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November 28, 1956

TO THE PRESIDENTS OF ALL STATE AND LOCAL CENTRAL BODIES

Dear Sir and Brother:

I am writing at this time to ask for your cooperation and assistance in a study and survey we are conducting to determine the extent of Labor's participation in national, state and community programs, and also of Labor's own programs for promoting equal job opportunities for the physically handicapped. The results of this survey will be used in the furtherance of our efforts to assist the handicapped.

The President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped, of which we are a member, has done an exceptionally fine job in alerting our nation to the serious gap which separates a large number of unemployed handicapped workers from productive, useful jobs. Mr. Gordon M. Freeman, President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is Vice-Chairman of this Committee.

While the AFL-CIO is doing much to aid in this program, comparatively little information is available as to what is being done by Labor in the state and local communities. It would be most helpful if you could furnish us with the answers to the questions contained in the attached form.

Your early attention to this matter would be much appreciated. We would like to have this information compiled for the next meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of/the Physically Handicapped to be held early in the coming year.

Fraternally yours,

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FOR RELEASE:

AM PAPERS, SUNDAY October 7, 1956

The following statement was issued by AFL-CIO president George Meany, on "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week":

"The AFL-CIO is built on the Trade Union tradition of working for the general welfare of all people -- and that includes, of course, the physically handicapped. We believe America's handicapped workers are entitled to a chance to prove their ability. It's ability, not disability, that counts.

"This is the 12th year in which the National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week (October 7-13, 1956) will be observed. For the millions of handicapped in America, this week will be just a little brighter than the last.

"During the past 12 years since the law was enacted, we have seen a growing interest in this problem. Thousands of handicapped workers have proved their ability to perform useful work whenever they are given employment opportunities.

"Jobs must be made available to them. Jobs for which they have been trained and for which they are qualified.

"Our unions are determined to do what they can to see that a person with an impairment is not denied the opportunity to earn a living.

"We believe that management should take an enlightened view of this problem, but we also believe in accepting our own share of this responsibility.

"I urge all members of organized labor as well as the general public to help in the national program to give the physically handicapped equal job opportunity -- not only during this week but the year 'round."

## SURVEY OF LABOR'S PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The following questions have been designed to provide the AFL-CIO with a working knowledge of Labor's participation in national, state and community programs, and also of Labor's own programs for promoting equal job opportunities for the physically handicapped. The results of this survey will be used in the furtherance of our efforts to aid the physically handicapped.

Name of State or Local Central Body\_\_\_\_\_

- 1. President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped
  - a. Does your organization have a representative on this Committee? Name of Yes No Representative
- 2. State or Governor's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped
  - a. Does your organization have a representative on this Committee? Name of Yes No Representative
  - b. How often does this Committee meet during the year?
  - c. Does your representative serve on any of the subcommittees of this Committee?

		Name	of	sub-
Yes	No	commi	tte	e

- d. What progress is being made by the Committee in assisting the handicapped to obtain suitable employment?
- 3. Community Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped
  - a. Does your community have a Committee to promote employment of the physically handicapped?

Yes No

b. Does your organization have a representative on this Committee?

Name ofYesNoRepresentative

d.	Does your representative serve on any of the subcommittees of this Committee?
	Name of sub-
	Yes No committee
	What progress is being made by the Committee in assisting the handicapped to obtain suitable employment?
Pol	icy
oth	s your organization have a stated policy (convention resolution or erwise) in support of programs for employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please
	Nodescribe
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Pub	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or
Pub	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped?
Pub Has dis	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please
Pub Has dis Yes	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please Nofurnish material
Pub Has dis Yes	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please
Pub Has dis Yes Oth Has	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please No furnish material er Activities your organization engaged in other activities to aid the physically
Pub Has dis Yes Oth Has han	licity your organization published articles, stories, newsletters, or seminated other material relating to employment of the handicapped? If Yes, please Nofurnish material er Activities

Note: If additional space is needed to answer questions, attach extra sheet.