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LABOR HISTORY CASSETTES

Nine cassettes of excerpts of speeches by labor leaders or by prominent Americans about labor related subjects are available for use in labor history courses. The nine areas are: 1) Labor and Organizing; 2) Labor and Taft-Hartley; 3) Labor and Communism; 4) AFL-CIO Merger/UAW Split; 5) McClellan Committee and Teamsters Expulsion; 6) Labor and Civil Rights; 7) Labor and the War Effort; 8) Labor and Foreign Policy; and 9) Early Social Issues and Labor. The excerpts range in length from one to ten minutes and therefore can easily be worked into a one or two hour session. Although some of the recordings are over 50 years old, all of them are readily usable.

Background material summarizing the event discussed in each excerpt accompanies each cassette. It contains: 1) the birthdate of the speaker, 2) the most important positions held by the speaker, 3) the date in which the speech was given, 4) the length of the excerpt in minutes and seconds, 5) the location of the excerpt on the cassette based on a standard 2x tape counter and 6) a brief summary of the speech. These summary sheets are available to anyone desiring additional information about subject matter over and above that listed on the other side.

In several instances excerpts have been edited to eliminate repetition but the meaning has not been altered. In some cases the same individual appears more than once on the same subject-matter cassette.

Each cassette has approximately ten counters of spacing between each excerpt. The instructor may wish to record his own introduction to the speech in this space.

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SUBJECT MATTER

The nine areas of subject matter are:

1. Labor and Organizing (Contains 11 excerpts)
John L. Lewis, Emil Rieve, Anderson County Citizens Committee, George Baldanzi (2 excerpts), Walter Reuther, William Kircher, Cesar Chavez (2 excerpts), Frank Fitzsimmons, Donald MacDonald
2. Labor and Taft-Hartley (Contains 11 excerpts)
Harry Truman (2 excerpts), Robert Taft, William Green, Philip Murray, Emil Rieve, John L. Lewis, Dwight Eisenhower, Al Hayes, Nelson Rockefeller, George Meany
3. Labor and Communism (Contains 13 excerpts)
Side #1 - 1949 CIO Convention
George Baldanzi, John Stanley, Jack Knight, Ben Gold, Emil Rieve
Side #2 - Walter Reuther on Khrushchev Meeting 1959 (Contains 4 excerpts)
John F. Kennedy, J. Addington Wagner, Omer Becu, George Meany
4. AFL-CIO Merger/UAW Split (Contains 6 excerpts)
George Meany (2 excerpts), Walter Reuther (2 excerpts), Eleanor Roosevelt, Douglas Fraser
5. McClellan Committee & Teamsters Expulsion (Contains 9 excerpts)
Dave Beck, Walter Reuther, James Hoffa (2 excerpts), Al Hayes, John Murphy, Einar Mohn, John English, George Meany
6. Labor and Civil Rights (Contains 11 excerpts)
George Meany (2 excerpts), A. Phillip Randolph (2 excerpts), Joseph Curran, James Carey, Martin Luther King (3 excerpts), Bayard Rustin, Jerry Wurf
7. Labor and the War Effort (Contains 6 excerpts)
Samuel Gompers, Franklin D. Roosevelt, William Green, George Meany (2 excerpts), Sidney Hillman
8. Labor and Foreign Policy (Contains 8 excerpts)
Emil Rieve, George Meany (2 excerpts), Hubert Humphrey, Walter Reuther, Emil Mazey, Jerry Wurf, Norman Thomas
9. Early Social Issues and Labor (Contains 12 excerpts)
William Jennings Bryan (2 excerpts), William Howard Taft (2 excerpts), Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Fiorello LaGuardia, Gene Debs, Tom Mooney, Upton Sinclair (3 excerpts)

LABOR HISTORY CASSETTES

Labor history cassettes are now available in seven areas. They are designed for classroom use. The cassettes consist of excerpts of speeches by American labor leaders or excerpts of speeches by prominent Americans about labor related subjects. These excerpts have been obtained from the MSU Robert Vincent Voice Library or from various individuals and unions throughout the country. However, at this time it is impossible to determine how these cassettes can be distributed because no one at present seems to know how the new copyright law applies to recordings.

The seven areas of subject matter are:

AFL-CIO Merger/UAW Disaffiliation

George Meany
Walter Reuther
Eleanor Roosevelt
Douglas Fraser

Early Social Issues and the Labor Movement

William Jennings Bryant
William Howard Taft
Theodore Roosevelt
Woodrow Wilson
Fiorello LaGuardia
Gene Debs

Expulsion of the Teamsters

Dave Beck
Walter Reuther
Al Hayes
George Meany
John English

Labor and Civil Rights

George Meany
A. Phillip Randolph
Joseph Curran
James Carey
Martin Luther King
Bayard Rustin
Jerry Wurf

Handwritten notes:
Baker
10/11/71
C. B. J. C. L.

Labor and Foreign Policy

Emil Rieve
George Meany
Hubert Humphrey
Walter Reuther
Emil Mazey
Jerry Wurf

Labor and Taft-Hartley

Robert Taft
Harry Truman
William Green
Phil Murray
Emil Rieve
John L. Lewis
Dwight Eisenhower
Al Hayes
Nelson Rockefeller

Labor and the War Effort

Samuel Gompers
Franklin D. Roosevelt
William Green
George Meany
Sidney Hillman

LABOR AND ORGANIZING #1

JOHN L. LEWIS Born: 1880-1969 Date: Unknown 1 minute 0 sec.

John L. Lewis was President of the United Mine Workers from 1920 until his retirement in 1960. He also served as President of the CIO from 1935-1940 when he resigned, fulfilling his promise to do so if Wendell Willkie were not elected President. In 1942 the United Mine Workers left the CIO and in 1946 rejoined the AFL. After the 1947 AFL Convention Lewis disaffiliated in a dispute over how to respond to the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act and the United Mine Workers have since remained an independent union.

This excerpt is from a speech given sometime after the formation of the CIO in 1935.

Resource Material: Saul Alinsky, John L. Lewis (1949).

EMIL RIEVE Born: 1892-1975 Date: 1950 4 minutes 28 sec.

Emil Rieve served as President of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers from 1929-1939 and President of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA-CIO) from 1939-1956 when he retired. In this excerpt he discusses efforts to organize the southern textile industry which fled to the South after World War II in part as a result of lower wage rates, cheaper power costs and technological change.

Resource Material: Walter Galenson, The CIO Challenge to the AFL: A History of the American Labor Movement (1960).

ANDERSON COUNTY CITIZENS COMMITTEE Date: 1946 3 minutes 9 sec.

This excerpt is from a radio broadcast that opposed the efforts of TWUA-CIO to organize textile workers in South Carolina. Franz Daniel, the union organizer referred to in this excerpt, was a prominent organizer for the CIO for many years. Many of the same anti-union arguments made in 1946 are being repeated today by the J. P. Stevens Co.

Resource Material: Tom Tippet, When Southern Labor Stirs (1931).

GEORGE BALDANZI Born: 1907-1972 Date: 1949 2 minutes 45 sec.

George Baldanzi served as Executive Vice-President of TWUA-CIO from 1939-1952. In 1952 Baldanzi and his supporters left TWUA after he lost the election and as a result was relieved of all union offices. They then joined the United Textile Workers Union (UTW-AFL). In 1958 Baldanzi became President of UTW and retained that office until his death in 1972. As a result of Baldanzi's move into UTW two textile unions often fought each other harder than they fought the boss.

This excerpt was played by TWUA in a 1952 southern organizing campaign in an effort to discredit Baldanzi who had given the speech in 1949 while still an official of TWUA. Baldanzi attacked UTW in this excerpt.

Resource Material: Walter Galenson, The CIO Challenge to the AFL: A History of the American Labor Movement (1960).

GEORGE BALDANZI Born: 1907-1972 Date: 1952 2 minutes 45 sec.

This excerpt by George Baldanzi was in response to TWUA playing the above 1949 speech of his in an effort to discredit him. Fights of this type between rival AFL and CIO unions in the same industry made it more difficult to organize. Eventually this expensive and ineffective competition was one of the factors leading to the merger of the AFL-CIO.

Resource Material: See above. (George Baldanzi).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1955 6 minutes 9 sec.

Walter Reuther was President of the UAW from 1946 until his death in an aircrash in 1970. He was the last President of the CIO, serving from 1952-55. This excerpt is from the keynote speech he gave at the 1955 founding convention of the AFL-CIO dealing with the need to organize.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther, The Brothers Reuther (1976).

WILLIAM KIRCHER Born: 1915- Date: 1967 3 minutes 41 sec.

William Kircher was appointed Director of Organizing of the AFL-CIO in 1965 and served until 1975. In 1975 he became Assistant to the President, Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union (HREU). He played an important role in obtaining AFL-CIO endorsement for Chavez's National Farm Worker's Association (NFA) before it merged with the Agricultural Worker's Organizing Committee (AWOC) and became an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

This excerpt is from his report to the 1967 AFL-CIO Convention in which he summarized the activities of his department.

Resource Material: Jacques Levy, Cesar Chavez (1975).

CESAR CHAVEZ Born: 1927- Date: 1967 3 minutes 53 sec.

In 1965 Cesar Chavez's National Farm Workers Association, composed primarily of Chicanos, joined the strike against the DiGiorgio fields which was conducted by the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) whose members were largely Filipino and who were led by Larry Itliong. Eventually the two groups merged to form the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, with Chavez as its President.

This excerpt is from a speech made by Chavez before the 1967 AFL-CIO Convention thanking that body for its support.

Resource Material: Jacques Levy, Cesar Chavez (1975).

CESAR CHAVEZ Born: 1927- Date: 1974 2 minutes 33 sec.

Chavez in this excerpt discussed why in 1973 his organization, the United Farm Workers (UFW), resumed its lettuce and grape boycott after the Teamsters signed sweetheart agreements with those growers whose UFW contracts had expired.

Resource Material: See above. (Cesar Chavez).

FRANK FITZSIMMONS Born: 1908- Date: 1974 4 minutes 25 sec.

Frank Fitzsimmons became President of the Teamsters in 1967 after James Hoffa went to prison.

In this excerpt he defended the Teamsters against Chavez's charges of sweetheart agreements and attacked the UFW for being concerned with other than trade union matters.

Resource Material: Walter Sheridan, The Fall and Rise of Jimmy Hoffa (1972).

DONALD MacDONALD Born: 1909- Date: 1957 4 minutes 30 sec.

Donald MacDonald was Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Congress of Labor (CCL) from 1951-56. The Canadian labor movement merged to form the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) and MacDonald held the post of Secretary-Treasurer from 1956-67. In 1968 he was elected President of the CLC and served in that office until his retirement in 1974.

This excerpt is from his speech to the 1957 AFL-CIO convention explaining why workers everywhere need to be organized and why Canadian trade unionists are affiliated to the AFL-CIO.

Resource Material: Jack Williams, The Story of Unions in Canada (1975).

LABOR AND TAFT-HARTLEY #2

HARRY TRUMAN Born: 1884-1972 Date: 1946 1 minute 49 sec.

Harry Truman was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1934 and served there until he was elected Vice-President in 1944. He became President upon the death of President Franklin Roosevelt in 1945. He was elected President for the term 1948-1952.

This is an excerpt of a speech given by President Harry Truman to the U.S. Congress in 1946 in which he called for the drafting of striking railroad workers. This speech touched off discussions in the liberal and labor movements about the desirability of a new political party which ended only with the announcement by Henry Wallace of the formation of the Progressive Party which had Communist Party support.

Resource Material: Merle Miller, Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman (1974).

ROBERT TAFT Born: 1889-1953 Date: 1946 4 minutes 36 sec.

Robert Taft was a U.S. Senator from 1938-1953. In 1952 he was a leading candidate for the Republican nomination for President. In this excerpt he described why and what changes should be made in the existing labor legislation. Many of the views expressed here were incorporated into the Taft-Hartley Act which was passed the next year.

Resource Material: William S. White, The Taft Story (1954).

HARRY TRUMAN Born: 1884-1972 Date: 1947 5 minutes 59 sec.

This excerpt is from the speech made by Harry Truman to the American public that explained his veto of the Taft-Hartley which was overridden in the Senate by a one vote margin. As a result of Truman's veto he received strong support from the labor movement in the 1948 Presidential race which was instrumental in his being elected in an upset over Thomas Dewey.

Resource Material: See above. (Harry Truman).

WILLIAM GREEN Born: 1873-1952 Date: 1948 2 minutes 17 sec.

William Green served as Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers Union (UMW) from 1912-1924. When Sam Gompers died in 1924, John L. Lewis hoped to succeed him as the President of the AFL. However, he did not have the votes so Lewis supported William Green for that post with the expectation that he would be the power behind the throne. Green served as President of the AFL from 1924-1952. He and Lewis split over the issue of industrial unionism in the 1930's.

This excerpt is from the speech in which Green termed the Taft-Hartley Act to be a slave labor law.

Resource Material: Philip Taft, The AFL from the Death of Gompers to the Merger (1959).

PHILIP MURRAY Born: 1886-1952 Date: 1949 2 minutes 10 sec.

Philip Murray like William Green came out of the United Mine Workers Union. In 1936 John L. Lewis appointed Murray as Chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC). In 1942 SWOC became the United Steelworkers Union and Philip Murray was elected President. He retained that job until his death in 1952. After the 1940 Presidential election John L. Lewis resigned as President of the CIO and was succeeded by Murray who held that post until his death.

This excerpt is from a speech by Murray in which he accused a minority in the Congress elected in 1948 of frustrating the desires of the President and the majority of the country by refusing to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act.

Resource Material: John Herling, Right to Challenge: People and Power in the Steelworkers Union (1972).

EMIL RIEVE Born: 1892-1975 Date: 1950 2 minutes 0 sec.

Emil Rieve was President of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, 1929-1939. He became the first President of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWVA-CIO) in 1939 and held that position until he retired in 1956. Rieve in this excerpt discussed the difficulty of organizing textile workers under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Resource Material: Walter Galenson, The CIO Challenge to the AFL: A History of the American Labor Movement (1960).

JOHN L. LEWIS Born: 1890-1969 Date: 1951 1 minute 25 sec.

John L. Lewis was President of the United Mine Workers from 1920 until his retirement in 1960. He also served as President of the CIO from 1935-1940, when he resigned fulfilling his promise to do so if Wendell Willkie were not elected President. In 1942 the United Mine Workers left the CIO and in 1946 rejoined the AFL. After the 1947 AFL Convention Lewis disaffiliated from the AFL in a dispute over how to respond to the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act and the United Mine Workers have since remained an independent union.

In this excerpt John L. Lewis asked for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Resource Material: Saul Alinsky, John L. Lewis (1949).

DWIGHT EISENHOWER Born: 1890-1969 Date: 1952 2 minutes 05 sec.

Dwight Eisenhower was a two-term Republican President, 1952-1960.

In this excerpt as Republican Presidential nominee Eisenhower urged the amendment of the Taft-Hartley Act. He proposed that management as well as labor be required to sign the non-communist affidavit in the Taft-Hartley Act. Officers of unions refusing to sign the non-communist affidavit could not use the procedures of the National Labor Relations Board in respect to union elections, filing of unfair labor practice charges against the employer, etc. The affidavit was removed when the Landrum-Griffin Act was passed in 1959.

Resource Material: Dean Albertson, Eisenhower as President (1963).

AL HAYES Born: 1900- Date: 1955 4 minutes 02 sec.

Al Hayes served as President of the International Association of Machinists from 1949 until his retirement in 1965. He was the Chairman of the AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee which compiled the charges which served as the basis in 1957 for expelling the Teamsters, Laundry and Bakery Unions.

Al Hayes in this excerpt urged the State of Kansas not to enact a Right-to-Work law.

Resource Material: Mark Perlman, The Machinists, A New Study in American Trade Unionism (1961).

NELSON ROCKEFELLER Born: 1908- Date: 1963 2 minutes 17 sec.

Nelson Rockefeller served as Governor of the State of New York from 1958-1973. Gerald Ford replaced Nixon as President in 1974. He then nominated Rockefeller for Vice-President.

In this excerpt Rockefeller explains why he opposed state right-to-work laws.

Resource Material: Michael Kramer: I Never Wanted To Be Vice President of Anything; An Investigative Biography of Nelson Rockefeller (1976).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1966 2 minutes 41 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-1952. In 1952 he was elected President of the AFL and retained that post until merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO.

In this 1966 excerpt George Meany requested the U.S. Senate to vote for cloture to end the filibuster against the repeal of Section 14B of the Taft-Hartley. If Section 14B had been repealed all twenty state right-to-work laws would have been eliminated since a majority of the Senators supported repeal. Just as in the 1978 Labor Law Reform fight a minority was able to obstruct the will of the majority.

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

LABOR AND COMMUNISM #3

GEORGE BALDANZI Born: 1907-1972 Date: 1949 0 minutes 43 sec.

George Baldanzi served as Executive Vice-President of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA-CIO) from 1939-52. In 1952 Baldanzi and his supporters left TWUA after he lost the election for the presidency, and as a result was relieved of all union offices. They joined the United Textile Workers Union (UTW-AFL). In 1958 Baldanzi became President of UTW and retained that office until his death in 1972.

By 1949 strong opposition had developed within the CIO against the Communist leadership of eleven CIO unions who had repeatedly opposed national CIO policy in a number of areas. In this excerpt Baldanzi read the proposed amendment to the CIO constitution which permitted the expulsion of any union that followed the position of the Communist Party or of a fascist organization. After this amendment was read a debate followed over its adoption.

Resource Material: Max Kampelman, The Communist Party vs. the CIO: A Study in Power Politics (1975).

JOHN STANLEY Born: 1910- Date: 1949 1 minute 55 sec.

John Stanley served as Secretary-Treasurer of the United Office and Professional Workers. At the 1949 CIO Convention a number of speakers participated in the debate on amending the CIO constitution to permit the expulsion of Communist controlled unions. Those speaking for the amendment were: Jack Knight, President-Oil Workers International Union; Emil Rieve, President-TWUA; Joseph Curran, President-National Maritime Union; Walter Reuther, President-UAW; Mike Quill, President-Transportation Workers Union; and Philip Murray, President-CIO. Those opposed were: John Stanley, Secretary-Treasurer-United Office and Professional Workers; Ben Gold, President-Fur and Leather Workers Union; Harry Bridges, President-International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Joseph Selly, President-American Communications Association and Morris Pizer, President-United Furniture Workers.

In this excerpt John Stanley spoke against adopting the amendment. Unfortunately only the speeches found on this cassette seem to be in existence.

Resource Material: See above (George Baldanzi).

JACK KNIGHT Born: 1902- Date: 1949 2 minutes 45 sec.

Jack Knight was President of the Oil Workers International Union from 1940-1955. In 1955 the OWIU merged with the Gas Coke and Chemical Workers to form the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). Jack Knight served as president of the new organization from 1955 until his retirement in 1965.

In this excerpt Jack Knight spoke in support of the amendment to the CIO constitution.

Resource Material: Melvin Rothbaum, The Government of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (1962).

BEN GOLD Born: 1898- Date: 1949 2 minutes 55 sec.

Ben Gold was President of the International Fur Workers Union from 1937-39. After merger he served as President of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union from 1939 until 1955 when his organization became part of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen.

In this excerpt Ben Gold spoke in opposition to the amendment to the CIO constitution.

Resource Material: Philip Foner, The Fur and Leather Workers Union (1950).

EMIL RIEVE Born: 1892-1975 Date: 1949 4 minutes 28 sec.

Emil Rieve served as President of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers from 1929-1939 and President of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA-CIO) from 1939-1956 when he retired.

In this excerpt Emil Rieve spoke in support of the amendment to the CIO constitution. The amendment was approved by a large majority. Later in the convention the United Electrical Workers Union was expelled after announcing that it had stopped its per capita tax payments. A day later the CIO announced it had chartered a new union, the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE). The Farm Equipment Workers Union was also expelled at the same convention for its refusal to merge with the UAW. At the next CIO convention in 1950 nine additional unions were expelled under the amendment to the CIO constitution enacted in 1949. They were: American Communications Association; Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union; International Fishermen and Allied Workers of America; International Fur and Leather Workers Union; International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards; United Office and Professional Workers; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. Today only the United Electrical Workers and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union still exist.

Resource Material: Max Kampelman, The Communist Party vs. the CIO: A Study in Power Politics (1975).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1959 1 minute 45 sec.

Walter Reuther was President of the UAW from 1946 until his death in an air crash in 1970. He was the last President of the CIO serving from 1952-55. In 1959 Walter Reuther and a number of American labor leaders met with Nikita Khrushchev who was visiting the U.S.

This excerpt is from a press interview in which Reuther told how they described the attitude of U.S. labor toward communism.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther, The Brothers Reuther (1976).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1959 2 minutes 20 sec.

In this excerpt Walter Reuther described how the U.S. labor leaders in their meeting with Khrushchev discussed the need to search for peace.

Resource Material: See above. (Walter Reuther).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1959 3 minutes 10 sec.

In this excerpt Walter Reuther described how U.S. labor leaders in their discussion with Khrushchev proposed that their two competing social systems compete to see which could best improve the social and economic conditions of the underdeveloped countries.

Resource Material: See above. (Walter Reuther).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1959 2 minutes 30 sec.

In this excerpt Walter Reuther stated, in the discussion with Khrushchev, what U.S. labor leaders considered to be the fundamental difference in rights between workers in this country and those in the Soviet Union.

Resource Material: See above. (Walter Reuther).

JOHN F. KENNEDY Born: 1917-1963 Date: 1961 1 minute 30 sec.

Jack Kennedy served in the House of Representatives from 1946-52 and in the U.S. Senate from 1952-60. In 1960 he was elected President but was assassinated in 1963 and was replaced by his Vice-President, Lyndon Johnson.

In this excerpt Kennedy emphasized the need for military strength in respect to the Soviet Union.

Resource Material: Arthur Schlesinger Jr., A Thousand Days; John F. Kennedy in the White House 1965.

J. ADDINGTON WAGNER Born: 1914- Date: 1955 4 minutes 10 sec.

It had been customary for the Commander of the American Legion to address the AFL convention. J. Addington Wagner served as National Commander, the American Legion during 1955-56.

In this excerpt Wagner addressed the AFL-CIO merger convention and summarized the conflict between communism and Christianity.

Resource Material: Richard Jones, A History of the American Legion (1946).

OMER BECU Born: 1902- Date: 1955 3 minutes 50 sec.

Omer Becu was President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) from 1953 to 1957 and served as its Secretary-General from 1960-1967.

In this excerpt to the AFL-CIO merger convention he described the need for free trade unions throughout the world.

Resource Material: John P. Windmuller, American Labor and the International Labor Movement: 1940-1953 (1954).

AFL-CIO MERGER/UAW SPLIT #4

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1955 10 minutes 15 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-1952. In 1952 he became President of the AFL and retained that post until merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO. This excerpt is from Meany's keynote speech to the merger convention in which he outlined the need for merger and the hoped for results.

Resource Material: Arthur Goldberg: AFL-CIO: Labor United (1956).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1955 5 minutes 51 sec.

Walter Reuther was President of the UAW from 1946 until his death in an aircrash in 1970. He was the last President of the CIO serving from 1952-55. This excerpt is from Reuther's keynote speech to the merger convention in which he responds to Meany's speech and echoed many of the same goals and expectations.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther: The Brothers Reuther (1976).

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT Born: 1884-1962 Date: 1955 4 minutes 30 sec.

Although Eleanor Roosevelt held no high elected or appointed governmental office she exerted great influence in behalf of many liberal causes supported by the labor movement.

In this excerpt she stated why she thought merger was important not only to the labor movement but to the country-at-large.

Resource Material: Joseph Lash, Eleanor and Franklin (1971).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1963 1 minute 43 sec.

This excerpt is from a speech made by George Meany to the 1963 AFL-CIO in which he listed the gains that had resulted from the merger of the AFL-CIO.

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1968 2 minutes 20 sec.

In this excerpt from a speech to the 1968 UAW Constitutional Convention Walter Reuther explained why the UAW should disaffiliate and what the AFL-CIO must do before the UAW would consent to attend the next AFL-CIO Convention.

Resource Material: See above. (Walter Reuther).

DOUGLAS FRASER Born: 1916- Date: 1977 7 minutes 4 sec.

Douglas Fraser was elected President of the UAW in 1977.

In this 1977 press conference Douglas Fraser discussed why he felt the UAW should rejoin the AFL-CIO and explained the terms required of the AFL-CIO to ensure such action. Although the UAW Executive Board, except for two members, favored reaffiliation the move was dropped after a survey of the regions convinced the leadership that a significant portion of the local union membership opposed such action.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther, The Brothers Reuther (1976).

McCLELLAN COMMITTEE AND TEAMSTER'S EXPULSION #5

DAVE BECK Born: 1894- Date: 1957 4 minutes 10 sec.

Dave Beck was President of the Teamsters Union from 1952-57 when he chose not to run for reelection. Early in 1957 he was called before the McClellan Committee (Senate Select Committee to Investigate Improper Practices by Labor and Management) to answer questions in respect to the use of union funds for personal profit.

This excerpt is from Beck's testimony before the McClellan Committee where he took the Fifth Amendment.

Resource Material: Donald Garnel, The Rise of the Teamster Power in the West (1972).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1957 4 minutes 25 sec.

Walter Reuther was President of the UAW from 1946 until his death in an air crash in 1970. He was the last President of the CIO serving from 1952-55.

This excerpt is from a press interview where Reuther demanded the right to appear before the McClellan Committee to answer charges made against the UAW by Senator McCarthy. Reuther stated that labor would cooperate with the McClellan Committee if it restricted its investigation to corruption. However, labor would oppose it if it used the investigation to harm legitimate trade unionism.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther, The Brothers Reuther (1976).

JAMES HOFFA Born: 1913-1975 Date: 1957 5 minutes 28 sec.

James Hoffa was elected President of the Teamsters Union in 1957 after Dave Beck chose not to stand for reelection. In 1967 he went to jail as a result of being convicted for mail fraud and tampering with a jury. In 1971 he resigned all union offices and later that year, President Nixon commuted his sentence. On July 30, 1975 Hoffa disappeared and has not been seen or heard from since.

In this excerpt Hoffa responded to questions from Senator Ives who tried to determine Hoffa's attitude toward corruption.

Resource Material: Ralph and Estelle James, Hoffa and the Teamsters (1965).

AL HAYES Born: 1900- Date: 1957 5 minutes 03 sec.

Al Hayes served as President of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) from 1949 until his retirement in 1965. He was Chairman of the AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee which compiled the charges which served as the basis for expelling the Teamsters, Laundry and Bakery Unions at the 1957 convention.

In this Labor Day radio broadcast Al Hayes denied that the labor movement was riddled with corruption and criticized actions of the McClellan Committee.

Resource Material: Mark Perlman, The Machinists: A New Study in American Trade Unionism (1961).

JOHN J. MURPHY Born: 1910-1975 Date: 1957 7 minutes 20 sec.

John J. Murphy served as General Secretary of the Bricklayers Union from 1948-1960. He became President in 1960 and served until 1966. At the 1957 convention Murphy served as Secretary of the Committee on Appeals which recommended that the decision of the Executive Council to expel the Teamsters be upheld.

In this excerpt Murphy read the committee's report which summarized the charges against the Teamsters Union and recommended its expulsion.

Resource Material: AFL-CIO, "Supplemental Report of AFL-CIO Executive Council on Ethical Practices Cases" (1957).

EINAR MOHN Born: 1906- Date: 1957 2 minutes 00 sec.

Einar Mohn was elected a Teamster vice-president in 1952 and became Director of the Western Conference of Teamsters in 1958. He continues to hold both positions today.

Mohn in this excerpt opposed the expulsion of the Teamsters Union from the AFL-CIO.

Resource Material: Donald Garnel, The Rise of the Teamster Power in the West (1972).

JOHN ENGLISH Born: 1889-1969 Date: 1957 2 minutes 07 sec.

John English held the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the Teamsters Union from 1947-1969.

In this excerpt English opposed the expulsion of the Teamsters in a speech which received wide applause from the convention delegates.

Resource Material: Sam Romer, The International Brotherhood of Teamsters: Its Government and Structure (1962).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1957 5 minutes 10 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-52. In 1952 he became President of the AFL and retained that post until the merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO.

In this excerpt from his speech winding up the debate on the expulsion of the Teamsters Meany explained the reasons which made this action necessary. He concluded by summarizing the changes required of the Teamsters before they would be eligible for readmission.

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

JAMES HOFFA Born: 1913-1975 Date: 1963 2 minutes 05 sec.

This excerpt is from a speech given by Hoffa in 1963 to the student body at Michigan State University. In it he discussed his running feud with Robert Kennedy which began when Kennedy served as Chief Counsel for the McClellan Committee.

Resource Material: See above. (James Hoffa).

LABOR AND CIVIL RIGHTS #6

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1955 2 minutes 13 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-1952. In 1952 he became President of the AFL and retained that post until merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO.

This excerpt is from a speech by George Meany at the 1955 AFL-CIO Convention on the subject of civil rights.

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH Born: 1889- Date: 1959 4 minutes 57 sec.

A. Philip served as President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters from 1925-68 and was an AFL-CIO vice-president from 1955-74. He was the leading spokesman on behalf of Negro workers both within the AFL and the AFL-CIO.

This excerpt is from a speech by Randolph at the 1959 AFL-CIO Convention in which he opposed the admission of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) into the AFL-CIO. The ILA had been expelled from the former AFL for corruption and sought admission to the AFL-CIO. Randolph stated that the ILA should not be admitted since it engaged in discriminatory employment practices against its Negro members.

Resource Material: Jervis Anderson, A. Philip Randolph; A Biographical Sketch (1972).

JOSEPH CURRAN Born: 1906- Date: 1959 5 minutes 44 sec.

Joseph Curran served as President of the National Maritime Union (NMU) from 1937 until he retired in 1973. He also served as a vice-president of the CIO and the AFL-CIO.

In this excerpt Joseph Curran replied to A. Philip Randolph's speech which opposed the admission of the ILA by arguing that if discrimination existed it was the fault of the Bi-State Water Front Commission which controlled hiring practices on the docks.

Resource Material: Joseph P. Goldberg, The Maritime Story: A Study in Labor-Management Relations (1958).

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH Born: 1889- Date: 1959 5 minutes 13 sec.

In this excerpt A. Philip Randolph opposed the admission of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Engineermen and Firemen into the AFL-CIO unless a time limit was set for abolishing the color bar in their constitutions prohibiting Negroes from membership. These two unions had been independent unions and had never belonged to the AFL or the CIO.

Resource Material: See above. (A. Philip Randolph).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1959 3 minutes 30 sec.

In this excerpt Meany responded to Randolph's opposition to the admission of the two railroad unions. He argued that it would be better to admit them and have the AFL-CIO Executive Council seek to get the color bar removed rather than keeping them out until the bar was removed.

Resource Material: See above. (George Meany).

JAMES CAREY Born: 1911-1973 Date: 1959 3 minutes 34 sec.

James Carey served as President of the United Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) from 1935-41. When the CIO expelled the UE in 1949 because of communist domination it chartered a new union, the International Union of Radio and Machine Workers (IUE), Carey became its first President and served until 1965. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO from 1942-55.

In this excerpt James Carey supported George Meany's position that the two railroad unions should be admitted immediately at the 1959 convention.

Resource Material: Walter Galenson, The CIO Challenge to the AFL (1960).

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Born: 1929-1968 Date: 1961 7 minutes 18 sec.

As a result of leading the successful bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, Martin Luther King Jr. became a national figure. He was the leading spokesman for civil rights and the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which conducted demonstrations throughout the country.

This excerpt is from a speech to the 1961 AFL-CIO convention in which King stressed the common interests between the civil rights movement and the labor movement and urged closer cooperation between them.

Resource Material: James Bishop, Day of Martin Luther King (1971).

MARTIN LUTHER KING Born: 1929-1968 Date: 1968 8 minutes 12 sec.

This excerpt is from a speech Martin Luther King gave before Local 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees in which he discussed the depression in the black community and the economic plight of black workers.

Resource Material: See above. (Martin Luther King).

BAYARD RUSTIN Born: 1910- Date: 1969 4 minutes 52 sec.

Bayard Rustin was the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington which led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He became Director of the AFL-CIO's A. Philip Randolph Institute in 1966.

This excerpt is from a speech Bayard Rustin gave to the 1969 AFL-CIO convention. He discussed the need for the labor movement to more vigorously deal with the issue of discrimination. He summarized important changes made by the building trades union in eliminating discrimination.

Resource Material: Ray Marshall, The Negro and Organized Labor (1965).

JERRY WURF Born: 1919 Date: 1968 4 minutes 24 sec.

Jerry Wurf was elected President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) in 1964. He is also a vice-president of the AFL-CIO. It is now the largest union affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

In March 1968 the Hawaiian Government Employees Association held a debate on the merits of unions versus independent associations.

In this excerpt Jerry Wurf stated the union case. He argued that unions believed that the strong should help the weak. As an example he cited the support AFSCME was giving the strike of Memphis garbage workers which had begun a few weeks earlier. The next day the HGEA Executive Board voted 28-0 against affiliating with AFSCME. Two years later after the passage of a state collective bargaining law, the HGEA affiliated with AFSCME.

Resource Material: Richard N. Billings and John Greenya, Power & the Public Worker (1974).

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Born: 1929-1968 Date: 1968 1 minute 40 sec.

In addition to his civil rights activity Martin Luther King also played an important role in assisting workers in organizing unions.

This excerpt is from a speech King gave on the rainy night of April 3 to a meeting of the Memphis garbage strikers. This meeting took place about two weeks after the previous speech by Jerry Wurf. The next day King was assassinated.

Resource Material: See above. (Martin Luther King).

LABOR AND THE WAR EFFORT #7

SAMUEL GOMPERS Born: 1850-1924 Date: 1918 3 minutes 35 sec.

Sam Gompers was the first President of the AFL. He was elected in 1886 and served until he died in 1924 except when he was defeated for a one-year term in 1894.

This is an excerpt from a speech by Sam Gompers in 1918 in which he stated that labor should support World War I because it was a people's war.

Resource Material: Philip Taft, The AFL in the Time of Gompers (1957).

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT Born: 1882-1945 Date: 1941 5 minutes 03 sec.

Franklin Roosevelt served as Governor of New York State from 1928-1932. Roosevelt was elected President in 1932 and served until his death in 1945 which was in the middle of his fourth term.

This excerpt is from Roosevelt's Labor Day speech in 1941. He stated that the Nazi's aimed to destroy the democracies everywhere and since labor was the foundation of a democracy, it had a special responsibility to win World War II.

Resource Material: James MacGregor Burns, The Lion and the Fox (1956).

WILLIAM GREEN Born: 1873-1962 Date: 1941 3 minutes 08 sec.

William Green served as Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers from 1912-1924. When Sam Gompers died in 1924 John L. Lewis hoped to succeed him as President of the AFL. However, he did not have the votes so Lewis supported Green for that post with the expectation that he would become the power behind the throne. Green served as President of the AFL from 1924-1952. He and Lewis split over the issue of industrial unionism in the 1930's.

In this 1942 excerpt Green emphasized labor's effort to win World War II.

Resource Material: Philip Taft, The AFL from the Death of Gompers to the Merger (1959).

GOERGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1942 4 minutes 7 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-1952. In 1952 he became President of the AFL and retained that post until merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO.

This is an excerpt from a radio broadcast made by George Meany in 1942 to the workers of the countries occupied by the Nazis. Meany cited the productive power of the U.S. and pledged deliverance from Hitler.

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894 Date: 1944 2 minutes 48 sec.

This excerpt is from a speech by George Meany to the 1944 convention of the New York Federation of Labor. Meany commended the state body for its strong support of the war effort.

Resource Material: See above (George Meany).

SIDNEY HILLMAN Born: 1887-1946 Date: 1942 2 minutes 52 sec.

Sidney Hillman served as President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers from its founding in 1914 until his death in 1946. He was also the first Chairman of the CIO's Political Action Committee (PAC). He also held several important government jobs during World War II including that of Associate Director-General of the Office of Production Management. (OPM)

This excerpt is from a speech by Hillman when he was with the OPM in which he urged labor to defend democracy against the aggression of Hitler.

Resource Material: Matthew Josephson, Sidney Hillman, Statesman of Labor (1952).

LABOR AND FOREIGN POLICY #8

EMIL RIEVE Born: 1892-1975 Date: 1950 2 minutes 15 sec.

Emil Rieve served as President of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers from 1929-1939 and President of the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA-CIO) from 1939-1956 when he retired.

In this excerpt Rieve emphasized the threat posed by communism and explained the need for Marshall Plan aid to Western Europe.

Resource Material: Walter Galenson, The CIO Challenge to the AFL: A History of the American Labor Movement (1960).

GEORGE MEANY Born: 1894- Date: 1965 2 minutes 24 sec.

George Meany served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL from 1932-52. In 1952 he became President of the AFL and retained that post until the merger of the AFL and CIO in 1955. In 1955 he was elected President of the AFL-CIO.

Dean Rusk, U.S. Secretary of State spoke to the 1965 AFL-CIO Convention. In this excerpt while George Meany thanked the speaker, a demonstration against Rusk broke out in the balcony. Meany then requested the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the balcony of the "kookies".

Resource Material: Joseph Goulden, Meany (1972).

HUBERT HUMPHREY Born: 1911-1978 Date: 1965 6 minutes 08 sec.

Hubert Humphrey had a long record of distinguished public service. He served as U.S. Senator for the years 1948-1964 and again from 1970 until his death in 1978. He was Vice-President from 1964-68 and was Democratic Presidential Nominee in 1968.

This excerpt is from a speech made by Humphrey to the 1965 AFL-CIO Convention in which Humphrey defended U.S. policy in Viet Nam and praised the AFL-CIO for supporting the actions of the government.

Resource Material: Hubert Humphrey, The Education of a Public Man: My Life and Politics (1976).

WALTER REUTHER Born: 1907-1970 Date: 1965 4 minutes 39 sec.

Walter Reuther was President of the UAW from 1946 until his death in an aircrash in 1970. He was the last President of the CIO, serving from 1952-55.

This excerpt is from a speech by Reuther to the 1965 AFL-CIO Convention in which Reuther opposed withdrawal from Viet Nam and accused the communists in Hanoi and Peking of starting hostilities.

Resource Material: Victor Reuther: The Brothers Reuther (1976).

EARLY SOCIAL ISSUES AND LABOR #9

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN Born: 1860-1925 Date: 1896 5 minutes 08 sec.

William Jennings Bryan served from 1890-1894 in the House of Representatives as a Democrat from Nebraska. He was the Democratic Presidential nominee in 1896, 1900 and 1908.

This excerpt is from his "Cross of Gold" speech made at the 1896 Democratic convention. It was responsible for his winning the Presidential nomination. In this speech he urged a policy of bimetallism which would permit the free coinage of silver in addition to having the dollar standard, and instead, use silver to back the U.S. dollar backed by gold.

This excerpt is not from the original recording but from a later one made in a studio.

Resource Material: Paul Glad, Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912 (1960).

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT Born: 1857-1930 Date: 1906 2 minutes 06 sec.

William Howard Taft served as Republican President of the United States from 1908-1912. He was elected to office with the strong support of Theodore Roosevelt who had preceded him in that post.

In this excerpt Taft discussed the rights of workers to join unions as well as what he thought were proper limits upon union activities.

Resource Material: K. H. Hechler, Insurgency: Personalities and Politics of the Taft Era (1940).

THEODORE ROOSEVELT Born: 1858-1919 Date: 1912 2 minutes 04 sec.

Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt was elected Republican Vice-President in 1901. When President McKinley was assassinated the following year Roosevelt assumed the Presidency. In 1904 he was elected President and served until 1908. Although Roosevelt had originally supported Taft as his successor, the two men had a falling out. When Taft ran for reelection in 1912 Teddy Roosevelt opposed him as a third party candidate on the Bull Moose ticket.

In this excerpt from a 1912 speech Roosevelt called for a living wage for workers together with a wide range of labor legislation.

Resource Material: William Harbaugh, Power and Responsibility: The Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt (1975).

WOODROW WILSON Born: 1856-1924 Date: 1912 3 minutes 20 sec.

Woodrow Wilson served as Democratic Governor of New Jersey from 1910-12. He was elected President in 1912 in a four-corner race with Taft-the Republican, Roosevelt-the Bull Moose candidate and Gene Debs-the Socialist Party candidate. Wilson was reelected in 1916 for a second term.

In this 1912 excerpt Wilson attacked the program of Roosevelt and the Bull Moose Party. He opposed a minimum wage on the grounds that the employer would reduce his wages to that level.

Resource Material: John Garraty, Woodrow Wilson (1956).

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT Born: 1857-1930 Date: 1912 2 minutes 45 sec.

In this excerpt Taft discussed the value of organization of both labor and capitol and how the country benefited from both.

Resource Material: See above. (William Howard Taft).

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN Born: 1860-1925 Date: 1912 3 minutes 26 sec.

In this 1912 excerpt Bryan discussed the Democratic Party Platform on issues of concern to the labor movement: the eight hour day, elimination of injunctions in labor disputes, exemption of unions from anti-trust laws and the need for a Department of Labor within the cabinet.

Resource Material: See above. (William Jennings Bryan).

FIORIELLO LA GUARDIA Born: 1882-1947 Date: 1945 4 minutes 22 sec.

Fiorello LaGuardia served as Republican Congressman from New York City from 1916-1917; 1918-1920; 1922-1932. He served as Mayor of New York City from 1933-1945.

This excerpt is from a 1945 radio broadcast by LaGuardia to striking long-shoremen urging them to return to work. He promised that if no settlement was reached in one week the dispute would be submitted to arbitration.

Resource Material: Arthur Mann, LaGuardia, A Fighter Against His Times (1959).

EUGENE V. DEBS Born: 1855-1926 Date: 1904 3 minutes 04 sec.

Eugene V. Debs served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen from 1880-1892. In 1892 he became President of the American Railway Union. In 1894 while in jail for violating an injunction issued against his union during the Pullman strike he was converted to socialism. He was the Socialist Party candidate for President in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912 and 1920.

This excerpt is from a speech made during his 1904 Presidential campaign in which he discussed the need for socialism.

Resource Material: Ray Ginger, Eugene V. Debs (1949).

TOM MOONEY Born: 1882-1942 Date: 1939 4 minutes 40 sec.

Tom Mooney was a member of the Molders Union who tried to organize the street car employees in San Francisco during World War I. A War-Preparedness-Day Parade was held on July 22, 1916. A bomb was thrown into the crowd and ten people were killed. Mooney and a lesser known union member, Warren Billings, were arrested and convicted on perjured testimony. Mooney was pardoned by Governor Olson in 1939 and Billings' sentence was commuted later that same year. When Mooney was released from prison he went on a national speaking tour. In June of 1939 he spoke to a large number of union members at Madison Square Garden.

In this excerpt from his New York speech he thanks the labor movement for supporting his fight for freedom and described the changes that occurred in unions during the 22 years he spent in prison.

Resource Material: Curt Gentry, Frame-Up (1967).

UPTON SINCLAIR Born: 1878-1968 Date: 1960 3 minutes 35 sec.

Upton Sinclair was a socialist who wrote approximately 90 books, many of them dealing with labor related events. In 1934 he ran for Governor of the State of California on his program to end poverty in California (EPIC).

This excerpt is from an AFL-CIO interview with Sinclair in 1960 when he discussed his book King Coal, which he wrote in 1917. This book deals with the Ludlow Massacre, which took place in 1911 at the Rockefeller owned coal mines in Colorado, in which two women and seven children were killed when their tent colony was torched by company guards.

Resource Material: Upton Sinclair, King Coal (1917).

UPTON SINCLAIR Born: 1878-1968 Date: 1960 2 minutes 08 sec.

This excerpt is from an AFL-CIO interview with Upton Sinclair in 1960 when he discussed his booklet "Fliver King", which he wrote in 1937. This booklet dealt with working conditions at the Ford Motor Company at that time. Sinclair described how this booklet was used by the union in its organizing campaign.

Resource Material: Upton Sinclair, The Fliver King (1937).

UPTON SINCLAIR Born: 1878-1968 Date: 1960 3 minutes 55 sec.

This excerpt is from an AFL-CIO interview with Upton Sinclair in 1960 when he discussed his book, The Jungle, which he wrote in 1906. This book dealt with the bad working and sanitation conditions in the Chicago meat packing industry. The book created such a public furor that legislation was passed cleaning up the industry.

Resource Material: Upton Sinclair, The Jungle (1906).