

HISTORIC TRIP MADE TO U. S.

Successful UPW Convention Answers Union's Enemies

Ampudia Provides Convention Keynote

The second biennial convention of UPW-CIO from May 17 to 20 in Atlantic City was in effect a four-day rousing, enthusiastic rededication of government workers to their objectives of building a strong union and a better way to life.

Standing in the lobby of luxurious Hotel Chelsea, the site of the convention, on Sunday May 16th, one could see delegates pouring in from all parts of the United States as well as outlying areas and territories. The 520 delegates to the convention represented virtually every state in the union as well as the Canal Zone and Hawaii. They comprised, city, county, state, and federal workers and represented every conceivable group of public servants from teachers to garbage collectors.

Westminster Hall in Hotel Chelsea, which has been the scene of many dramatic occasions in trade union history including the historic first convention of CIO in 1938, was gaily decked with banners proclaiming the slogans of the na-

tion's public employees. One banner militantly demanded, "End the Silver-Gold Discrimination in the Canal Zone!"

One sour note intruded upon the enthusiasm and resolve of the delegates. A small group of delegates, numbering not over 6 or 7, and styling themselves as the "Build The Union Committee," began handing out expensively printed brochures attacking UPW and its leadership. Their headquarters was a luxurious suite in one of the most exclusive hotels in Atlantic City. Their technique in winning others to their cause was to snag an unwary delegate, transport him to the suite and then ply him with choice Scotch or Bourbon. There was much wonderment at the lavishness with which they oper-

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Shocked Congressmen Promise Help On Union's Program

POWELL PLANS CANAL ZONE VISIT SOON

For the first time in the history of the so-called "silver" employees their own representatives were able to meet with a group of Congressmen in Washington D. C. to acquaint the lawmakers with the conditions prevalent on the Canal Zone and discuss with them frankly the urgent need for improvements.

This historic meeting was held in the offices of Congressman Adam Clayton Powell of New York, on May 25th and was attended by the following Congressmen: Mr. Eller (N. Y.), Mr. Havenner (Calif.), Mr. Sadowski (Mich.), Mr. Klein (N. Y.), Mr. Blatnik (Minn.), Mr. Isaacson (N. Y.), Mr. Buchanan (Penn.), and Mr. Huber (Ohio). Also present besides the Local 713 delegation were Brother Tommy Richardson and Bill Hayes, UPW legislative consultant.

At this meeting there was full discussion on the need for passage of the present bills

calling for a 40c minimum, a decent retirement system and equal job opportunities. All the delegates had an opportunity to explain in detail the situation regarding the low wages, poor housing and the lack of consideration for the oldtimers and the discriminatory practices carried on. It was obvious that the Congressmen were shocked about some of the conditions and expressed a willingness to correct them and expose them.

In a press release issued by Congressman Powell after this meeting he stated that "The

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Thomas Richardson announced at the International Convention of UPW-CIO that a \$1,000 scholarship would be granted each year to some deserving student or teacher who is a member or dependent of a member of Local 713, for advanced educational training in a leading university in the United States.

Details on the method of selection and the date of the first scholarship will be given later.

Local 713 Resolutions Unanimously Adopted

Unanimous support to all the resolutions submitted by Local 713 to the Second Biennial Convention of the UPW-CIO held in Atlantic City, was given by the hundreds of delegates present after they heard the speeches of delegates from the Local.

All the resolutions submitted by the Local were reported out by the Resolutions committee. Prior to the presentation of the resolutions for adoption one of the Local 713 delegates was given the opportunity to address the convention on the general issue contained in the resolutions and all the other members of the delegation spoke on certain specific subjects.

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Delegates Confer on Credit Union

The establishment of Federal Credit Unions on the Canal Zone to give the so-called "silver" employees and their families an opportunity to accumulate savings on a small scale and borrow funds in emergencies, is closer to achievement following a conference between officials of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Local 713 delegation held in Washington D. C. on May 26th. Present at the conference were Mr. Orchard of the FDIC, his

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"SILVER" WORKERS GAIN EAR OF AMERICAN PUBLIC

Many important receptions and meetings featured the trip of the delegates to United States.

Barely three hours after they had landed at Washington airport, the delegates were the guests of honor at a banquet given by the Executive Board of Local 471, which had just won its strike against Government Services, Incorporated. There the officers of the Local expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the members of Local 713 for the contribution they had made.

They told of the sacrifices they had endured and the brutality of the police who had sent several members to the hospital with cracked skulls. "Nevertheless," they said, "the strike was worth it, and we would go through the whole thing again in order to keep our union."

On May 21st in New York City, a reception was given the delegates by some of the outstanding leaders of the community. Paul Robeson, Abel Plenn, noted author; James Dichter, CIO official; Mrs. Osborn and Austin of the West Indian Society and others listened in shocked silence as the delegates told of their long struggle on the Canal Zone

against the odds.

Austin, whom many "silver" employees will remember, told of his experience on the Zone as added testimony. Osborn and Paul Robeson linked the "silver" discrimination on the Canal Zone with the plight of colonial people throughout the world.

Abel Plenn, who has just completed a book on Latin America, expressed his desire to write several articles for magazines on the "silver" workers.

Out of this reception, came a committee composed of these leaders to throw the spotlight of public opinion on the Canal Zone and to mobilize sentiment for basic improvements in the living conditions of the workers.

From New York the delegation swung down to Washington. Here they met with the veteran progressive Harold L. Ickes, former Secretary of Interior, and presently a writer whose columns appear in hundreds of newspaper throughout the United States. The delegates expressed their apprecia-

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Representatives of the United Public Workers of America, CIO call upon Congressmen to explain the plight of the Panama Canal workers. Seated, reading from left to right, Cong. Arthur G. Klein, N. Y.; Max Brodsky, Pascual Ampudia. Foster G. Bournes, and Cleveland Green. Standing, Cong. Leo M. Isaacson, N. Y.; Cong. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., N. Y.; Thomas Richardson, Cong. Walter B. Huber, Ohio; Cong. Emanuel Celler, N. Y.; Joseph Sachs, Cong. Franck R. Havenner, Calif; David Alexis, Cong. John A. Blatnik, Minn., and Graham Lewis.