

Frey Flops As Texas C. I. O. Gains

Los Angeles Labor Council's Mediation Plan Condemned

By GEORGE PAPCUN

HOUSTON.—The drive to organize the 14 billion dollar oil industry is gaining momentum throughout the country; particularly in the three centers, Killgore, Texas, the center of the world's largest oil field, in Oklahoma City, capitol of the middle west oil industry, and in the Houston, Port Arthur and Beaumont district, the world's largest refining and distributing center.

At the same time the oil companies have been announcing wage increases with a big share of publicity. The oil companies, not sure that the wage increases will stop organization, are trying to pep up company unions and all kinds of vicious propaganda is being issued against the CIO throughout the oil industry, particularly among workers of the Humble Oil and Refining Co. and the Texas Oil Co. Pamphlets by the thousands are being distributed entitled "Join the CIO for a Soviet America" in which attacks are being made against John L. Lewis, Powers Hapgood and Adolph Germer.

Nevertheless, Local Union No. 227 of the oil-workers announced the initiation of 156 new members Thursday, April 19, making a total of 250 members initiated this

month. At the same meeting this local voted to vigorously oppose the anti-sit-down bill pending in Texas legislature. They also passed approval of all plans of the CIO and the Executive Council for the organization of the oil industry.

CALL FOR INTERVENTION

The labor movement throughout Texas is worried about the split in the AFL, many groups being dissatisfied over the expulsions taking place. And some very dangerous resolutions are being adopted by some central labor bodies and local labor unions, asking for the intervention of President Roosevelt to act as a conciliator between the AFL and CIO leaders.

Such a resolution was adopted by the Houston Central Labor Council several weeks ago and by the Port Arthur Central Labor Council April 15. It seems that this resolution is being sponsored by the Central Labor Council of Los Angeles, California. They are particularly dangerous because they bring about intervention by the government of the United States into labor disputes.

The whole labor movement throughout Texas and the Southwest has been stimulated as a

result of the drive to organize the oil workers.

In Fort Worth, Texas, a four day strike of employees of the Lone Star Gas Co. ended April 15 when officials of the corporation recognized the right of collective bargaining and a compromise settlement was made by the strikers. In Houston Local No. 550 of the Sign Painters called a strike Thursday, April 15. Several concerns have already signed.

FREY A FLOP

The wildly heralded mass meeting arranged by the Central Labor Council, held April 15 and attended by several hundred workers, when John P. Frey made an attack on the CIO, turned out to be a dud, insofar as its effect on the oil workers is concerned. All local unions in Houston are experiencing a phenomenal growth in membership.

An attempt this week on the part of the AFL to split a small local of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here in Houston from the national organization because of its CIO affiliations, was blocked when an organizer of the national organization came here and explained to the local members the issues in-

volved. By a majority vote the local deposed the officials who were trying to engineer the split and voted to remain with the parent organization.

Dem.-Rep. Congressmen Scared By Sit-Down

WASHINGTON, D. C.—After an internal fight, the House Labor Committee approved the Senate-adopted resolution condemning sit-down strikes and employer violations of the Wagner Act as contrary to "sound public policy."

The committee vote to report the resolution favorably was 11 to 4. Earlier the committee, after a long discussion, tabled a motion by 8 to 7 to delay consideration of the resolution until members had had an opportunity to study the Supreme court's decision on the Wagner Act cases.

Opponents to reporting the Senate resolution held that the Supreme Court had already decided the issue, that Congress had no power to legislate on sit-down strikes and that it would not be advisable to take up the resolution which, they felt, might "complicate" the present situation.