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Date: APR 16 1956

AT HOME AND ABROAD— Labor Speaks Mind at Asilomar

By Raymond Lawrence

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ASILOMAR, April 16—It is always a source of astonishment to this writer that more than 600 residents of Northern California should journey to this rural convention site in order to study and talk about U.S. foreign policy.

For the 10th annual conference of the World Affairs Council has just concluded and, while no formal conclusions were reached or were sought, there was animated debate in the various seminars and authoritative talks by business, professional and diplomatic experts. Two top level men were here from Washington: Edwin M. Wright, State Department expert on Middle Eastern affairs, and Allen W. Dulles, head of Central Intelligence Agency which is probably the most secret agency of the U.S. Government, and brother of the Secretary of State. Then there was Ambassador Eric Johnson who was appointed by the President as his personal representative to advance the Jordan River Valley program.

But it was a labor representative this writer thought was probably the most significant speaker. He is Henry Rutz, international affairs representative for AFL-CIO.

REDS OPPOSED

If Mr. Rutz speaks officially for the two big American unions, then American labor stands solidly behind this country's present foreign policy and is dedicated to unremitting opposition to the communists' world program, whether in Asia or in Europe.

Mr. Rutz made this abundantly

plain in his address here and he also demonstrated that labor's foreign affairs authorities understand perfectly the present tactics of collective leadership, Khrushchev's new smile, the new popular front line, and the fact that ultimate aims of the Soviet Union remain unaltered.

Recognizing that the Khrushchev tactics are nothing new and that the Russians have constantly revised their strategy, Mr. Rutz pointed out: "Neither at the 20th, nor at any other party congress have they changed their basic and ultimate aim—the conquest of the entire world and its transformation on the Soviet slave pattern."

Destruction of the Stalinist dogma hasn't fooled the labor leaders either.

DESIGNED TO DECEIVE

Free labor, according to Mr. Rutz, rejects communist Trojan horse maneuvers which are only designed to fool people abroad and promote popular front government.

The French and Italian governments won't fall for this maneuver but unfortunately in both countries the majority of workers are organized in communist unions, which of course are directed from Moscow.

It is the aim of free labor in Europe, as well as in the United States, to defeat these purposes and refuse to lend respectability and legitimacy to the slave system of the communists.

Indicative of the constructive position taken by the AFL-CIO on foreign affairs is the program recently outlined on the

top level. This declaration recognizes that the communists have injected arms and military aid into the explosive Middle Eastern Arab - Israel crisis.

Although Mr. Rutz and his conferees believe that the free world must thwart communist aims by furnishing arms to Israel, the rest of the labor program merits sympathetic study.

HIGH POINTS

It is too long to summarize here but the following points may be noted as contributing to a constructive solution through the United Nations:

Establishment of a permanent commission of five neutral nationals to maintain peace in the Middle East and prevent provocative incidents:

A general conference of Middle Eastern governments to resolve their own difference; a United Nations fund of \$500,000,000 to help solve the Arab refugee problem, one of the most exacerbating elements in the situation;

Assumption of leadership by the U.S. in stressing the importance of improving economic and social conditions, including a higher standard of living for common peoples.

Some of these recommendations may seem somewhat unrealistic, or difficult to implement, but they indicate a high type of thinking about one of the most explosive situations in the world today and the contribution that labor can make to the formation of intelligent public opinion on these major issues.