

Sunday Herald

Dec. 7, '58

State AFL, CIO Merger Accomplished

1400 Delegates Elect Belanger, Vote Constitution

Two years of negotiations ended yesterday as the Massachusetts Federation of Labor and the state CIO emerged into one union of 400,000 members, to be called the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Fourteen hundred delegates passed the merger resolution unanimously at a morning session at the Hotel Bradford,

That action came eight minutes after the convention was called to order by R. J. Thomas, assistant to George Meaney, president of the AFL-CIO.

NEW CONSTITUTION

Delegates also approved a new constitution in short order. It is subject to ratification by the national union.

J. William Belanger of West Roxbury, president of the state CIO for the last 10 years, will head the new union. John A. Callahan, AFL president, and Salvatore Camelio, CIO rubber workers union executive, were elected vice presidents. Kenneth J. Kelley, AFL secretary-treasurer, was named to that post in the combined AFL-CIO.

The joint meeting at the Bradford followed individual conventions of the two unions.

HAILED BY SALERNO

Joseph Salerno, a top CIO leader, hailed the merger as "one of the most important events in the history of labor in this state."

He predicted that the union will bring "less strikes, more industrial planning and less jurisdictional disputes.

"Greater participation by labor in the affairs of industry will result in greater production, better business, better profits and a better standard of living for all people," Salerno said.

James Broyer was named legislative agent for the union. Department heads named were Joseph Cass, committee on political education; Frank Lavigne, education and research, and Gerald Kable, publicity and public relations.