

Locals 900, 907 At Convention

AFSCME, AFL-CIO Backs RP In Treaty Question

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The 700,000-member American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, has voted to fully support Panama in its fight to obtain effective sovereignty over all her territory.

The vote came at the 20th International Convention of the labor organization, held in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 10 through June 14.

Locals 900 and 907 were represented at the Convention.

Highlights of the convention are contained in the following column by William H. Sinclair, Area Director, AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

Some 2000 delegates attended the opening session of AFSCME's 20th Biennial Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In his convention address, AFSCME International President Jerry Wurf said that jurisdictional infighting is undermining the ability of the labor movement to improve

the standard of living for American workers. Wurf said that AFSCME and all unions "spend too much time fending off attacks by other unions."

Wurf said "the resources we use to defend ourselves in jurisdictional competition properly should be used for better membership services.

While critical of the AFL-CIO, Wurf said he believes AFSCME should continue its AFL-CIO affiliation.

In a wide-ranging report

to the delegates and guests at the opening session, Wurf analyzed the decline of labor's power. He said he felt one reason for this was "too many unions... They spend too much of their time and their energies in warfare against each other and against us and too little to organize workers and improve the standard of living for American workers.

Wurf also touched upon a number of major national issues that he said challenged

the future of the union and the country. These included rampant inflation, an ineffective Congress and the lack of federal legislation securing collective bargaining for public workers.

A resolution on the Canal Zone calling for effective collective bargaining, total parity covering all fringe benefits and pay for federal workers, without regard to citizenship, improvement of consultation rights and adequate protec-

tion in future Panama/USA treaties for all achievement won by organized labor in the Canal Zone, was approved by the delegates.

The delegates also went on record supporting a fair treaty for Panama, a sovereign nation currently engaged in an all-out effort to recover the use of that part of its territory ceded to the United States for construction, sanitation,

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maintenance and defense of a Canal waterway

The Pan-Am

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AFSCME . . .

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maintenance and defense of a Canal waterway.

Wurf asked for increased percapita tax rates to help the International Union keep up with inflation. The cost to carry on the vast operation being conducted by ASFCME throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone is going up at a rate of almost ten percent a month.

AFSCME is one of the AFL-CIO affiliates which finds itself in the position of continuous expansion. With no room for retrenchment, the huge Federation must take advantage of all organizing opportunities which, in turn, are all accompanied by costly, complex servicing.

Wurf's keynote address refers to our Federation as the quality union "with" quality staff, quality servicing and quality achievements.

The Federation does not measure itself with the quality of those who serve it. Those who serve the Federation must measure up to the high quality demanded by the Federation.

Committees on legislation, organization, political activities, community relations, public relations equal opportunity and several more, spent long hours hammering out resolutions, charting new courses for the Federation and its fast-growing membership.

In the main, the 20th Constitutional Convention is a major, historic step in the 40-year history of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee AFL-CIO.