Resolution in Opposition to the Butler Bill

This year as last, Senator John Marshall Butler, Republican from Maryland, introduced in Congress a bill titled "The Defense Facilities Protection Act." The avowed purpose of this bill is to keep Communists and fellow-travelers from working in plants which have any connection with defense work for the government.

What this bill would actually do, however, is to place practically every industrial worker in the country under the control and scrutiny of the federal government. The loyalty program involving federal employees, which has been subject to much deserved criticism, would be extended to cover millions upon millions of loyal and honest working men and women in private industry.

The author of the bill, Senator Butler, was elected to the Senate in 1950 after engaging in one of the most dishonest and degrading smear campaigns in our nation's history. He even stooped so low as to enlist the aid and assistance of Senator Joseph McCarthy. Since his election he has established himself as one of the most reactionary and labor-hating men in the entire Senate.

Fortunately his bill failed to come up in the Senate this year. It was opposed by both the CIO and the AFL as dangerous legislation with all the earmarks of the police state. It would do more to help the Communists than it would to harm them.

There is still the possibility that Senator Butler in a desperate attempt to win votes in the 1956 election will try and push his bill through the next session of Congress. Organized labor must continue to remain on the alert to oppose such legislation.

Therefore be it resolved: That the IUE-CIO Civil Rights Conference here assembled goes on record in opposition to the Defense Facilities Protection Act authored by Senator Butler of Maryland. It urges Congress to vote down this bill as a dangerous infringement on the rights of workers.