

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, Inc.

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National Headquarters

AFFILIATES: AFPH EDUCATIONAL FUND, AFPH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN ENGINEERING

1370 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

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WASHINGTON 4, D. C.

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November 18, 1955

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To: Friends of the Handicapped  
in Organized Labor

## Greeting:

Enclosed is copy of Resolution which will be introduced in the AFL Convention by Brother James A. Brownlow, President, AFL Metal Trades Department, and which I have asked Brother Walter P. Reuther to also have introduced in the CIO Convention. It is assumed that action on this will be had, in the joint Conventions in New York City.

## Passage of this Resolution would permit:

1. Appointment of an AFPH Headquarters Staff, - to include directors of Organization, Research and Publicity, Legislation, and Fund-Raising.
2. Establishment of an Information Service, which would send monthly bulletins to all Internationals; State Federations and Industrial Union Councils; City Central Bodies, and Industrial Union Councils, as well as such Local Unions as may be desirable.

Such Service would give the gist of legislation; Executive orders; amounts available under appropriations, and how Unions might utilize such benefits to advantage of their members and families of members.

In this connection, it is shown, for example, that some 12,900 mine workers have received Vocational Rehabilitation from the States, and, following rehabilitation, miners have been placed in employment by the Federal-State Employment Services, and have earned more than \$5,500,000.

These benefits resulted from AFPH primary efforts, in establishing, maintaining, and continually expanding the Federal-State programs on rehabilitation and employment of Handicapped, and demonstrates how Labor has benefitted, and will benefit from these programs, while using our specialized knowledge and experience to its own advantage.

3. While the amount of money AFPH might hope to receive, upon passage of such Resolution, would not enable us to make a nation-wide organizational campaign, as, from experience, we know this would cost in excess of \$500,000, yet, we can organize in key States and thus be in position to play a larger, and more effective part in the forthcoming 1956 National Election. I am sure that Labor needs allies, in all its legislative activities, and the vast and practically unexplored field of the 40,000,000 Handicapped, no doubt, would prove very fruitful, if their interests were aligned, and their active support united with that of Labor on all matters of mutual concern.

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To: Organized Labor

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THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT, AND NEEDED, IN 1956!

4. Since there are less than half a dozen specialists, in the whole United States, who have an overall knowledge of the tremendous field of rehabilitation and employment of our millions of Handicapped, the position of AFPH, and its experience and competence in this work, is of great value to all Labor, and is worth millions and millions of dollars, as has, already been shown, by our past success in gaining more than \$600,000,000 worth of benefits, to say nothing of being primarily responsible for placement in employment of more than 3,200,000 Handicapped.

SUPPORT OF A.F.P.H. LABOR OFFICERS URGED

There are several eminent leaders of Labor on the AFPH National Council, and no programs are prepared, or presented to Congress or the public, without their approval.

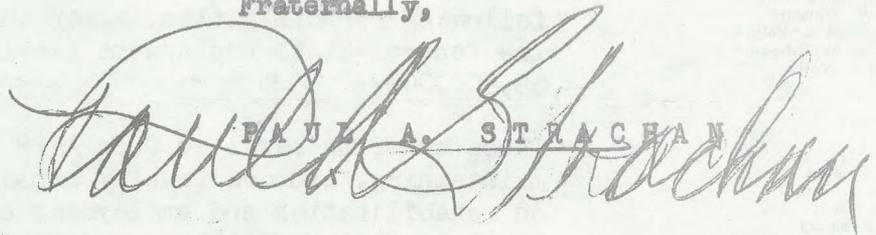
These Officers from Labor Organizations have worked with us for several years, and are familiar with our program, and know the need and value of it.

I urge all friends of the Handicapped to support this Resolution, so that, - for the first time in its 15 years since its founding, - AFPH will have a base, financially, upon which to properly carry on its program.

By giving this support, you will not only aid millions of suffering people, many of whom are living in enforced idleness for lack of adequate treatment and training and job placement, but you will strengthen the bonds that tie Labor and the Handicapped together, and further unity of effort of both groups. This, I believe, is the main purpose, generally, in merging AFL and CIO, today, so that we may combine our strength and efforts to greater advantage than ever before.

We ask your support, and active participation in this matter, and assure you of our appreciation.

Fraternally,



PAUL A. STRACHAN

President

Resolution No. ....

On: The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, Inc.

Whereas: The problems and needs of our 40,000,000 handicapped citizens, including the blind, partially sighted, deaf, hard of hearing, amputees, arthritics, cardiacs, cerebral palsied, diabetics, epileptics, victims of muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, osteomyelitis, poliomyelitis, rheumatism, congenital defects and deformities and other injuries and diseases constitute one of our Nation's gravest problems, and

Whereas: Organized Labor initiated and has consistently fought for programs to advance the welfare of all workers, and, 35 years ago, Labor was chiefly responsible for establishing the Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation program, and

Whereas: The American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, an organization composed primarily of handicapped people, with headquarters at 1370 National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C., for the past 15 years has spearheaded all activities beneficial to handicapped, and has had official endorsement of Organized Labor, and has many eminent leaders of Labor amongst its National Officers, and

Whereas: Said Federation's program includes establishment of a Federal Agency for Handicapped, which would greatly amplify present Federal-State services in medical treatment, education and training or retraining, counseling and guidance, and selective placement, - and other measures which have been approved by all Labor groups, and

Whereas: Said Federation in collaboration with Labor representatives, was responsible for amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, in 1954, the necessary purpose of which was to enlarge the program approximately three times more than previously, and it has since been shown that Federal-State agencies having jurisdiction have been dilatory in carrying out the express mandates of Congress in this matter, and require continual pressures to induce them to advance the program as the new law intends and provides, and

Whereas: The A.F.P.H. in its recent 7th Triennial Convention, in which many Labor representatives participated, adopted a broad program of rehabilitation, education, and employment of handicapped, and to carry out this program needs approximately \$250,000 for its annual budget, and, at present, urgently needs financial assistance for its immediate work, be it

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO, in Convention assembled in New York, New York, does hereby endorse the program of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, particularly its bills to establish a Federal Agency for Handicapped; Tax Exemptions for Handicapped and Those Who Cannot support Themselves; Congressional approval of S. 1948, a bill to authorize the sale of certain of the publicly owned lands of the United States, situated in Florida, to the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped Institute for Human Engineering, on which land, the proposed Institute for Human Engineering is planned to be built, and, other such measures as may develop which are approved by official Labor representatives, ere introduction, and, be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO Convention calls upon its constituent International Unions, State Federations of Labor and State Industrial Union Councils, Central bodies and local Industrial Union Councils, and Local Unions to endeavor to raise and contribute to AFPH \$150,000, to further this vitally important program, which is so closely identified with the welfare of all working people, and, be it further

Resolved: That, copies of this Resolution be sent to the Press; all Members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, and to all organizations and individuals at interest.