LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the Matter of

FEDERATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS, PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE SUPERVISORS

Charging Party

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Respondent

UFC 24.2

DECISION AND ORDER

The charge in this case was filed by the Federation of Public Sector Workers, Professional Social Service Supervisors (Federation) against the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (County) alleging that the County violated Section 12(a)(1) of the Los Angeles County Employee Relations Ordinance (Ordinance) by harassing, intimidating, coercing, and discriminating against Federation members and representatives employed at the Canoga Park District Office of the Department.

The matter was duly referred to Hearing Officer
Paul A. Rothschild, who held hearings on May 19, June 2, and
June 7, 1983. The parties appeared and were afforded full

opportunity to offer argument and evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Post-hearing briefs were filed. Hearing Officer Rothschild filed his Report with the Commission on September 26, 1983. Neither party filed Exceptions to his Report.

The Hearing Officer applied the standard set forth by the National Labor Relations Board (Board) in Wright Line, 105 LRRM 1169 (1980), to evaluate the evidence before him and, in so doing, concluded that the Federation had not ". . . fulfilled its burden of establishing a prima facie case of violating the ordinance. . . " (HO Report, p. 22.) In reaching this conclusion, he acknowledged the difficulties encountered by a union in attempting to establish negative intent on the part of an employer, but concluded that the Federation ". . . has not even marginally made a case in three days of hearing." (HO Report, p. 23.) Consequently, he recommended that the charge be dismissed.

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The U.S. Supreme Court in NLRB v. Transportation Management Corp., 113 LRRM 2857 (1983), expressly approved the Board's Wright Line method of allocating the burden of proof in union discrimination cases.

Having carefully reviewed the Hearing Officer's Report and the underlying record, the Commission adopts his findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the reasons set forth in the Report.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the charge be dismissed.

DATED at Los Angeles, California, this 24th day of October, 1983.

Lloyd H. Bailer LLOYD H. BAILER, Chairman

JOSP R. GENTILE, Commissioner