



APR 27 1945

Pressure Group Demands Filibuster Against FEPC

Southern States Industrial Council Spends Money to Influence Congress

By MILTON MURRAY
PM's Bureau



WASHINGTON, Apr. 27

—A subsidized propaganda campaign to whip up a full-fledged Congressional filibuster against the Fair Employment Practices Bill was revealed today.

The campaign is backed by the Southern States Industrial Council of Nashville, Tenn. It is utilizing the efforts of expert publicists and a mass of direct mail.

Objective is to nullify the Democratic procedure of American government, to block at all costs the constitutional covenant of majority rule.

C. C. Gilbert, Council secretary, in an inflammatory letter broadsided to a large mailing list, frankly admits:

"It is generally conceded that perhaps the only chance to defeat this bill is through a filibuster by Southern Senators when it reaches that body."

Hate Over All

To Gilbert and the Southern States Industrial Union Council, no other pending matter of legislation—Bretton Woods, tariff agreements, even possibly ratification of a United Nations world security pact—is as important as blocking a law that would give a Negro, a Jew, or a Catholic a chance to get a job.

On the filibuster, Gilbert wrote: "We can keep our heads in the sand no longer. If you want this legislation stopped, write your Senators and Congressmen to this effect at once."

Gilbert writes in tones reminiscent of the days before the Civil War—the War between the States—as he warns that the proposal to ban discrimination in employment "would actually provoke riots and upheavals in the South."

Who's Who

"One of the most vicious pieces of legislation ever introduced in Congress," he says of the bill to give all men and women an equal right to earn a living. "It is entirely un-American in concept and it would certainly be 'anti-Southern' in practice."

Gilbert warns of the fine and imprisonment penalties included for those who are convicted of discriminating "because of race, creed, color, national origin, or ancestry."

"It thus would deny the employer his traditional American right of using his own sound judgment in selecting loyal and capable employes," he says. "Trial could be brought against an employer simply by impugning his motives! Initiative and energy and thrift would rank no higher than incompetence and laziness and wastefulness."

The letterhead of the Southern States Industrial Council includes an illustrious list of Southern bankers and employers. They are: President, Rush Cole, vice president, Monsanto Chemical Co., St. Louis; vice president for Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, John U. Barr, general manager, Federal Filtration Mills, New Orleans; vice president

for Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia, James D. Francis, president, Island Creek Coal Co., Huntington, W. Va.; vice president for Alabama, Georgia and Florida, L. L. Gellerstedt, executive vice president of the Citizens and Southern National Bank, Atlanta; vice president for Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma, Howard L. Young, president of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Co., St. Louis; vice president for Virginia, North and South Carolina, J. E. Baker, president, Baker-Cammack Hosiery Mills, Burlington, N. C.

Tyre Taylor of Washington is general counsel and S. L. Durham, Nashville, treasurer. The officers serve on an executive committee which also includes Lipscomb Davis, Nashville; E. J. McMillan, Knoxville, Tenn.; C. C. Shephard, Clarks, La., and Grant Stauffer, Kansas City, Mo.

Obsolete Cause?

Part of the propaganda broadcast to newspapers by the Council is a column captioned *Down South* by Thurman Sensing, the Council's research director, and headlined: *The South Is Threatened.*

Sensing picks up much of the language used by Gilbert and complains that "this is a fight the South will have to wage largely alone, that very little help can be expected from outside the Southern region."

This isolation, he feels, "should only make us more determined to throw off our passivity, reassert our rights and fight all the harder for our principles."

The fight against FEPC, Sensing hopes, will awaken the South "to the necessity of utilizing its voting strength hereafter to protecting the interests of the South and not in blind adherence to an obsolete cause that no longer needs defending."

He does not explain what the cause is.