

AFL-CIO MERGER COMMITTEE MEETING, November 8, 1957, Parker House, Boston

Present for National AFL-CIO - R. J. Thomas

Present for CIO - Belanger, Camelio, Campobasso, Lieberman, Murray, Stevens and Walkinshaw.

Present for AFL - Callahan, Kelley, Calnon, Lawler, Morin, O'Donnell and Pratt.

AFL-CIO - R. J. Thomas in the chair stated that he was here because of the telegram sent to Meany. He and Moats had met with either or both organizations but because of the shortage of help and the sixteen State Councils and several hundred city bodies, and the demand for their time is so great that on occasion a mixup on a meeting will occur. He apologized for the mixup on the meetings of the past week. He pointed out that no one can force us to merger until after December 5th when Meany had the power to lift Charters of State and City Bodies. He didn't feel that Meany would lift the charters, but that a new plan of action would be worked out to help bring about merger, but in any case there was going to be a merger in Massachusetts come what may. He said it would be a mistake for the AFL to hold its meeting November 23rd without a full merger agreement, but they had the right to do anything they pleased. He proposed that the CIO have the Presidency of the merged group unpaid and the AFL have Secretary-Treasurer, paid. He didn't think it fair for one organization to have both top jobs. Does not think size should be the determining factor.

AFL - We have discussed size of Board and have arrived at thirty-one. Division should be on numerical strength and we are prepared to discuss that today our numbers are for the month of October. We have 802 locals affiliated. We have a procedure regular for regular convention but not special convention and so our delegates for this convention are decided on October per capita. We feel that an organization of 500,000 people should have a full time President.

CIO - You can't decide the true picture of membership by a figure for one month. You have to prorate it over a period of six months to a year. We are not opposed to a full time paid President, but we don't think we can afford it at this time. Let us wait a year and review the financial picture then and consider a full time President.

R. J. THOMAS - You can't decide everything on numbers. Questions whether per capita payments will be the same three months from now. He isn't sure he is doing any good at the meeting. No progress is being made.

CIO - Is the AFL going to answer on Belanger's proposal on the wait of one year to decide if we can afford a full time President and what is their present position on Executive Board.

AFL - We have to consider Belanger's proposal. We want sixteen Board Members, eleven for CIO.

CIO - We propose thirteen Board Members each and the larger organization get the fourteenth seat on the Board.

R. J. Thomas - suggested Regional Director Thompson and his Assistant could sit in on the meetings.

CIO - It is all right with us.

AFL - Opposed to Murphy and Thompson sitting in on the meetings.

Adjourn 4:40 p.m.