

FOR: International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO  
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AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY, FIRE FIGHTERS' PRESIDENT BUCK  
VOICE SUPPORT FOR NON-STRIKING MEMBERS OF  
ATLANTA FIRE FIGHTERS' UNION

WASHINGTON--Statements of support for the members of Local 134 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, who declined to join a strike by a breakaway unaffiliated organization of fire fighters was voiced today by AFL-CIO President George Meany and President Wm. D. Buck of the International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Meany said in a telegram to President James Moore of the Atlanta Labor Council, AFL-CIO, that:

"President Buck of International Association of Fire Fighters has informed me of the vicious campaign being carried on to condemn those members of Local 134 of Fire Fighters in Atlanta who have remained loyal to observance of their international union constitution prohibiting strikes.

"I would urge you and Atlanta Labor Council to lend all moral support to those loyal members of Local 134 who are aware of their obligation, as fire fighters, to the public safety of the city of Atlanta."

Immediately following the announcement of Mr. Meany's wire, IAFF President Buck issued the following statement:

"The officers and members of the International Association of Fire Fighters are gratified by the statement of support issued by AFL-CIO President George Meany on behalf of the responsible and courageous members of Local 134, IAFF, who have kept faith with their responsibility to protect the people of Atlanta from fire under all possible circumstances.

"It is time to set the record straight and clear. The good union members in Atlanta are the members of Local 134 who have stayed at their post, in accordance with their union constitution and their personal oath of responsibility.

"In all the excitement of charges and accusation, propaganda has clouded over the fact that these Local 134 members are the real trade unionists, who deserve the support of organized labor and the general public. George Meany has clearly seen the true facts and on behalf of American labor he has spoken out in support of basic AFL-CIO principles.



"The IAFF recognizes that the fire fighters of Atlanta have for many years had serious grievances, and the city government's slowness in responding to the needs of the fire fighters is directly to blame for the present situation. But even that past failure on the part of the city government does not justify the action of those who walked away from their union and their obligation.

"On behalf of the IAFF we salute the men of Local 134 who stayed at their post. We can only hope that Atlanta recognizes and applauds their loyalty by developing a program of real and effective collective bargaining and we offer our full support in helping them rebuild Local 134 to full strength once again."

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