

Sept. 24, 1976

To: Nick Jones
From: Richard Grossman
Re: Illinois State AFL-CIO Convention

Here is all the information on our activities at the Illinois State AFL-CIO convention. The convention was held Sept. 20-23 in Springfield. There was about 2000 delegates at the convention.

We went down to Springfield Monday morning, arriving an hour before the convention started. We immediately set up two T.G. tables in the main lobby. The tables remained up all day Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The T.G. sales were quite good and we raised \$695.41. A complete breakdown of sales is enclosed. The leather items went the best.

Tuesday night starting at 6:00pm we had a wine tasting in the main hotel. The wine tasting was scheduled in the program (see enclosure). I would estimate 200-300 delegates came. Both Stanley Johnson and Bob Gibson, president and secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO, came to the wine tasting. We made about \$40 in donations at the wine tasting plus did a good job of selling T.G. The room was donated by the State Fed. We had 7 cases of wine donated, 5 by Italian Swiss and 2 by Almaden.

Wednesday afternoon I spoke for about 5 minutes. We could not get on before that because of all the politicians coming to speak. By the time I spoke many people had already left. Still we collected \$405.71 in the floor collection with a pledge of matching funds from the State Fed. We had 25 delegates help on the floor collection.

All together we made \$1141.40 at the convention not including the pledged money for the floor collection. Three resolutions were passed supporting us (see enclosures). There were 3 staff and 4 supporters from Chicago working the convention. Also on Monday Rev. Olga Sandman from Peoria stopped by to help for a couple of hours. Tuesday night 2 other supporters from Peoria came by to help at the wine tasting. We got about 25 new labor contacts plus renewed many old ones.

This was my first convention and not everything went as well as I would have liked. We were particularly weak in getting new names. Still over all, I am pleased with the convention. I think besides making money we helped solidify our support in the labor movement in Illinois.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:30 A.M.—Invocation by Rev. Walter Krech
Pastor, Rochester United Methodist Church

Committee Reports

Hon. Michael Howlett, Secretary of State
and Candidate for Governor

Don Johnson, Director of Illinois Department of Labor

Hon. Dan Walker, Governor of Illinois

Guest Introductions

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Committee Reports

Hon. Neil Hartigan, Lt. Governor of Illinois

Irving Greenfield, Associate General Counsel,
Illinois State AFL-CIO

Hon. William Redmond, Speaker of Illinois House of
Representatives

Convention Guests

6:00 P.M.—Union Wine Tasting, Host—Farm Workers
Union—St. Nicholas Hotel, Anniversary Room

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 A.M.—Invocation by Rev. Arthur Koch,
Pastor, First Congregational Church, Springfield

Committee Reports

Hon. Alan J. Dixon, Illinois State Treasurer
Candidate for Secretary of State

Les Asher, General Counsel, Illinois State AFL-CIO

Hon. Walter Mondale, U. S. Senator
Vice Presidential Candidate

Convention Guests

ty as they then related to wage earners and union members; and WHEREAS, The findings of this Committee reported to the Convention in 1925, indicated the need and the value of an insurance company that would be aware and sympathetic to the problems and objectives of the Labor Movement of America in helping to provide greater financial protection for union members and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Union Labor Life Insurance Company was organized as a direct result of the action taken by the American Federation of Labor and since 1927 has been engaged in promoting the interests of Labor Groups in the fields of Group and Individual Life Insurance, Group Health Insurance, and most recently Pension and Retirement Benefits; and

WHEREAS, The Union Labor Life Insurance Company has amply demonstrated its competence and integrity by becoming one of the foremost underwriters of group insurance in the country; and

WHEREAS, The employees are members of AFL-CIO unions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this 19th annual convention of the Illinois State AFL-CIO recognizes the affinity of this company with the Labor Movement of America by reason of the fact that it's stock is owned principally by international unions and it's operation is guided by Directors who are at the same time outstanding trade unionists and, for the most part, active officers of the international unions of the AFL-CIO, and

RESOLVED, That this convention indicates it's awareness of the Labor background of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company and suggests to all affiliated and associated Local Unions consideration of the services of the Union Labor Insurance Company in the establishment of programs of Group Life Insurance, Health and Welfare Fund, Retirement and Pension Programs.

Referred to Committee on Union Label.

Resolution No. 83

By Delegates James Pinta, Steelworkers No. 758, Chicago, and Hazen J. Griffin, Service Employees No. 372, Chicago.

WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the farm workers struggle to build their own union, the Labor Movement in the State of Illinois has morally, financially and physically supported this effort; and

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO members in the State of Illinois have picketed, have been arrested, and have marched side by side with the farm workers; and

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO members have helped to build an effective boycott and made it clear to the giant agribusiness industry that the AFL-CIO stands firmly united behind the farm workers; and

WHEREAS, The Black Eagle union label of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO is now beginning to appear in local supermarkets; and

WHEREAS, It is only right that we stand together to celebrate the victories that the AFL-CIO has helped to win; the field

elections, the union contracts, and most importantly the survival of the farm workers' union itself; and

WHEREAS, Letters have been sent to all affiliated locals of the State AFL-CIO of Illinois from a Labor Committee to participate in the Black Eagle Solidarity Dinner celebrating the victories we have won and reaffirming our support; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State AFL-CIO of Illinois hereby endorses the Black Eagle Solidarity Dinner to be held Sunday, October 10, and joins the efforts of the Labor Committee:

1. By encouraging members to attend the Solidarity Dinner;
2. By encouraging member locals to contribute financially so that the Solidarity Dinner will be successful fund raising event for the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO; and
3. By encouraging member locals to demand the Black Eagle union label of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 84

By Delegates Hazen Griffin, Service Employees No. 372, Chicago.

WHEREAS, Farm workers are among the lowest paid workers in the country, the average total income for entire families working in the fields being only \$2,700-\$3,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, Farm workers are forced to work in substandard conditions, having the third highest job-related accident and in-

jury rate of any industry group in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The average life expectancy of farm workers is only 49 years, due in large measure to these deplorable wages and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez has led the farm workers in strikes in the grape and lettuce fields and the growers have sought to break the strikes and destroy all efforts of farm workers to win recognition of their right to self-determination and improve the wretched conditions in the fields and in migrant labor camps; and

WHEREAS, The United Farm Workers has called for a product boycott of table grapes and head lettuce to maintain economic pressure on the growers; and

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO President George Meany has called on all AFL-CIO members to fully cooperate and support this boycott; and

WHEREAS, We support the efforts and the right of farm workers to organize themselves for self-determination, and we wish to join them in their non-violent struggle; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the State AFL-CIO of Illinois hereby endorses and supports the efforts of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, to win self-determination for farm workers and that we will work to increase support for them in the following ways within our affiliates:

1. Bring the message of the boycott to members of the various locals through leaflets, posters on the bulletin boards, and reminders when we speak;

2. Work to insure that grapes and head lettuce will not be part of menus for any union function or served in plant cafeterias;
3. Put reminders of the boycott in union publications regularly;
4. Help raise money to support the United Farm Workers through gate collections, monthly pledges, contributions wherever possible;
5. Encourage member locals to assist the boycott efforts in their areas by contributing paper, stencils, office supplies according to their own resources;
6. Urge that each member local designate one person to serve as a liaison with the UFW to keep the membership informed;
7. Urge that each Central Labor Council within the State form a support committee within the guidelines suggested by George Meany.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 85

By Delegate Hazen Griffin, Service Employees No. 372, Chicago.

WHEREAS, The United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, has qualified Proposition 14 for California's November ballot; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 14 will strengthen the enforcement provisions of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act and guarantee farm workers the right and the opportunity to vote for the union of their choice in secret ballot elections; and

[The right side of the page contains extremely faint and illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document. Some words like 'WHEREAS' and 'and' are barely discernible.]