

Gervin (cont'd) "It is of paramount importance that the workers remain in one group, that those who seem to be in the minority stay with that group, for if you, the minority, go your own way, you are heading for destruction and unfortunately, you will bring down the whole organization with you."

"This country, and indeed the whole world would go down, if we didn't go along with the majority. It is up to you to decide. I would say you had decided when you took the vote on the question last fall."

"HISTORY MAKING RESOLUTION DETAILED"

- the convention agreed that the resolutions' committee retire and endeavor to return with an unanimous motion for concurrence.
- they later returned, stating that their membership asked that the resolution be put to the membership as a whole.
- speaking in favour of the resolution (to affiliate with the Teamsters) Bryan Cooney, former director of the organization for the Federation, said there had been some dissention, "and possibly I've caused some of it. It has been said that I'm paid by the Teamsters. I am not. I am on UIC".
- Cooney said that he had not been in favour of the affiliation, a while back, but had had cause to change his mind.
- "He had thought that the time was not ripe for affiliation (such an) but the strike in the summer of 1955 had caused him to change his mind".
- "Our weaknesses became apparent to those we had to deal with, and the only thing, is to strengthen our organization, and I believe that the Teamsters can give us that strength."
- "opposition speakers, including Charles Vincent of Pentiction and Clarence Holmes of Vernon took the floor with a plea for not authorizing the amalgamation. Holmes said that the meetings where the matter was debated and voted on had been given to understand, "They might as well go along with it because the majority will", to which many delegates shouted "No, No that's not correct"."
- he continued to speak, however, "We have found there is no advantage in joining with the Teamsters. We have had local autonomy, but with the Teamsters the head of that organization in Miami would be able to censure anything we did that they didn't like."
- debate continued for a short time longer, but after the final return of the committee the delegates ruled that there be no further discussion and that the matter be put to a vote at once.
- Several opposition speakers still got to their feet endeavoring to get a hearing, but were finally compelled to follow the dictates of the convention as a whole.
- A secret ballot was called for, the vote being 34 in favor to 20 against.
- the convention reconvened as a teamster convention
- first speaker to be called upon was John Sweeney, secretary treasurer of the Western Council of Teamsters, "I am now here as one of your official spokesman," "As the result of the action that you took a little while ago, I can assure you that our job is to try to help you in getting better wages and working conditions. We are in business to secure for the people who work for a living, decent wages,