

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted at the

FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. FEBRUARY 20-22, 1937

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

1627 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

- (2) The Federal Government has acknowledged its responsibility to provide relief to the unemployed but has failed to make adequate provision for such relief; and
- (3) The experience of the past three years has proven the value of public works for relief of the unemployed and the maintenance of mass purchasing power; and
- (4) Demands are being made for curtailment of public expenditures without regard for the continuing need of millions of workers and their dependents.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

We call upon the President and the Congress to continue the public works and relief program of the past three years to the extent of the need of the surplus unemployed workers of the nation.

16. RESOLUTION RELATING TO WPA PROJECTS

WHEREAS:

- (1) Many projects useful to the public, requiring the services of lawyers or of other professional persons, cannot be carried out except with governmental aid; and
- (2) The government has been deprived of the services of many competent lawyers and other professional persons because, though in need of aid, they properly refuse to subject themselves to a "needs test" which would result in injury to their professional standing in the community and the impairment of their professional rehabilitation.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We approve the establishment of socially useful government work projects for lawyers and professional persons who are unemployed or whose income from private practice is insufficient to maintain a reasonably decent minimum standard of living.
2. In view of the exceptional social and economic conditions attendant upon the practice of law and of other professions, we recommend that qualifications for such persons shall not include a "needs test" and compensation for such persons shall be in an amount sufficient to maintain a decent standard of living determined in accordance with local needs.

17. RESOLUTION RELATING TO CIVIL LIBERTIES

WHEREAS:

- (1) The widespread destruction of civil liberties in other countries is symptomatic of world wide tendencies which are making themselves felt within our own borders, requiring us to be vigilant against impairment of such liberties at home; and
- (2) It is the duty of the bar to lead in the fight for the preservation of these liberties.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We deplore the increasing number of attacks upon personal liberties.

2. We urge the repeal of all legislation restricting freedom of speech and of opinion, including teachers' oath statutes, and all legislation making criminal the advocacy of the doctrines of or membership in any political party.

3. We condemn the censorship of books, plays, moving pictures and the radio, wherever it exists.

4. We condemn unreasonable limitations often imposed on the rights of demonstration, petition and assembly and on the distribution of leaflets and pamphlets.

5. We favor the enactment of federal legislation against lynching.

6. We condemn illegal action of the police, such as the use of the third degree and the holding of persons in "protective custody" and recommend that effective means be employed to subject to criminal and civil liability officers violating rights of persons and that legislation be enacted imposing responsibility upon local communities for such violations.

7. We condemn the impairment of civil rights which often accompanies the use of the National Guard and recommend the adoption of legislation which will subject all armed forces, so long as the civil courts are in operation, to the same duty to respect the fundamental rights of citizens as are by law imposed on ordinary police.

8. We advocate amendment of the Immigration Laws so as to provide for:

- (a) Restoration of the traditional policy of asylum for political refugees.
- (b) Review of the determination of the Department of Labor by a trial *de novo* before court and jury.
- (c) Elimination of opinion and advocacy as grounds of exclusion or deportation to the end that aliens shall enjoy the same freedom of conscience and expression as citizens.
- (d) Administrative discretion to relax the law in cases of aliens with American spouses or children, and in other instances of hardship.

9. We heartily endorse the work of the LaFollette Committee on Civil Liberties of the United States Senate in uncovering the efforts of many persons to destroy essential civil rights and we recommend that Congress provide for the continuance of this investigation with adequate funds.

18. RESOLUTION RELATING TO LABOR RELATIONS

WHEREAS:

- (1) There have been widespread denials of labor's right to organize; and
- (2) The existence of strong and responsible labor unions is essential to industrial peace.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We uphold the right of labor to organize free from employer

OFFICIAL BALLOT

On

Resolutions Adopted at the First National Convention of the National Lawyers Guild*

As a member of the Guild you are asked to mark the following ballot so as to express your opinion upon each of the questions submitted, and to mail the ballot together with your current national dues to Mortimer Riemer, Secretary, 1627 K. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. No ballot received after April 1, 1937, will be counted.

(Vote with an X mark)

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Resolution No. 2 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 5 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 6 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 7 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 8 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 9 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 10 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 11 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 12 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 13 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 14 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 15 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 16 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 17 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 18 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 19 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 20 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution No. 21 | Approve <input type="checkbox"/> | Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> |

* Resolutions No. 1, 3, and 4 adopted by the Convention are not included in this ballot. No. 1 is a formal resolution of appreciation and Nos. 3 and 4 are resolutions calling for a referendum on amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

interference of any kind, to bargain collectively, with the right to strike, to picket and to boycott, and we favor legislation to ensure these ends and to outlaw company unions.

2. We advocate the adoption of laws similar to the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and of laws prohibiting the private employment and compensation of law-enforcement officers, and of laws prohibiting the use of labor spies.

3. We uphold the right of employees to organize free from employer interference of any kind and to bargain collectively and we favor legislation to ensure these ends.

19. RESOLUTION RELATING TO SIT-DOWN STRIKE

WHEREAS:

(1) Labor, in its struggle for the right to organize and bargain collectively, has, within recent months, resorted to a new economic weapon, the sit-down strike; and

(2) The economic, social and legal aspects of the sit-down strike are fit subjects for consideration by the National Lawyers Guild.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The subject of the sit-down strike be referred to a committee for study and report.

20. RESOLUTION RELATING TO VOTING AND ELECTIONS

WHEREAS:

(1) In many states, adult citizens by various undemocratic devices and restrictions, are denied the right to participate in the selection of candidates for election and in the election of such candidates; and

(2) In many states minority groups are hampered in their efforts to secure a place on the ballot.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We favor the removal of all restrictions upon the suffrage inconsistent with the widest realization of universal suffrage.

2. We favor the repeal of all unreasonable restrictions on the placing of minority parties upon the ballot.

21. RESOLUTION RELATING TO DIVORCE LAWS

WHEREAS:

(1) Under our existing divorce laws, the status of many persons who re-marry after a divorce obtained in a foreign state is that of bigamist in the state of matrimonial domicile; and

(2) Children of such second marriages are deemed legitimate in some states, and illegitimate in others; and

(3) Many abuses have grown up in connection with the obtaining of divorces under existing laws.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

We favor the appointment of a Committee to investigate and to report concerning the adoption of Uniform Divorce Laws.