

Good Record of CIO Is Obvious

By Labor's Daily News Service

When the CIO convention delegates begin hammering out CIO welfare program policies for the new year, they will have behind them a long and brilliant CIO record in the fields of health and safety, social security, housing and related subjects.

They will approach their task with experience—experience developed in the shops and in wage-earners' homes, in union health clinics and welfare funds, in legislative battles in city councils, state legislatures and Congress, and in work with governmental agencies and private organizations.

Health Benefits

The health field alone provided a tremendous range of activities for CIO unions, councils, committees, and individual members and officers.

CIO helped pioneer for new forms of economics in medical care, to make modern medicine available to the people when needed without charity and without bankruptcy. Its fight here too was one against well-heeled forces led by the American Medical Association and their insurance industry allies.

It was a fight for national health insurance, for federal aid in the training of adequate numbers of doctors and other health personnel, for public aid to hospital construction, for maternal and child health aids, and for federal aid to local public health services.

CIO unionists participated in, and sought to improve, Blue Cross plans while others built union health centers.

They carried on health work in other fields too — work for improved industrial safety and health measures, for vastly expanding and improving the vocational rehabilitation of injured wage earners, for inspection of metal and non-metal mines and quarries and establishment of a safety commission in the United States Labor Department and for improvement of state workmen's compensation laws.

They worked with private organizations like the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, the American College of Surgeons, the National Safety Council, the National Society for Prevention of Blindness and with various governmental agencies too.

But they had to fight against "economy" forces which have whittled health appropriations to save a few millions—while billions were lost through ill-health and injury.

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'Handicapped' Group Is Given AFL's Support

By Labor's Daily News Service

WASHINGTON — AFL Legislative Committee Member Walter Mason has been named by AFL President George Meany as representative to the legislative conference of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped to take place here Dec. 21.

In Meany's letter accepting the AFPH invitation to participate in the conference on handicapped legislation, the AFL chief noted that "I share your interest in the real need of an adequate physically handicapped program" and pledged AFL's continued cooperation and support.

Meany sent AFPH a copy of the resolution adopted by the AFL seventy-third convention at Los Angeles Sept. 20-27, remarking that copies of it have been sent to the press, to all members of the AFL Executive Council, and to all interested organizations and individuals.

"You will note," said Meany to AFPH President Paul A. Strachan, "that the resolution calls upon all

AFL constituent labor bodies to lend legislative support, and, if possible, to make substantial contributions, financially, to the AFPH."

Resolution Passed

The AFL convention resolution recalled that "organized labor initiated, and has consistently fought for programs to advance the welfare of all workers, and 34 years ago the American Federation of Labor was chiefly responsible for establishing the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program."

It noted further that AFPH for the past 14 years "has spearheaded all activities beneficial to (physically) handicapped, and has had official endorsement of organized labor, and has many eminent leaders of labor among its national officers."

It reviewed the enactment by the 83d Congress of the bill expanding the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program. AFL commented that the AFPH "with close cooperation from its labor allies, succeeded in amending this bill in major particulars, so that the entire program, roughly, will be expanded to more than three times its present scope."

The AFL convention reaffirmed previous support for AFPH proposed legislation especially measures to establish a Federal Agency for Handicapped, and to provide tax exemptions for handicapped who can't support themselves.