On Repeal of Right-To-Work Law
In Louisiana

The Executive Board of the National Agricultural Workers Union AFL-CIO expresses its disapproval of the following sentence from the June 9th, legislative newsletter of the Louisiana State Labor Council, AFL-CIO: "Labor diligently sponsored House Bill 255, applying right-to-work provisions to agricultural workers only."

House Bill 255 was passed soon after the recent repeal by the Louisiana legislature of the right-to-work law. Its enactment aimed at agricultural workers and processing workers was the key in the agreement leading to passage of the repeal measure. The agricultural right-to-work bill sponsored by the AFL-CIO State Council was amended to include sugar mill workers, cotton seed oil, rice mill, irrigation and transportation workers.

Louisiana labor leadership, in participating actively in this agreement, bargained away as sacrificial pawns the large, most insecure and defenseless body of workers in the economy - the agricultural and processing workers - in order to benefit other segments of labor whose wages and working conditions are princely compared to those of agricultural workers.

This is a shockingly cynical, inhuman and immoral action. In effect it announces that the organized labor movement in Louisiana turns its back on agricultural workers as human beings and denies them its aid in seeking to improve their conditions.

This action contravenes all ethical principles espoused and inculcated by our country's educational system and by all our religions. It adds plausibility to charges that organized labor is becoming so large a business-and-power combination that it is losing concern for the welfare of workers whose income is too low to offer prospect of immediate substantial returns to union treasuries.

The Executive Board instructs the president to protest by wire this action of the Louisiana labor leadership to AFL-CIO President George Meany and other AFL-CIO officers and to urge immediate repudiation by them of the action by the Louisiana labor leaders. It also instructs its officers to wire Governor Earl K. Long of Louisiana urging him to approve the outright repeal of the right-to-work legislation and to veto the right-to-work provisions of House Bill 255. The Executive Board further ordered that copies of this statement be forwarded to all affiliates of AFL-CIO, with the urgent request that they too condemn this action respecting agricultural and processing workers. The Board voiced its intention to continue its efforts on behalf of agricultural workers despite such cold and calculated political maneuvers as that in Louisiana. (Copies of the telegrams sent follow)