

Success will not come easily. The record of the last century proves that man's rights do not become established by declaring them to be valid; logic and reason do not automatically prevail over bigotry.

Unions know this well, out of their own experience. Unions were created to fight against injustice. They were instruments of protest, deplored by public officials and much of the citizenry. They were often accused of flagrant civil disobedience.

For example, many trade unionists no older than middle age can well remember when local ordinances or court injunctions forbade the holding of a union meeting, even on private property owned or rented by the union. The "right of the people peaceably to assemble" often had no local standing, despite the Constitution. Workers had no alternative; they followed the Constitution.

In the end the law was on their side. Local restrictions on the right of assembly were struck down by the Supreme Court. Civil disobedience has all but vanished as a trade union tactic because the rights of labor are now backed by the force of law. Surely the rights of man deserve no less.

It would be futile to pretend that the 13½ million members of AFL-CIO unions are without exception devoted to the cause of civil rights. They are a cross-section of America, and they reflect the diversity of the nation. But just as truly they reflect the American consensus. That consensus, expressed by AFL-CIO conventions and by conventions of the affiliated na-

tional and international unions, is the basis for the AFL-CIO's determination to abolish all forms of discrimination. It was the basis of our long and vigorous fight for enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and it is the basis of our continuing campaign for the full observance of that law, in letter and spirit.

The AFL-CIO constitution invites "all workers, without regard to race, creed, color or national origin to share in the full benefits of union organization." We are pledged in equal measure to see that all workers share fully in every other aspect of American life; for our cause is the brotherhood of workers and the brotherhood of man.

