Panama, has proven himself to be a good friend of our Local Union, and

WHEREAS:—He lent his efforts throughout the history of Local 713 United Public Workers CIO, to the idea of unity among all workers of the Canal Zone;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the International Representatives, Local Officers, and Delegates in Convention here assembled do express through this medium a full measure of appreciation of the said Don Enrique A. Jimenez, President of the Republic of Panama.

APPRECIATION OF GOVERNOR MEHAFFEY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

WHEREAS:—General Joseph C. Mehaffey, Governor of the Panama Canal Zone has granted recognition to Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, and has given his support to our program; and

WHEREAS:—Colonel Frank H. Wang, Executive Secretary of the Panama Canal Zone has by his humanitarian principles exemplified the true Democracy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the members of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, through their delegates in this Second Annual Convention, extend a vote of thanks to Governor Joseph C. Mehaffey; to Colonel Frank H. Wang, Executive Secretary, and other officials of the Canal Zone, in appreciation of past cooperation and in anticipation of their continued support.

DECENT HOUSING

WHEREAS:—Housing provided on the Canal Zone for "Silver" employees is inadequate for decent family life, and

WHEREAS:—This inadequacy is injurious to health, as so many persons are compelled to live in unsanitary congestion; with relatively insufficient sanitary fixtures, without hot water service, and

WHEREAS:—These conditions are contrary to the concepts of morality and the true standards of decency, insofar as the conditions themselves are disruptive of family life with a tendency to retard the educational progress of children and promote juvenile delinquency, and

WHEREAS:—A large number of the "silver" employees are forced through lack of adequate housing to seek residence outside the Canal Zone, at comparatively higher rentals, which they cannot afford

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That a decent Housing campaign be included in the program of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the International Union undertake to have this matter of Decent Housing brought to the attention of the Congress of the United States.

DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL WORK OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS:—Non-U. S. citizen employees here-in-after designated as "Silver" employees have established an unblemished record of service with the Government of the United States on the Canal Zone; have displayed in their tasks, assignments, and work, efficiency and loyalty, and have won a high mark in workmanship on the Canal Zone, and

WHEREAS:—"Silver" employees have been deprived of equal job opportunities by denial of promotions to positions for which they are qualified, and

WHEREAS:—The denial of earned promotions and lack of recognition of the services of "Silver" employees are discriminatory practices which are not only injurious to employee-employer relationship, but are in sharp conflict with the basic principles of Democracy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That United Public Workers-CIO endeavour to curb through legislation the discriminatory system extant, and demand equal work opportunities in the various Government Agencies for the "Silver" employees on the Canal Zone.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS:—The educational facilities and opportunities made available to the children of non-U.S. Citizen employees of the Canal Zone are inadequate,

WHEREAS:—Classrooms are greatly overcrowded, and equipment is inadequate and poor;

WHEREAS:—Teachers in said schools are not provided the opportunities for advanced education to qualify them to teach secondary courses; and

WHEREAS:—The curricula offered to our children are narrow, limited and not conducive to the full development of their talent and skills,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, in convention assemble, call for a major expansion and improvement in the educational facilities in our communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Local 713 call for advanced educational opportunities to be offered for our present and future teachers to qualify them to teach secondary and higher education.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

WHEREAS:—Local 713 and United Public Workers of America are composed of people who are unswerving in their loyalty to the support of democratic principles and institutions; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That we, the members of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, in Convention assembled, do affirm our faith in democratic institutions and guarantee our determined opposition to anything that threatens security.

MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS:—Non-U.S. citizens employees of the Panama Canal Zone are underpaid, with a considerable number receiving less than 20c per hour; and

WHEREAS:—The cost of living according to recent surveys has increased far above the earning power of the average "silver" worker, and

WHEREAS:—There is no established minimum wage for "silver" employees which will assure them of a decent standard of living;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, UPW-CIO, exert its full power on the Government of the Panama Canal Zone to establish a minimum wage of forty cents per hour, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Local give its full support to the United Public Workers International Union in bringing about legislation providing for a forty cents per hour minimum wage in the Panama Canal Zone, a bill to the effect now being in the Congress of the United States.

A DECENT RETIREMENT

WHEREAS:—The non-U.S. citizen employee who serves the Panama Canal the greater part of his life, works for low wages, and under poor, living conditions, and

WHEREAS:—When the time comes that the Panama Canal authorities decide that his services are no longer needed, and through some medium declare him physically unfit to work, he is then terminated and placed on what is called "Cash Relief", and

WHEREAS:—After termination of service, such employee is required to leave his Canal Zone quarters and move into the Republic of Panama where the cost of living is very high, and

WHEREAS:—It is impossible to cope with the high cost of living in the Republic of Panama on the meager "Cash Relief" paid to the faithful unfortunates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO, institute a series of negotiations in an effort to secure a decent retirement plan for the Non-U.S. citizen workers of the Panama Canal, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call upon the International Union to vigorously redouble its efforts to achieve legislation which will provide a decent retirement program for our retired employees.

MACSHERRY REPORT

WHEREAS:—General MacSherry, Labor Advisor to Governor Joseph C. Mehaffey, has made a survey of labor conditions on the Panama Canal Zone, and

WHEREAS:—He has submitted a report of his findings of said Survey to the Governor of the Canal Zone,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO make a formal request to General Joseph C. Mehaffey, Governor of the Canal Zone for a copy of the MacSherry Report.

TODAY'S TRENDS

By FOSTER BOURNES

"The tumult dies", was never spoken of our Local Union. The harsh baying of the hounds has become a common occurrence, and at long last we are learning to live with it. We must realize that Local 713, unlike other Unions, is a test tube baby, and that the significance of every word and deed is comparatively disproportionate. The guardians of the destiny of this Union cannot afford the dubious pleasure of fence-straddling. They must have the strength of their convictions. In short they must toe the mark—or else. In this connection, a decided attack on self is indicated all up and down the line. Let's think in terms of service first, then expect rewards afterwards. If our house is built on a solid foundation we need not fear the howling gales which circle round about us; we will be safe inside.

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The election of Pascual Ampudia to the presidency of Local 713 is an exemplification of the spirit of true democracy, which is the keynote, the life-blood of any labor organization, anywhere. "The laboree is worthy of his hire." That is the Christian concept, and we believe it. Pascual, no scholar he, has demonstrated by his unmitigated zeal, his unrelenting determination and his almost sacred devotion to Local 713, that his heart is in just the right place. Let us then, man our battle stations on the good ship, Local 713. Let us calculate trajectory, then throw all that we have "On Target." This much we owe to Pascual Ampudia and to ourselves.

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Confront any racist with the achievements of Dr. Charles R. Drew, world famous serologist and genius of blood plasma. The answer you will get runs something like this: "Oh! He's an exception," which is no answer. Sure, he's an exception. So were Leonardo da Vinci, and Toussaint Le Overture; Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Contemporary exceptions are many and varied. Einstein, physicist; Meitner, mathematician; Barrow, pugilist; Richardson, labor; Churchill, statesman, ad infinitum. A combination of the life work of hundreds of "exceptions" makes civilization possible. The common garden variety of the human herd owes its very existence and well-being to the ingenuity and the dauntless courage, and the sacrifices of the exceptions; and humanity accepts the gifts they bring without question as to the race of the giver.

BETTER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS:—Recreation is of vital importance to the well-being of every worker and his family, and

WHEREAS:—This lack of adequate educational and recreational facilities is injurious to our youth, in that Juvenile Delinquency breeds on such conditions, and

WHEREAS:—The lack of adequate recreational facilities is a deterrent to physical development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 713 urge the Canal Zone Government to provide adequate recreational facilities in these communities in the form of more and improved club-houses, athletic facilities, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and other recreational necessities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:—That every delegate to this convention institute in his Chapter an active program which will demonstrate to the Canal Zone Government that the members of Local 713, UPW-CIO are strongly behind this resolution for better recreational facilities in our communities.

PAUL ROBESON

WHEREAS:—Paul Robeson has agreed with the International Union, UPW-CIO, to sing at a series of six concerts beginning January 1948 and

WHEREAS:—Paul Robeson is turning over to United Public Workers of America a substantial portion of the proceeds of these concerts for the welfare of Local 713, UPW-CIO; and

WHEREAS:—These proceeds will provide a scholarship fund to enable deserving teachers of Local 713 to take college instruction in the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That we, in convention assembled, do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Paul Robeson for his selfless and devoted efforts on our behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:—That a letter be sent to Mr. Robeson carrying out the sentiment of this resolution.

APPRECIATION OF EDWARD AND ESTHER CHERESH

WHEREAS: The workers termed "Silver" employees of the Panama Canal Zone have been exploited for many years, and

WHEREAS: These workers had failed in their previous attempts to form a Union capable of representing them to the fullest extent, and

WHEREAS: These oppressed workers are now united under the Charter of Local 713 which is affiliated with the United Public Workers-CIO, and

WHEREAS: This organization has fully demonstrated its ability to give us full representation, and

WHEREAS: We are enjoying this privilege and help through the labors of Brother Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

That a vote of thanks on behalf of Local 713 be given Bro. Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch in appreciation of the vital part they played in the organization of Local 713, United Public Workers-CIO.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a copy of this resolution be sent to Brother Edward Cheresch and Sister Esther Cheresch in the United States.

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