

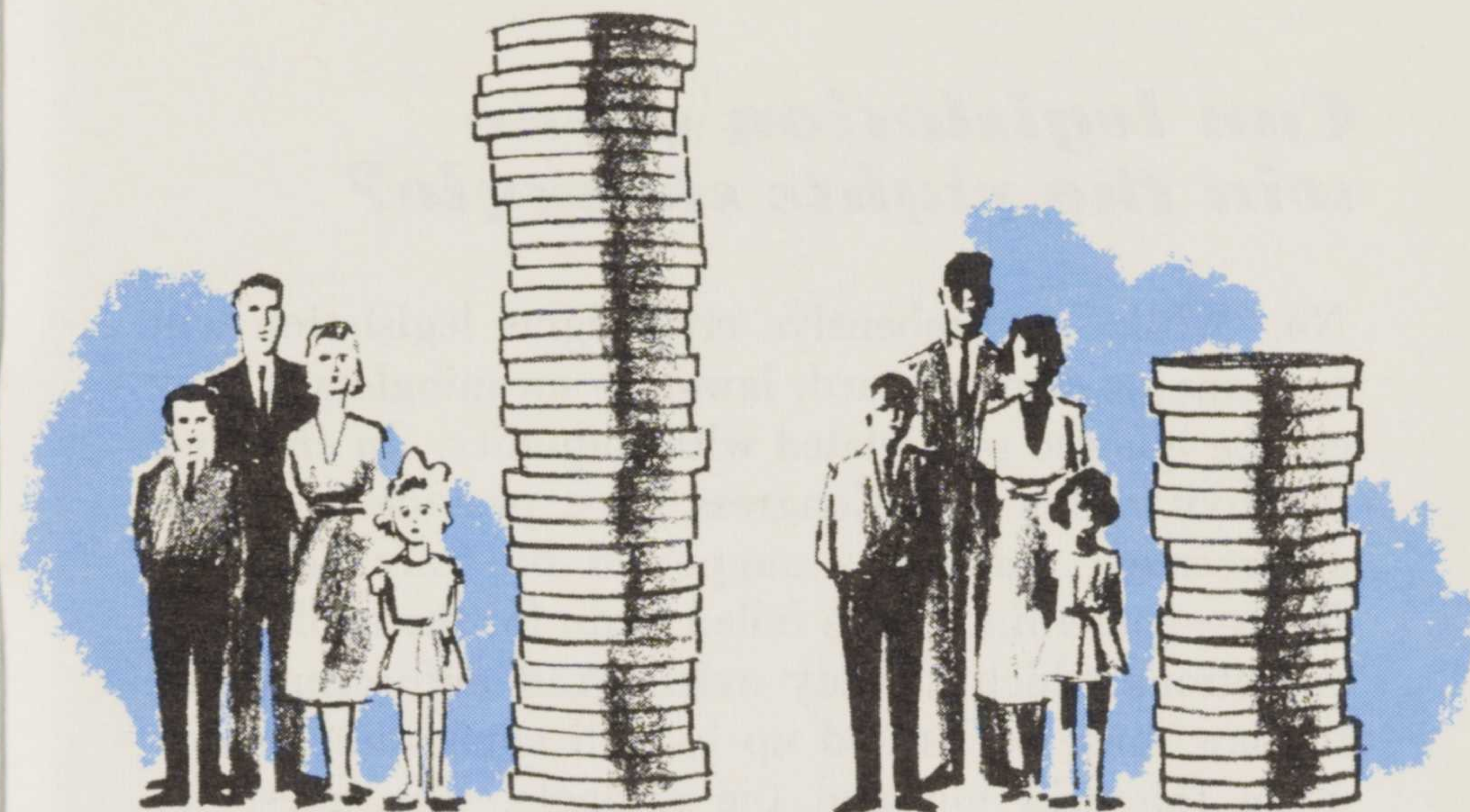
What is the AFL-CIO's relationship with civil rights groups?

The AFL-CIO works with all men and organizations of good faith, of proven adherence to the spirit and substance of democracy, whether they be special local committees, permanent civil rights organizations, church groups or government agencies. This has been the policy of the AFL-CIO on all issues.

What are the employers doing?

The answer to this question is a sad and shameful reflection on the leaders of American business and industry. There are, to be sure, a number of employers who for many years have followed a fully non-discriminatory policy. But all the major organizations, which purport to speak for employers, such as the National Association of Manufacturers, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Retail Federation—are openly and actively opposed to fair employment practices legislation.

Newspaper stories early in 1964 told of a growing alliance between employers and right-wing extremist organizations, with opposition to FEP as the chief goal. Some employers try to justify their position on



the grounds that an FEP law would be “excessive government interference;” yet they make no move to eliminate discrimination themselves.

In some cases, at least, the disgraceful attitude of some employers may have an economic motive. According to a Department of Commerce survey, the average income of a white family in 1961 was \$5,570; the average for a Negro family was \$2,908. This spells low Negro wages; this is what some employers want. Where equal employment opportunities have been won by Negroes, the record shows that unions have in almost every instance led or actively participated in the fight—almost always against last-ditch resistance by employer spokesmen. And unless protected by union contract or by law, the Negro generally continues to be the lowest paid, the last hired and the first fired.