

Labor in Focus by Marianna Wertz

AFL-CIO convention: Trilateral heyday

This once proud labor union is now nothing but an errand boy for the 'New Yalta' crowd.

Close to 1,000 delegates to the 30th anniversary National Convention of the AFL-CIO, representing 13.2 million trade unionists, met in Anaheim, California, the week of Oct. 27 to rubber stamp the re-election of Trilateral Commission-member Lane Kirkland as president of the national labor federation and to pass more than 250 resolutions, the substance of which had been dictated by the aims and goals of the Trilateral Commission.

The Trilateral Commission's policy, writ large throughout the labor convention, is to decouple the United States from its allies in Western Europe and Ibero-America, and to impose the "post-industrial" age on the entirety of the Western world. The AFL-CIO has been one of the leading voices for these policies around the world since Lane Kirkland took charge.

At the convention, television video outlets posted around the hotel played continuous tapes by the AFL-CIO featuring the federation's 1984 early endorsement of Democratic Presidential candidate Walter Mondale. Trilateral Commission member Mondale's "post-industrial" candidacy, and subsequent resounding defeat, brought disaster to the Democratic Party and the labor federation.

Incredibly, Kirkland fought for and won a unanimous vote—almost all resolutions were voted up unanimously—for a resolution providing for the federation's early endorsement of a presidential candidate in 1988. It has been opposed only by Democratic

Party Chairman Paul Kirk, a Kennedy man, on the grounds that such early endorsement brands the recipient a candidate of "special interests." Its sole purpose is to position the federation to bring money and campaign workers to the Democratic candidate whom the Trilateral Commission chooses to run in 1988.

A highlight of the convention was the presentation of the George Meany Human Rights Award to Ernesto F. Herrera, secretary-general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, who used the opportunity to lash out at Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, America's staunchest ally in the Pacific. Playing into the Trilateral Commission Iran-style destabilization script for the Philippines, Herrera accused Marcos of "cronyism and corruption . . . disregard of due process, [and] police brutalities."

A second resolution, condemning U.S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels fighting the communist Sandinista regime, passed with few dissensions. This was a boost for Trilateral Commission founder Zbigniew Brzezinski, who has led the Commission's effort to withdraw American troops from Western Europe, using as a pretext the necessity of protecting American interests in Central America from the Soviet-backed forces there.

Kirkland's keynote speech, and the speech of Trilateral Commission member Sol Chaikin, were violent attacks on the Reagan administration and the allies of the United States. The huge federal budget and trade deficits,

Kirkland lied, "did not arise from the profligacy of previous Democratic administrations, nor do they grow out of any inherent vice in our political, social or economic system," but are the "creation and the ultimate legacy of Ronald Reagan, as a poison pill in the body politic."

With the kind of rhetoric not heard since Nikita Khrushchev's shoe-banging speech at the United Nations, Kirkland bellowed, "We are going to outlast the bastards and sign up their undertakers on our way forward into the future."

The actual author of the disastrous economic policies which America has followed for the past eight years, Federal Reserve Bank chairman Paul Volcker, was not mentioned by Kirkland. Indeed, Trilateral Commission member Volcker's policies have never once been denounced by labor leaders associated with the AFL-CIO. In Ibero-America, where Volcker's policies are under attack from Peruvian President Alan García, the AFL-CIO's American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) has worked against Volcker's enemies!

International Ladies Garment Workers Union President Sol Chaikin, also a Trilateraloid, kept up the drumbeat on "foreign imports," a favorite whipping boy of the Trilateral labor bureaucrats. A resolution calling for drastic tariffs and import quotas was the first to pass the convention.

Because of the treasonous leadership of the AFL-CIO under Kirkland, Chaikin, and their ilk, union members now make up less than 20% of the American work force, down from a high of 35% when the federation was formed in 1955. The future of trade unions in America—once a leading voice for American system economics—is bleak indeed, as long as Trilateralism continues to be tolerated at the helm.