

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE

BY CLINT BROWN, UFCW 881, PRESIDENT CHICAGO CHAPTER

The A. Philip Randolph Institute is the senior constituency group of the National AFL-CIO; there are 114 chapters throughout the country. The Chicago Chapter operates within the goals established by the national leaders: political and social freedom and economic justice for all workers. The Chicago Chapter APRI is seeking African American Labor Leaders to join this worthwhile and historic organization.

Since its formation, the policies and programs of the Institute have been governed by strict adherence to the political values and principles exemplified by A. Philip Randolph. Those values and principles are:

1. **Commitment to Work Within the Labor Movement.**

The Institute is firmly committed to racial integration; it rejects the idea that black workers can or should solve their own problems in isolation from the overall Labor Movement. Thus, the tactics and strategies of the Institute must parallel the tactics and strategies of the mainstream trade union movement.

2. **Commitment to Democracy at Home and Abroad.**

The Institute believes that full participation by all people is the only sure guarantee for democracy. Without the democratic involvement of the great majority of black people, the goals of economic equality and respect for human rights will never be achieved. However, our struggle is intimately linked to similar struggles for democracy throughout the world. Such movements can survive and succeed only where political democracy exists. Because of its commitment to international democracy, the Institute has supported clear positions on the survival of democratic states (such as Israel), opposition to apartheid, (as in South Africa) and full support for refugees from oppression. The Institute will continue to support positions on other crucial domestic and foreign policy issues as they emerge.



3. **Non-Endorsement of Political Candidates.** As a non-partisan organization, the Institute shall not endorse political candidates or support political parties. Because of its strict non-endorsement policy, the Institute serves as a unifying force within both the black community and the Labor Movement.

WHAT WE SUPPORT:

- Policies to promote racial, economic & social justice
- Policies to promote a decent wage, high growth, full employment economy
- Labor law reform and worker health and safety protections
- Decent minimum living standards for all, including anti-poverty programs, a fair minimum wage and comprehensive “safety net”
- Legislation that will guarantee a minimum amount of earned sick time for workers to care for their own illness or their families.
- Progressive and fair tax policies
- Education, apprenticeship, and training programs
- Registering Voters
- Organizing non-partisan get-out-the-vote drives
- Non-partisan Voter Education
- Fair Work Week Scheduling

For more information regarding the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Chicago Chapter, go to www.apri.org or contact Clint Brown at 847-294-5064, ext. 321.

