



So The A. F. of L. Wants To Organize Us



Above Jose Stamp, Scholarship Winner, is meeting with Mordecai Johnson, President of Howard University.

Reading from left to right on photograph are: Albert J. Carter, President - Howard University Branch - UPW - CIO; Jose Stamp, Winner of Scholarship; Roy Eldean, International Vice-President. UPW - CIO; Thomas Richardson, Chairman, Anti-Discrimination Commission, UPW CIO; Dr. Mordecai Johnson, President - Howard University; Lewis K. Downing, Dean-School of Engineering and Architecture - Howard University.

Jose Stamp Enrolled At Howard University

"LOCAL RATES" BELONG TO THE PAST

It is high time that the "local rate" theory of wage scales be exposed to fact and logic. This theory did not begin when the "local rate" and "states rates" labels were handed out last November. Its beginnings are rooted in the dim and reactionary past.

Under this theory, wages for the so-called "silver" employees are supposed to bear a close relationship with wage scales in the locality. The local wage rates most frequently cited are those prevailing in Panama, and specifically, those in the terminal cities of Colon and Panama. The reasoning behind this theory runs something like this. When the United States employs labor in or close to a foreign country, it should try to approximate the wage scales in that country so as to create the least possible disturbances in the economic life of that nation. The argument continues that, if the United States were to pay substantially higher wage rates than the prevailing ones in Panama, the disparity would cause great unrest in the Republic and would subject the employers there to unfair wage demands.

The convenience of this argument is that the whole question of what is a living wage is neatly sidestepped. The important consideration under the "local rate" theory is "what are the wages in Panama" not "what wages will provide a decent living for the workers" or "how much has the cost-of-living risen during the past year".

Any wage principle which disregards these vital questions is fallacious, unethical, and iniquitous. If the principal determinant of wages in the Panama Canal is to be the Panamanian scales, then the best thing for Local 713 to do would be to go into Panama, organize

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UPW Scholarship Winner to Study Engineering

Jose Stamp, winner of the UPW Scholarship, arrived in the United States on December 21, 1948, for enrollment at Howard University. He was met, upon his arrival, by Thomas Richardson, Chairman, UPW-CIO Anti-Discrimination Commission, Profesor Hurley, and Lewis K. Downing, Dean-School of Engineering and Architecture, at Howard University.

According to previous agreements the winner of the scholarship was to study at Hampton Institute, but inasmuch as Howard University offers a much broader educational program in subjects leading to an engineering degree, UPW officials were successful in having Stamp enrolled at Howard.

Stamp, upon reaching the United States, stated "I have a feeling of deep gratitude to Local 713, my father's union, the United Public Workers, CIO, and Paul Robeson, for giving me this opportunity to study at Howard University. I wish to go to college because it is the best means, in my opinion, of achieving my professional goal. Civil engineers, along with other skilled pro-

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ATTITUDE TOWARD 'SILVER' WORKERS REVEALED

So the A. F. of L. has revealed their true motive in sending a committee to "investigate discrimination on the Canal Zone"... Yes, the cat is out of the bag, the A. F. of L. wants to set up a "silver" union. Our first reaction to this proposal is to laugh loud, long, and contemptuously up our collective sleeve. But on second thought, this is such a brazen proposal and comes with such colossal effrontery that we thought we would devote a little attention in our column to it.

First I would like to dig up from our files a letter sent by William Green, President of the A. F. of L., to Sam Whyte, President of the PCWIEA. This letter is a reply to the request of the PCWIEA to affiliate with the A. F. of L.:

February 20, 1930.

Mr. H. S. Whyte, Representing
Colored West Indian Employees of the Canal Zone
Box 295, Balboa, C. Z.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 31st is before me. You refer to the West Indian Employees of the Canal Zone, locally known as "silver" employees to become organized and be part of the American Federation of Labor. You refer to previous correspondence with this office with regard to this matter.

Our records show that on several different occasions applications for charters were made to the American Federation of Labor by the Colored West Indian Silver Employees. The records also show that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor declined to issue these charters, but to international unions whose trades are represented, and further that the American Federation of Labor does not issue charters to workers in foreign countries. That action stands as the position of the American Federation of Labor with regard to this subject.

Very truly yours,
William Green, President
American Federation of Labor

Notice the bland hypocrisy! Green says, "The American Federation of Labor does not issue charters to workers in foreign countries". If the A. F. of L. were really sincere, how could they justify the issuance of charters to "gold" employees who worked for the same government in the same divisions and in the same Canal Zone. Surely, if the "silver" employees were working in a foreign country, then so were the "gold" employees. And was Mr. Green blind to the fact that, at the very time he wrote his letter, the A. F. of L. had chartered locals in Canada, which isn't exactly leased territory by the United States.

If they now want "silver" employees in the A. F. of L. it should be correct to assume that the A. F. of L. leaders have

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In the above photograph Local President Pascual Ampudia and Cecil Hall, Financial Secretary - Treasurer of the Union are about to conclude an interesting conference with Panama President Domingo Diaz Arosemena. Important discussions on labor conditions in the Canal Zone were held.