



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

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April 3, 1968

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AFSCME  
HEADQUARTERS

TO: All Michigan AFSCME Local Union Presidents, Chapter  
Chairmen and Councils

FROM: Tom Fitzpatrick, Michigan Area Director

SUBJECT: Memphis Crisis

On February 12, 1968, more than 1300 sanitation workers in the City of Memphis, Tennessee, members of AFSCME Local #1733, were forced on strike by inhuman and intolerable working conditions.

Since that period, the strike has been marked with police brutality that rivals the terrorism of Hitler's storm troopers as evidenced by the front page of the current issue of AFSCME's "Public Employee".

What was at stake in Memphis when the strike began, namely, union recognition and a bonafide grievance procedure for Memphis City workers, has now reached a proportion where the Mayor and the Council of the City of Memphis are seeking an outstanding example of union busting to prevent further unionization of public employees in the South.

What happens on the streets of Memphis will have a major impact on the bread and butter of public employees in every State of the Nation; for the employers will look to the lessons learned at Memphis and follow the example, possibly even in your community.

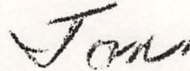
Each of us has a moral and fraternal responsibility to rise to the challenge and support the members of Local #1733. I am, therefore, requesting that your local union membership be appraised of the situation and the necessity for standing shoulder to shoulder behind the members of Local #1733 and that you make whatever financial contribution your treasury can afford to insure that no AFSCME member in Memphis is without bread on his table, or shoes for his children's feet.

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Secondly, that you deluge the Mayor of the City of Memphis, Henry L<sup>o</sup>eb, and the City Council with post cards, telegrams and letters from your members stating....that the refusal of the management of the City of Memphis to bargain in good faith with their employees is rapidly earning the contempt of decent citizens throughout the country.


I know that we can count on you to bring the total power of our Union's 50,000 members in Michigan to the picket lines in Memphis.

Best wishes,



Tom Fitzpatrick  
Michigan Area Director

TF:cc

cc: Jerry Wurf  
~~P. J. Ciampa~~   
Joseph Ames  
Local #1733