The Wetback Crisis

(Continued from page 11)

4) to give Mexican contract workers the right of representation and union affiliation,
5) to allow the representatives of organized labor of both countries to participate fully in the negotiation of international agreements and to individual labor contracts as well as in the supervision of their actual application with respect to wages and general conditions,
6) to condemn and fight any type of discrimination, and
7) to form a permanent U. S.-Mexican labor committee through which the unions of the two countries active in identical industries can develop methods to strengthen their mutual ties to form a broader and more solid basis for future collaboration.

New Developments Since Mexico City

Since the Mexico City meeting, a number of developments have taken place. The standing Mexican-United States agreement expired, and our government refused to sign a new treaty until certain conditions were met by the Mexican authorities. In order to bring pressure to bear, Congress with the assent of the administration, pushed through unilateral legislation opening the border to all illegal entrants. In strong messages to the President, the CIO and other U. S. labor organizations protested this procedure and disastrous new legislation.

In addition, CIO President Walter Reuther, in testimony before Congressional committees, branded the new policy as "shockingly inadequate" and characterized the program for bringing in foreign labor—even under agreement—as a grave damage to labor's legitimate interests and a plan to displace U. S. workers in the interests of greater profits for the big planters.

Protests from CIO and other trade union groups in the U. S. resulted in a limited degree of success; the U. S. government signed a new agreement with Mexico, but the Congressional legislation which provides for unilateral recruitment is still on the books. Moreover, the new agreement is no improvement over the old one, and in some respects, is worse.

The CIO plans to keep a close watch on this situation. It will continue, in particular, to urge our government to conclude an agreement which will truly protect Mexican and United States workers. A permanent "watchdog" committee, consisting of representatives of the CTM, the CIO and the AFL has been set up and will meet shortly to decide on further joint steps. The CIO members are as follows: O. A. Knight, president of the CIO Oilworkers; R. J. Thomas, assistant director of organization; Nicholas Dragon, CIO representative; and Ernst Schwarz, secretary of the CIO Latin American Affairs Committee, consultant.

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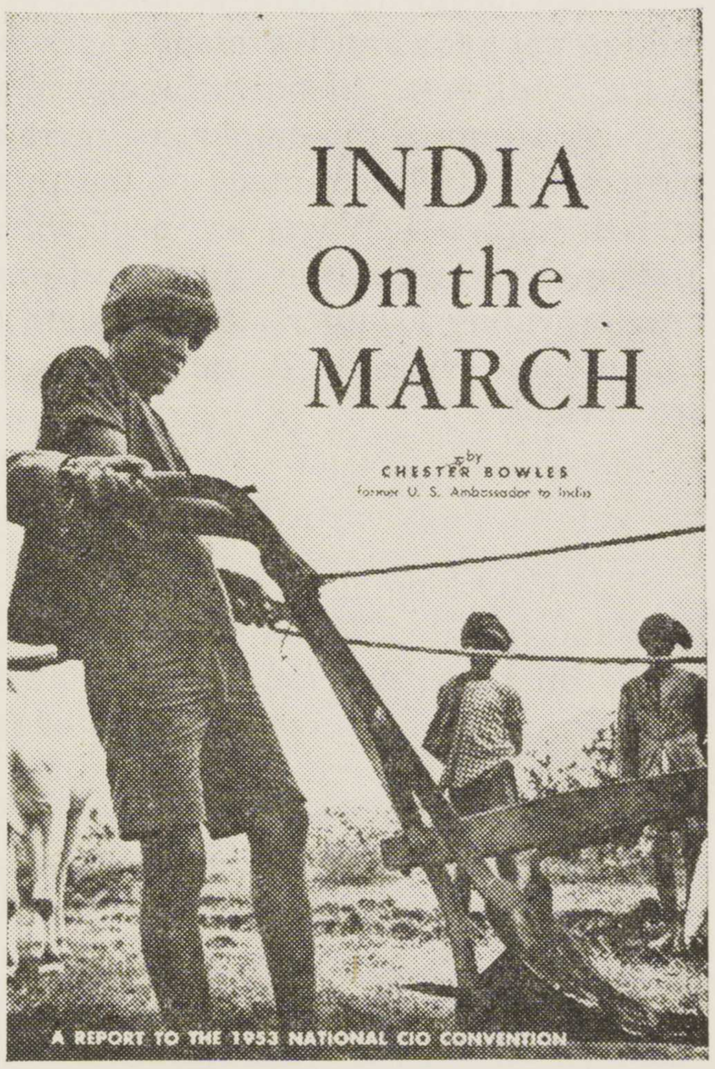
NEW CIO PAMPHLET



A new CIO pamphlet—India on the March—has just been published by the CIO International Committee. It is an illustrated account of an address made at the National CIO Convention last November by Chester Bowles, former U. S. Ambassador to India. In a foreword, Jacob S. Potofsky, Chairman of the CIO International Committee, says: "In this eye witness account, Chester Bowles, former U. S. Ambassador to India, has vividly described the dynamic revolution now taking place among more than one billion people who inhabit the vast reaches of Asia and Africa, the Near East and South America—in the 'uncommitted' areas of the world." Copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from the CIO Publicity Department, 718 Jackson Place, Washington 6, D. C. Prices, 15 cents per copy, 50 for $7, 100 for $13, 500 for $60.