

A.F. OF L. HONEYMOON SHIELDS VICIOUS PAST

RECORD SHOWS A.F. OF L. SWEET TALK IS ONLY WINDOW DRESSING

In what would appear to be an historic and unprecedented change of policy, the A.F. of L. on the Canal Zone announced last month that they were going to support legislation in the 81st Congress for the welfare of the "silver" employees.

If this is really going to happen, then we all will have to alter the age-old proverb and admit that the "leopard can change his spots."

But let us see if the spots are really changed or if the crafty animal hasn't donned another coat for temporary use.

Last month ACCION showed that at the very moment the A. F. of L. was trying to woo the "silver" employees with honeyed phrases of newfound friendship, their officials were telling the Governor of the Panama Canal to move the "silver" employees out of their homes into the Republic of Panama, stop their commissary privileges and divest them of what few rights they now possess.

On February 21st local news papers reported that the Metal Trades Council had instructed its legislative representative, Walter Jones, to support a bill providing for a 50¢ hourly minimum wage for "silver" workers.

Let's look into the record and see what this same legislative representative, Walter Jones, told the last Congress about the "silver" employees—the people he's now supposed to represent.

When the McCarran Amendment came up for consideration, Walter Jones said to the Senate Appropriation Committee:

"A mistake was made in 1915—that's when the American Government did not repatriate the alien workers back to the West Indies from whence they came. The Panamanian landlords wanted them to stay so their tenement houses would be filled."

Jones continued: "The American employees on the Panama Canal have nothing against the Panamanians, the truly rightful Panamanians; it is the alien Panamanians, or, in other words, the synthetic one (artificial), who was born on the Canal and whose parents came from the islands of Jamaica, Barbados, Martinique, Trinidad and so forth."

"The aliens themselves will be taken care of. They now have the retirement and there is a repatriation fund to take care of them when they are repatriated back to the islands from whence they came, and the money they will be receiving will be more than the present island rates of pay or living conditions so there will be no hardship on them."

Is this the man who is going to represent and fight for the good of the "silver" employees before Congress?

Let's see what another of "our friends" told the U. S. Congress about the "silver" employees.

When the "Civil Service rider" came up for consideration before the Senate Appropriations Committee, "our old friend" Rufus Lovelady, legislative representative for the A. F. G. E. said:

"The only positions available to them (children of the 'gold'

employees) are the positions in the Government Service, because the Canal Zone is occupied, controlled and operated by the United States Government.

"So we are looking at it from a long-range viewpoint to protect the jobs for our children."

At this point Lovelady took three pictures from his desk and said: "I would like to submit to the committee members three official photographs taken of the examination held on June 7. There in the background, and scattered in there you will see the 'darkies.' Those are the people we object to."

Referring to what he calls 'Synthetic' Panamanians (West Indian descent), Lovelady had this to say: "They are the ones we want to exclude. But since we cannot draw a line of demarcation between those people and the Panamanian to whom we offer no objection, it follows that we must exclude all of them if we are to exclude one."

All this newspaper can say is "God help us, if men like Rufus Lovelady are to protect our interests before the United States Congress."

Is it possible that less than a year ago, an A. F. of L. official could have made the following statement:

"About a year and a half ago... the CIO began to organize the aliens on the Canal Zone. It is not a question of organizing between the A. F. of L. and the CIO in regard to the Canal Zone. We have never desired the aliens as members of our organization."

We did not want them. We felt that it was an American job anyhow and ought to be manned by American citizens, with the exception of common labor."

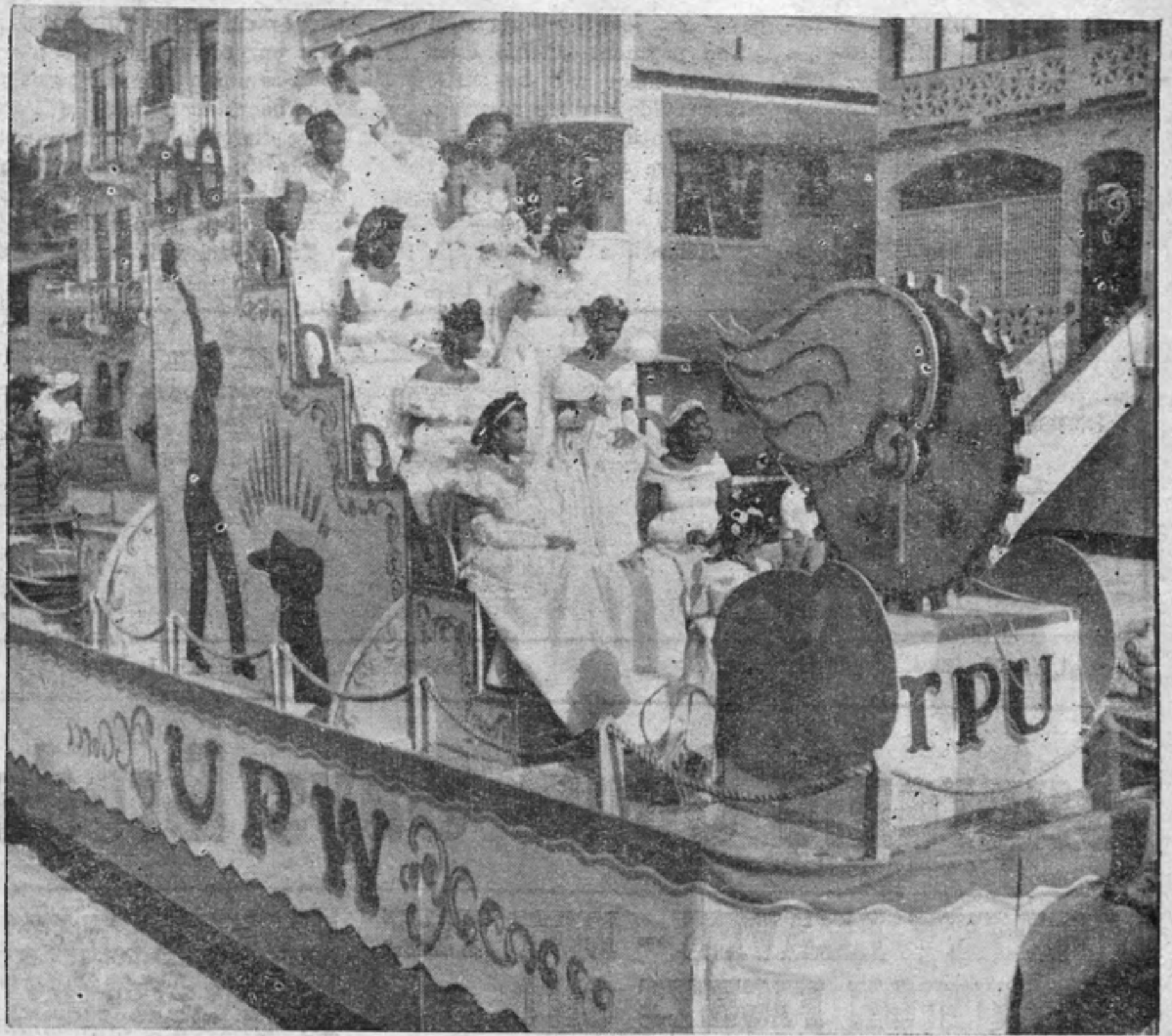
Yes, this statement, which is strangely out of tune with the recently announced desire of the A. F. of L. to organize the "silver" employees was made by the Chairman of the National A. F. of L. Legislative Committee, W. C. Hushing.

Just in case you would like to know why it took 16 years of unrelenting struggle on the part of the "silver" employees to obtain the erection of vocational schools, just listen to what Walter Jones had to say about these schools before the 1948 Appropriations Committee:

"This school is going to train boilermakers, blacksmiths, all skilled craftsmen. Is it the intention of the American taxpayer to pay his taxes to educate an alien to take away or replace an American citizen in his employment". (The ones that talk the most about taxes are the ones who pay the least.)

Jones continues: "In order to preserve government posi-

Union's Participation In Carnival Enhances Event



Lovely UPW Queen Rose I^a (seated at the top) with her maids of honor on the huge and magnificent float entered by Local 713 in the Carnival celebration held in the City of Colon on March 1. Seated below Queen Rose (left to right, top to bottom) Misses Corrine Brown, Jean Smith, Blanche Rose, Victoria Lancrey, Dorothy Morrison, Rosaline Lowe, Evelyn Hamilton and Victoria Williams.

La encantadora Rosa I^a, Reina de les TPU sentada arriba) con sus damas de honor en el gigantesco y magnifico carro alegórico presentado por el Local 713 en el Carnaval celebrado en la Ciudad de Colón el 1º de Marzo. Sentadas abajo de su Majestad Rosa (de izquierda a derecha, de arriba a abajo) señoritas Corrine Brown, Jean Smith, Blanche Rose, Victoria Lancrey, Dorothy Morrison, Rosaline Lowe, Evelyn Hamilton y Victoria Williams.

tions on the Canal Zone for our children and for those now employed and who may become unemployed in the future, we would like this committee to approve the amendment suggested by Mr. Hushing and we hope in the next 12 months we will get some sort of legislation under way to effectively keep aliens out of civil service."

"Who knows, in the future we may have an economic unemployment situation here in the United States. Those jobs in the Panama Canal belong to the American citizens and not to aliens."

And so we say that the A.F. of L. leopard is going to have to perform some powerful alterations before he can change those spots.

Foster Bournes

(Continued from page 1) months has been the Union's Recording and Corresponding Secretary. He is also the Shop Steward for his unit at the Panama Canal Press at Mount Hope.

New Appointee, Experienced and Devoted

The newly appointed International Representative was one of the earliest leaders of Local 713 and has a long record of selfless and valuable activity in the history of the union.

He served as a trustee of the Cristobal Chapter for two terms, and was also one of this Chapter's delegates to the Union's First Isthmian Convention in 1946.

He was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Educational Committee in 1947 and was in charge of the Atlantic Area.

Local 713 scored a tremendous hit when its Atlantic side chapters, Cristobal and Gatun, joined the city of Colon in its celebration of the carnival season.

Responding to the special invitation extended to them by the Colon Carnival Committee, the Union featured Miss Rosa Goodrich, winner of the CIO contest, as its queen.

A huge, impressive flots was also entered in the glamorous parade held on Tuesday, March 1.

Queen Rosa I was crowned at the popular Club Savoy on Saturday February 26 amidst a large crowd of admirers and Union members.

He was elected to the position of Recording and Corresponding Secretary at the Second Isthmian Convention held at La Boca in 1947 and has been subsequently reelected to this office.

Bournes attended the UPW's Second Biennial Convention held at Atlantic City in May 1948 as one of our delegates and acquitted himself admirably.

In addition to his multiple duties that keep him going at a rather busy pace, Bournes also contributes an interesting column, "Today's Trends" in the Union's newspaper, "ACCION".

He has worked with extreme unselfishness ever since he became a member of the Union and his dogged determination in the interest of Local 713 has won him much acclaim and widespread respect among the membership.

Bournes will be assigned to regular duty at the Cristobal office of the Local.

Carnival Spirit at High Pitch in Colon

The city of Colon was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Impressive banners were strung across the main streets of the city and every street pole was adorned with colorful decorations that were really in harmony with the gay spirit of the carnival. Colored lights were also used in the decoration of the streets.

The entire city was the picture of a colorful and radiant glow, especially at nights when the toldos and other recreational centers were lit with colored lights.

The Union added considerably to its popular appeal to the public by its wholehearted and successful participation in the carnival.

Union's Float Magnificent

The Union's float, which picture appears elsewhere on these pages, was a job well done. It was 60 ft. long and 30 ft. high. The UPW and CIO emblems were prominently displayed all over the float. On either side of the float, labor was depicted by a superimposed picture of a blacksmith with the sledge about to strike a blow against the anvil.

The presence of Queen Rosa I and her royal ladies on the float served to enhance its splendor.

Queen Rosa was dressed in a beautiful white gown of a very rich brocaded material and was regally robed in a neatly tailored cape.

Her maids of honor were beautiful to look at and they won considerable applause from the huge crowd that lined the streets as well as the balconies and roofs of buildings along the entire route of the parade.