



AMERICANS FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
AND
MASSACHUSETTS STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO



ENERGY EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECT

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FOR RELEASE
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DOE AWARDS AFEI AND MASSACHUSETTS STATE LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
GRANT FOR ENERGY EDUCATION

Dr. Elihu Bergman, Executive Director of Americans for Energy Independence (AFEI) and Mr. William J.P. Cleary, President of the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, (MSCL), announced that the Department of Energy has awarded an \$82,555 grant to AFEI and the MSCL to develop a prototype program to inform union members about national energy policy and to involve members and their families in energy education and conservation efforts.

The project will last for 18 months and has two major parts. The first will be a conference for local labor leaders on Monday, March 26, 1979 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Harvard Business School. Speakers will include Dr. Hans A. Bethe, Nobel Laureate, Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, Mrs. Esther Peterson, Special Assistant to the President on Consumer Affairs, Lt. Gov. Thomas P. O'Neill, II, Mr. Joseph S. Fitzpatrick, Director of the State Energy Office and Mr. Harold J. Keohane, Director of Region I Department of Energy Office. The conference will be chaired by Prof. D. Quinn Mills of the Harvard Business School.

Part Two of the project will consist of a follow-up program with union leaders establishing ongoing energy education and conservation programs tailored to meet their members' needs.

Mr. Cleary noted that "the labor movement represents a vital, influential and numerically significant segment of the American population. Because of the

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relationship between jobs and energy, labor is especially vulnerable in an energy crisis and has a great stake in the nation's energy viability. And because of a vast membership of individuals who tend to be active in community life and oriented toward practical projects with concrete visible results, labor unions are in an excellent position to take a leading role in citizen energy efforts.

"The MSCL is pleased to work with AFEI in this effort because of AFEI's broad experience in working with community organizations," Cleary said. "AFEI will provide staff support and energy expertise as well as coordinate activities with other groups which have demonstrated a commitment to energy conservation for this demonstration project."

The program will inform union leaders about the economics of energy efficiency and provide them with conservation know-how so they can enlist union members and their families to undertake concrete energy conservation efforts.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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