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Anti-Picket Bill Vetoed By Mass Labor Pressure

Michigan labor has won a great victory over the reactionary state legislatures by forcing Governor Murphy to veto a law that would have outlawed mass picketing or aid by one union to another in direct strike activity.

This law originally received the approval of the Governor himself. The bill was quickly pushed through the legislature.

Because of the pressure brought to bear upon the State's executive by the organized labor movement of Michigan, Gov. Murphy vetoed the bill on a technical pretext. He claimed that it was hurriedly drafted and was therefore open to anti-labor interpretation.

Murphy's original favorable comment on the bill was based on the argument that "the state must retain its police power."

The bill against mass picketing is part of a nationwide drive on the part of the American capitalists to curb strike action by legislation. Mass picketing in some industries, just as the sit-down in others, has been one of labor's most valuable instruments to win the right to a decent life. In these mass struggles, labor has also learned the strength that comes with united action—and workers of one industry have joined hands with their brothers of other industries. The legislation now pending in many states—and even in the national legislative chambers is aimed directly at halting the broad united action of labor that has been so successful in the current struggles.

The quick action of the Michigan trade unions in calling the reactionary character of this bill to the attention of the Governor, and in forcing him to veto it, should set an example for unions and workers throughout the country.

Yellow Union Move Is Anti-CIO Step

By John Newton Thurber

Representatives of a group of company unions, under their new guise of "Independent unions," met in Hershey, Pa. last week-end to form a national federation.

This step marks the introduction of the European "Yellow Unions" into America by forces which are parading under the banner of Americanism, and which are attacking the CIO as an agency of "Red Russia."

It is of significance that the "Independent Federation of Independent Unions" (even a few more repetitions of "Independent" would not make it convincing!) was formed at the scene of the Battle of Hershey, where bosses' thugs, disguised as "loyal workers and farmers," drove out CIO unionists. Hershey was subsequently able to win an election for the company union.

Congressman Hoffman

Of greater significance was the presence of Congressman Hoffman of Michigan as a featured speaker. Hoffman was elected honorary president of the organization.

Hoffman will be remembered as the man who spoke in Congress in favor of mob rule against the CIO steel strikers, and announced his eagerness to organize a mob to attack them at Monroe,

Michigan, at the outset of the recent steel strike.

Hoffman has been so intemperate in his attack on the CIO that such a conservative organ as "Time" magazine has published remarks which were intended to excuse him because of an unbalanced mind.

It seems certain that Hoffman is not acting as a lone fighter against unionism, or even that his whole fight is against the CIO. He is particularly terrified by the CIO because of the gains and its threat to the independence of American capitalists.

Remington-Rand

But Hoffman was the featured speaker at a picnic held at Auburn, N.Y., two weeks ago, of the loyal workers of the Remington-Rand Co., which has plants in several upstate centers and in Connecticut. Workers from all of these plants were reported in attendance. It will be recalled that the strike of members of the AFL's Machinists' Union was crushed by Remington-Rand last year.

Further connections of Hoffman are instructive. Remington-Rand is the author of the so-called Mohawk Plan for Industrial Relations, a program for the elimination of real unionism and the breaking of labor militancy.



There Is War In China

War rages in the Far East. At the top of this page is a map of the war zone. The daily press carries reports of the battle and pictures of the horror.

According to the US Neutrality Law, the President of the United States is solemnly under obligation to impose an automatic embargo on arms so soon as a war between two nations breaks.

What has happened to that Neutrality Law?

We ask, not because we are particularly anxious to have the president invoke the embargo now, or because we have any faith in the power of that law to keep us out of war.

We are not anxious, because the Neutrality Law would not be "neutral." Under present circumstances, its "cash and carry" clause would aid Japan—with its fine navy and injure China.

We have no faith in the law as a means to "keep us out of war," because we know that if American interests are endangered in the Far East, the US Government will forget the law—as it is forgetting it now—to take up arms in defense of those interests.

We are asking, because we feel that the President of the US is guilty of gross hypocrisy.

We recall that the President hastened to apply an embargo against Spain, although he was under no obligation to do so. According to the law, the President has discretionary powers in applying the boycott in CIVIL wars. He is advised to apply the embargo only in the event that the civil war is of such a character as to threaten the peace of the Americas.

Despite the fact that the shipment of arms or supplies to Spain would in no way involve America in an international war, Roosevelt ordered a halt to such trade.

He ordered a halt—although he knew that it would injure only one side—the Loyalists, since Franco would continue to get arms from Hitler and Mussolini, who, in turn, were getting arms from the US.

When Roosevelt's action in the Spanish situation is placed alongside his behavior in the Far Eastern crisis, one is compelled to conclude that the US Government is using the Neutrality Law merely to safeguard American imperialism.

REPORT SHOWS GREAT POVERTY

Presenting the cost of living at a 'maintenance' level and at an 'emergency' level in 59 representative cities throughout the country, the report "Intercity Differences in Cost of Living" just released by the WPA Division of Social Research shows that "a large proportion of American families are unable to obtain all of the necessities, let alone the comforts, that the American standard implies," Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Works Progress Administrator, has stated.

"The study reaches the conclusion that the annual cost of self-support at the maintenance level of living for a four-person manual worker's family ranges from a high of \$1,415 in Washington, D.C. to a low of \$1,130 in Mobile, Alabama, at March 1935 prices," Hopkins continued. "At the emergency level, the cost ranges from \$1,014 in Washington to \$810 in Wichita, Kansas." The average cost of the maintenance budget for the 59 cities was \$1,281.50, the emergency budget, \$903. Contracted for March 1937 prices, the necessary outlay would have to be increased by about \$56 per year at the maintenance level.

Even the more costly of these budgets in no sense provides a desirable standard of living for the American family, Hopkins emphasized. The higher standard measures only the amount required for basic maintenance, without provision for savings, while the lower standard is frankly an emergency level, insufficient to maintain health and physical efficiency for any considerable length of time.

"Of course, it is true that many urban families do live on incomes drastically less than the amount required for the maintenance budget in this report," Mr. Hopkins further states. "For instance, in 1929, according to the Brookings Institution, one-fifth of the families in this country were making less than \$1,000 a year. Findings now being released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from their nationwide survey of family incomes indicate that this proportion was higher in 1935-36."

Furriers Fight for Clean Union

In spite of the refusal of the New York Joint Council to order a recount in the recent elections, and the failure of the National Officers even to answer the request of the United Furriers League to order a recount in New York, the United Furriers League is continuing its fight against the frauds perpetrated in that election, and for clean and honest unionism.

In a statement issued on Aug. 3rd, the United Furriers League declares that the attempts of the administration to "answer" the charges of the League, and to minimize the fraud to an "incident" only prove the contentions of the League. The statement points to the following specifically:

1. The Election and Objections Committee declares that it called a meeting for Thursday, July 15, and informed all candidates that they were entitled to watchers. But this was the last day of the election, at 3:00 p.m., when it was practically impossible to secure watchers, and it is an admission that during the first two days of the election there were no watchers.

2. A further proof of the irregularities in the elections is seen in the decision of the Joint Council, at its first meeting AFTER the elections, to strictly prohibit in the future candidates for office as watchers. This is an admission that in the recent elections such a decision was not enforced.

3. The United Furriers League made every

effort to have its complaints adjusted through the regular channels of the unions, but when it was ignored, when the national officers and the New York officers entered into a conspiracy to whitewash the frauds and irregularities, there was no alternative except to take the case to the New York workers through the columns of the press.

The statement further points out that instead of giving a definite answer to the request for an impartial committee from the labor movement, under the leadership of the CIO to investigate the entire situation and establish the facts, the administration called a so-called "installation" meeting, which was in effect not a meeting confined to furriers but a general mass meeting. At this meeting Potash made a poisonous, provocative lynch-speech in which he lied and slandered, and characterized the members of the United Furriers League and all others who objected to fraud in union elections as agents of the bosses, enemies of the Soviet Union, helpers of General Franco, etc.

The United Furriers declares that it is in favor of harmony. It is ready to work with all elements to build the union. But unity and harmony cannot be based on fraud and dishonesty. First all suspicion of fraud must be eliminated, and if the administration refuses to help in eradicating fraud from the union, then it assumes responsibility for the fraud.

SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES UNDER CAPITALISM ENDANGER SOCIETY

By HERMAN STERN

A long time ago when capitalism was very young and still healthy the peasants who were driven into the first mass production factories destroyed the machines. Present day capitalism in order to preserve its selfish interests prefers to destroy science and invention in the same manner.

What is the problem before American Capitalism? Its scientists and inventors have been able to develop machines and raise the level of technology to the point where it is possible for our planet to become the true paradise of history. Economic security will no longer be the privilege of a handful of bankers and industrialists but shall represent the social position of all individuals!

Building trades workers who are idle can be employed to create the most modern homes and facilities to house luxuriously the families of workers who are at present living like cattle in the packed tenement houses of the city. Thousands of garment workers can be set to work and in a few weeks produce enough clothing to more than satisfy the requirements of the entire population. The introduction of new agricultural machinery will permit workers and their children to consume twice the amount of food that is at present being used. Institutions and systems of learning can be established which will abolish illiteracy forever.

Antiquated factory machinery can be replaced by the labor-saving devices which will produce in two hours what it has taken eight hours to manufacture heretofore.

Hours of labor can be reduced to a few hours a day. Unemployment will become a thing of the past if the hours of work needed to keep industry running are divided between all the workers. The economic crisis which everybody has found so difficult to solve will be made impossible by virtue of careful planning of the output of goods so that it corresponds to what is essential to the populace. All this is no longer the speculation of Socialists and radicals but the substance of a report made by the President's National Resources Committee on the Social Implications of Inventions after two years of detailed investigation.

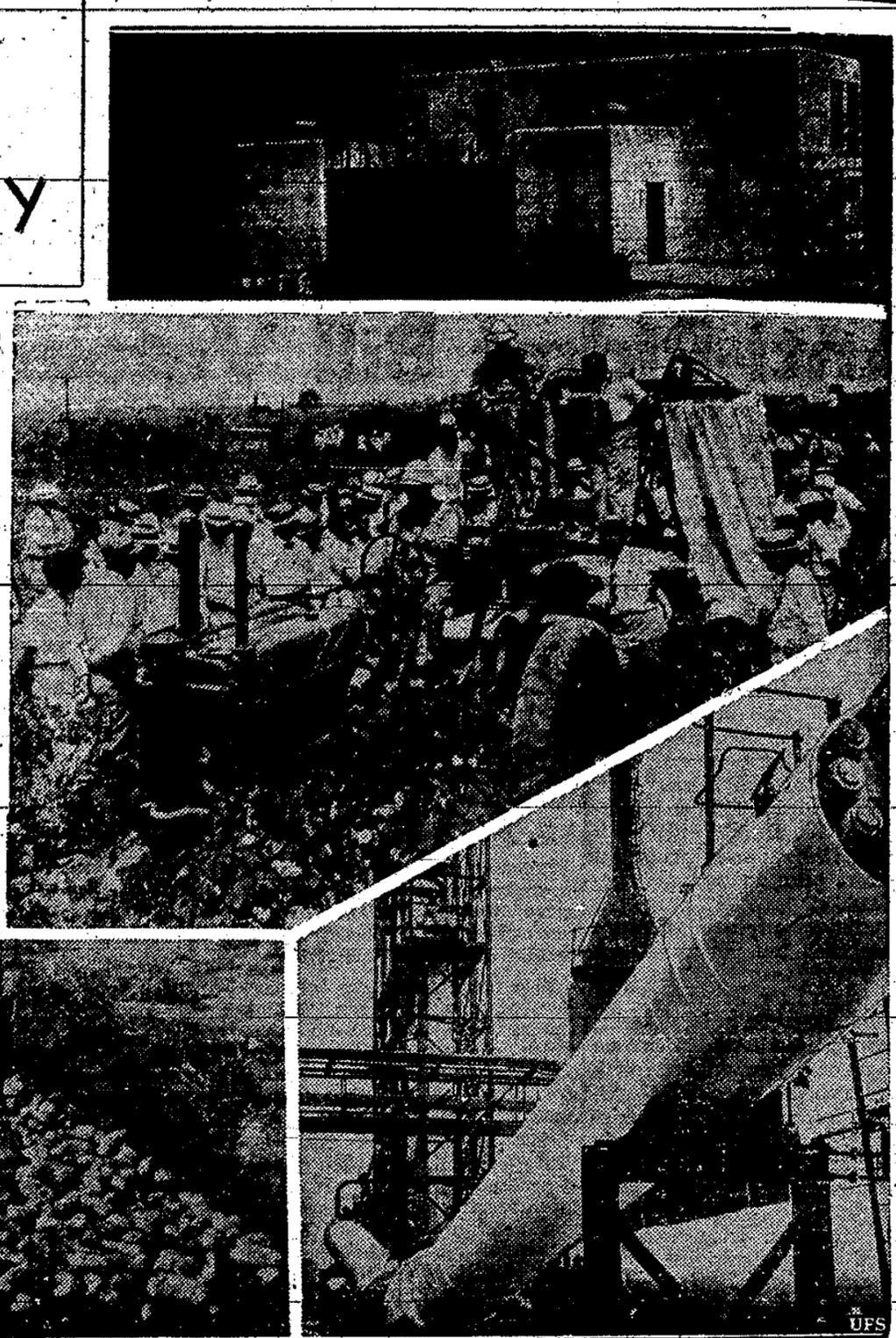
Cotton-Picker

The most significant of the inventions examined by the commission were the mechanical cotton-picker, air conditioning, the photo-electric cell, fabrics made from cellulose, synthetic rubber, pre-fabricated houses, television, the trailer gasoline produced from coal, steep-flight aircraft, and tray agriculture. We have only to glance at two of these to understand the vast and profound implications of modern invention.

The mechanical cotton-picker which has been perfected and is being constantly improved is one of the most sensational of all. The pickers is reported to be able to pick more cotton in an hour than 12 skilled workers can pick in a day. It would relieve millions of agricultural workers of tedious and back-breaking labor. The "New York Post" poses the logical question. "Ponder the effects of widespread use of that machine, first, upon the nine million tenants, croppers and laborers of the cotton belt. It could throw seven of the nine million out of work and still produce a surplus of cotton. Reflect next, upon the fate of those millions made jobless. What would become of them?" This, to capitalism is a most embarrassing and distressing difficulty.

Electric-Eye

The electron tube is described by the Committee as "said to be the greatest invention of the 20th Century." "Its most brilliant form is the photo-electric cell, popularly known as the electric eye. This eye can see everything that the human eye can see and more. When it is joined with another form of the electron tube, the vacuum tube, it becomes able



The Dangers of Scientific Progress Under Capitalism

A pictorial indication as to the possibilities of modern science according to the report of the President's Committee on National Resources. Upper right is a fabricated home. Center, the Rust mechanical cotton picker. Lower left, Dr. W. F. Gericke of Berkeley,

California, examining a potato crop without soil in chemical fed tray agriculture. This yields 2,456 pounds to the acre. Lower right, conveyor pipe in a British hydrogenation plant, where gasoline is being made from coal.

to act on what it sees.

Thus it sees a waitress approaching a door with trays in both hands, and at once swings open the door for her to pass. Unlike a human being it does not suffer from fatigue. For instance, in a factory it can watch the tin cans go by in a belt picking out the defective ones and letting only the good ones go by. This monotonous work can be done without strain for as long hours as the manager wishes.

"That it will cause unemployment is obvious, but it will also lighten the tasks of the workmen. Indeed it brings the automatic factory and the automatic man one step closer. Hardly a month passes without some new use of the photo-electric cell being reported. "It will require decades to learn the many things that this versatile instrument can do."

Again, the President's Committee faces a dilemma. Here is a magnificent instrument. The dull factory work can in time be done by the invention which certainly mark mile-steps in easing the duties of workers. Without a doubt it can be developed and applied for hundreds of uses. But capitalism isn't sure whether it wants to use the cell as is, let alone setting men to work to discover new uses for it. What are they to do with the millions of men and women who will be replaced by machines when industry has failed to absorb those who were rendered jobless by the last crisis?

(Continued next week)

Phila. AFL Chisels In on CIO Gains

By George Stone

PHILADELPHIA.—The AF of L has reached a new low in treachery to the working class in its fight with the CIO here.

Resorting to all sorts of devices from strong-arm tactics to printing and distributing out-and-out lies about CIO finances, these old-line politicians are determined to smash the growing CIO no matter what it shall cost the labor movement.

Like a flock of vultures the AFL crowd seldom tackles an ununionized industry or plant. They merely follow the CIO organizational campaign, and, when the workers are signed up, they chisel in during negotiations and tell the employer to sign up with them, or else that they can give him "better conditions" than the Lewis crowd.

In numerous instances the AFL has signed contracts with the bosses, never even once consulting the workers. If the workers make a militant protest, they are locked out and the AFL bureaucracy furnishes the strikebreakers.

This "business unionism" is particularly rampant in the hotel and restaurant industry. In the case of the Philadelphia Hotel, the AFL chiseled in after the workers had been completely organized into the United Hotel and Restaurant Workers Industrial Union and now refuses even to permit an election. John W.

to hold out; not to settle; to deal only with them; and then proceeds to issue public statements to the effect that the CIO is preventing its men from returning to work and asking police action to curb the CIO mass picket line.

One of the most malodorous practices that the AFL has pursued in its infamous course against the CIO has been the circulation of leaflets outside the Philco plant, where the United Electrical and Radio Workers' Union has completely organized the 9,000 employees into a closed shop, claiming that the Philco workers were "suckers" and that they were being milked for the benefit of the other CIO unions in the area,—that they were supporting the organizational drives and would get nothing in return.

Libel CIO

This week they started circulation of a tabloid, "The American Federation News," which contains false and libelous charges against the CIO. They urge all workers to desert the CIO and join a movement which has their interests at heart.

The reason for the viciousness of the AFL attack on the CIO in Philadelphia can probably be attributed to the fact that Lewis G. Hines, former AFL representative here, is now National Organizer for William Green. He nurtures a grudge against John W. Edelman and his aides for doing what he could, not do during his long stay here—organize the unorganized.

AFL Violence

While the AFL never loses an opportunity to berate the CIO for the use of violence, last week it sent its sluggers to completely wreck and demolish the headquarters of the United Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union.

In the Food Workers' Union, the AFL lets one of its "skene-teen" crafts organize the store on a complete industrial basis—from small errand boy to truck-drivers. But when the CIO follows the same procedure, the hierarchy of the AFL forces their teamsters to protest, saying that the CIO is breaking a national as well as local understanding not to invade the trucking and hauling fields.

In the Heinze Automobile strike, where the CIO has 360 signed up as against the AFL 40, the AFL tells the employer

THE SHOE WORKERS FIGHT FOR UNIONISM IN MAINE

BOSSSES INFLECTED VIOLENCE

By Howard Penley

Threatened with the loss of their jobs if they went near the polls, 1,592 workers in the Lewiston-Auburn shoe strike area went to vote their approval of the CIO. In the face of spying bosses who set up observation units atop their factories to determine CIO supporters the militant CIO workers polled 1,592 votes to the Lewiston-Auburn Protective Assns. company union's 20 votes.

A new and vicious strategy has been developed by the Lewiston-Auburn manufacturers to combat National Labor Board "consent elections". The bosses announce

FLASH!!! As this article get into the mails a phone call from Auburn brings tidings of victory. The report from the Socialist unit states that the NLEB elections have given the CIO bargaining rights in 17 of the 19 factories in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

that loyal workers should not vote in the consent elections. The company union instructs its members not to take part in the election. This obviously leaves only the CIO workers to vote.

The manufacturers then spread threats of black-listing all those seen near the polls. In Lewiston and Auburn they set up observation units aided with spy-glasses and together with pay-roll and office workers check names of workers seen near the polls. While this obviously keeps a majority away from the polls, it makes it extremely difficult to get voters to vote for the CIO when they know they are being recorded while doing so, and face loss of their jobs permanently if the CIO loses the election.

Jail Hapgood

The reactionary manufacturers in Maine used all of their tricks in this strike and bid fair to lose in the end. They kept Powers Hapgood in jail on the most questionable sort of conspiracy charges ever brought about in the history of the State.

It was the first of April when reaction shot its first bolt by bringing charges of conspiracy against 20 strikers and strike leaders. Twelve were arrested the fol-

lowing day. In commenting on the arrests, Powers Hapgood, national vice-chairman of the Socialist Party, who was in charge of the strike said, "the arrests are illegal and without foundation."

Next reactionary forces set up a 500 foot picket law, totally without any support of law whatever. This made picketing practically useless and strikers were forced to picket in front of a church 500 feet up the street from the factory district.

No State, county, or even city law supported this action and when arrests were made for picketing within the 500 foot picket line charges were brought for not obeying an officer of the law and other flimsy charges. The city officials evidently realized the lack of foundation in law of their 500 foot picket law as they made no arrests on this charge.

Ask Investigation

State Senator Corrigan, supported by Walsh apparently the only other member of the Senate favorable toward labor, asked a legislative committee investigation of the situation to prevent violence, but was turned down flatly and sharply by the Senate. The Senate thought discussion of the habits of groundhogs more important. Violence which later broke out could have probably been prevented if the Senate had not turned deaf ears on Senator Corrigan's plea.

Next, reactionary Judge Harry Manser denied a CIO restrainer on the 500 foot picketing rule. Perfectly legal said Manser, but nobody could find the law.

An attempt by Senators Corrigan and Walsh to have the Governor's council arbitrate the strike met with distinct disapproval.

Governor Barrows, do-nothing Republican office holder couldn't risk getting his striped white flannel trousers dusty by messing with such nasty things as labor disputes.

Reactionary bosses went into another huddle and came forth with a "plan." The Mayors of the two cities were to draft a board of five citizens who would proceed to settle the strike, totally ignoring the CIO.

Conspiracy Trials

Then up came the conspiracy trials, and the bosses lawyers finding nothing to present as evidence asked for, and received a postponement of the trial over the CIO attorneys objections.

The bosses then reopened the factories but the flocks did not come home to shelter. Growing downright angry over the unsuccessful attempt to lure the workers back to the machines 45 pickets were arrested within the 500 foot picket law line, but were charged with "parading without a permit."

The following day 100 strikers parade in front of Judge Harry Manser's home in peaceful protest to the arrests. Apparently under the impression that the city was to be sacked and burned by these "outside agitators" the police threw a police line around the Judge's home for his protection. The Judge left for a speaking engagement in Massachusetts and received police protection in that State during his stay.

Labor Board

It was then that the Labor Board stepped in and decided to hold hearings. Spurred into new activity by this threat of justice for the workers, the manufacturers then went running to the

courts for an injunction to declare the whole strike activity illegal and from this time on sparks began to fly.

The Court immediately declared the strike illegal. Some 3,000 strikers who had attended a strike rally-meeting in Lewiston City Hall started to go over the Lewiston-Auburn bridge into Auburn where a majority of them lived when they were met at the Auburn side of the bridge by police and State troopers who tried to turn them back into Lewiston. Now the strikers already across the bridge to the Auburn side could push their way through about 2,000 more strikers in back of them who didn't know what was going on, and who were all intent on going home jamming the bridge, pushing and shoving to get up front and see what it was all about did not enter the heads of the brainy police force.

The Riot

Then came the cop inspired riot in which one woman was arrested. As a policeman twisted her arm until her face wrinkled in agony, an old man who was a bystander made some crack to the policeman about twisting the woman's arm.

He received a bat on the head as his reward. Someone in the crowd angered at this brutal and unnecessary display of violence threw a rock which hit the State policeman on the head.

He was unconscious for many hours. The police denied hitting the aged man, but the Paramount newscast showed the incident very plainly. The workers finally scattered and went home, but only after the police had displayed their lack of efficiency by tossing tear gas into the wind. The gas promptly was blown back into their own faces and the only persons gassed besides the police were some small but curious boys who caught the full effect of the gas bombs.

The next day "Joe Collogo" Barrows sent the strikers a present of groups of national guardsmen from Portland and other points. The Governor said the troops were requested by Auburn city officials, but no one has yet been able to find the officials. Promptly the police arrested four CIO leaders for contempt of court. They based their charge on the fact that the CIO leaders had continued activity in behalf of an illegal strike.

(Continued next week)

Tampa Flogging 'Whitewash' Soon

By Frank McCallister

BARTOW, Fla.—The Tampa flogging cases this week moved one step nearer the complete "whitewash" predicted in the beginning by Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa.

R. G. Tittsworth, former Tampa Police Chief, saw all charges against him dropped by the State on motion of Pat Whitaker, Klan defense counsel. This action was agreed to by the State. Whitaker argued that defendant Tittsworth was now practicing law in Tampa and it was "embarrassing" to him to have this indictment outstanding.

When Norman Thomas charged Tampa Klan police with direct responsibility for the murder of Shoemaker in December, 1935, Chief Tittsworth launched an investigation after which he declared in a public statement, "After a full and complete investigation, I have ascertained that no member of my department, either directly or indirectly, was connected with the kidnaping or murder." The special grand jury called to probe the crime decided otherwise and indicted seven Tampa cops as principals and later included the chief and his stenographer as "accessories after the fact."

Inadmissible

At the trial, Judge Robert Dewell refused to admit any testimony which would implicate Chief Tittsworth. When the State attempted to introduce such testimony the judge ruled it "inadmissible." Part way through the trial he "directed" a verdict of acquittal for Tittsworth.

Talk is now circulating Tampa that Tittsworth is to be reappointed as soon as the public interest has died down.

In Atlanta, hooded Klansmen and Klanswomen paraded in full regalia and in the shadow of a

burning fiery cross heard J. A. Colescott, chief of the Klan staff call for the Klan to ride again to stamp out the Communist CIO.

In Orlando, Florida, the American Legion offered its services to combat the campaign now beginning to organize the poorly paid and miserably exploited citrus workers. The State press has started a campaign of hysteria against this effort to raise the wage standard of the most underpaid workers in the State. The Miami Herald predicted editorially that "blood would run freely" if the CIO tried to organize citrus.

With The Party

The following resolution was received from Local San Francisco requesting a referendum on the N.E.O. resolution on Inner Party affairs.

"That the resolution of the National Executive Committee, 'A Temporary Policy During Party Reorganization' be submitted to a referendum vote of the members."

To submit this N. E. O. Resolution to a referendum it is necessary that it be seconded or endorsed by at least five locals in three states having a total membership of 20 per cent of the total membership of the party.

Locals seconding or endorsing this motion for a referendum should transmit the action of their local in a letter signed by the Secretary of the local and the Chairman of the meeting.



Rioting has flared up again at the Corrigan-McKinney plant in Cleveland of the Republic Steel Company. Tom Girdler was reported hurt up to the moment of going to press.

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LABOR PARTY IN DANGER

The Socialist Party of America, at its national convention in Chicago, warned the American working class that a Labor Party in America could only be realized by stern opposition to the present philosophy of the trade union leadership. The Labor Party could only be created by a consistent struggle against the Popular Front notions of the conservative and liberal labor leaders.

That resolution stated prophetically: "The Labor party movement of the progressive workers meets the opposition not only of the reactionary labor leaders and traditions (reward your friends and punish your enemies) but also from the liberal labor leaders and the Communist party who are orientated toward an American People's Front in the form of an alliance with the liberal capitalist parties and politicians, with some attempt at work from within the Democratic Party."

The behavior of the reformist tendencies in the labor movement in the present electoral campaigns bears out this prophecy to the final phrase.

Earl Browder, leader of the Communist Party, gives the most conscious and organized expression to the idea that the Farmer-Labor Party shall in reality be little more than a revamped capitalist party, a modified Democratic Party perhaps with a labor left wing. He sees the labor party movement perverted into Popular Front channels. He applauds it; we bemoan it; but both of us must notice it. Says Browder:

"The development of the People's Front can proceed only along the line of combining the existing Farmer-Labor Party forms with the simultaneously developing progressive movements inside the Democratic Party (in some localities also the Republican Party), in the elections as well as in all other expressions of political and economic mass movements."

Although the leadership of Labor's Non-Partisan League and of the American Labor Party in New York do not state their philosophy in such conscious terms, nevertheless they pursue the same course and that course is not driving in the direction of a Labor Party—a class party independent of the capitalist parties and politicians—but in the direction of a Popular Front Party, a third capitalist party or a revamped liberal capitalist party. The reformists—the Communists, the ALP and Labor Non-Partisan League leadership, are placing the formation of a real Labor Party in jeopardy. One wonders why they do so. Is it dishonesty or corruption? Not at all. This course in the direction of an American Popular Front is inherent in the philosophy of the reformists.

This is the era of capitalist decline. This is the period marked by crisis, and with the crisis the rising danger of dictatorial reaction.

The revolutionary answer is to launch an aggressive struggle for Socialism. Such a struggle can strike at the roots of reaction, can rally the masses in the final struggle against a Fascist coup d'etat, can undermine the mass basis of the Fascist demagogue by giving the masses leadership against the present decadent society.

The reformist answer, however, whether it be in America of 1936 and 1937 or in Germany in 1933, is to conclude a defensive alliance with the "lesser capitalist evil" against the threat of dictatorial reaction.

In America, this means concretely the formation of alliances with liberal capitalist politicians, instead of the formation of an independent party.

Socialists were able to predict the present course of the reformists because Socialists understood the logic of reformist philosophy. In August of 1936 the CALL charged that the ALP, by its present philosophy, would not launch an independent party upon the completion of the national campaign. We charged that it would proceed to endorse other capitalist politicians; after Roosevelt would come La Guardia, and Wagner, and perhaps Earle.

Some leaders of the ALP denied that. We welcomed their denial but were not fooled by it. And fortunately, too, for now these leaders are backing La Guardia.

They are backing La Guardia, a capitalist party representative, in New York City under conditions most suitable for the launching of an independent working class political drive. Tammany is discredited and divided. So is the Republican Party, sharply divided. There is a strong labor movement in the city; there is a labor electoral machinery at hand.

The defeat of the labor candidate would not usher in Fascism or dictatorship. The vote for a labor mayor would certainly be strong enough to force concessions for the masses from any party elected.

This glorious opportunity, however, is being wasted, criminally wasted—because reformism pursues its policy of the "lesser evil".

"In the present struggle inside the trade union movement," stated the Socialist Party resolution, "between the progressive workers, who seek an independent Labor Party, and the reformist forces, who seek a People's Front, Socialists stand with the pro-Labor Party forces."

The Socialists, together with other progressive workers, can only realize a Labor Party in America in a sharp struggle against the idea and the practices of a People's Front "Labor Party," against pseudo-labor parties, against more or less Permanent Labor Committees for the Endorsement of Good Men.

This struggle shall continue within the trade unions

AT THE FRONT



By NORMAN THOMAS

There has been sharp fighting between Chinese and Japanese troops in Peiping, the ancient capital of China. A large part of Tientsin has been systematically bombed from the

declared no war against China and it is not yet certain whether the Nanking government feels itself strong enough to resent this fresh and dreadful Japanese provocation by war on a national scale. Meantime China is definitely added to Spain as a point from which the flames of war may spread to the world. The most accurate condemnation of the Japanese position in China is to say that it is as inexcusable as the German and Italian position in Spain.

For Americans this undeclared war in China gives fresh proof of the unsatisfactory nature of our new neutrality laws and their inadequacy to modern problems. Senator Pittman, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, speaking apparently with the approval of the Administration, explained that the President cannot by proclamation put the neutrality law in force without embarrassing his efforts to protect Americans in China and without virtually forcing the Chinese and European nations to declare or to recognize as declared a war which they prefer to ignore.

Senator Pittman does not add that a declaration of neutrality might somewhat impair the profits of the merchants of death.

Senator Pittman's statement does not call attention to one of the worst features of our neutrality law. It is this. The minute the President makes proclamation that a state of war exists in China, nations seeking certain kinds of supplies must come and get them on the cash-and-carry basis. That will be comparatively easy for the Japanese and impossible for the Chinese. Now no one suggests that the government of the United States should go to war with Japan in behalf of China. But it is a monstrous thing that a law meant to promote neutrality should make us benevolent in practice to a nation which is practicing the most brutal and unjustified sort of aggression. The law should be amended before Congress adjourns to prevent this possibility.

CIO CHARGES

The attempt of employing interests to saddle the CIO with responsibility for violence in the industrial conflict reached its lowest level in the attempt of Captain Charles O. Brooks, master of the burned ship, City of Baltimore, of the Chesapeake Line, to fasten responsibility for that disaster by innuendo at least upon the CIO. The whole basis for his charge or suggestion seems to be the fact that two CIO men went down on his ship as passengers. Yet the newspapers give considerable play and sober attention to this stuff.

No one is going to claim that the CIO has followed a completely pacifist policy in its strikes. But the record shows that the seven-

teen men who died in conflict in the steel area were all the victims of violence on the part of employers or the police. The LaFollette report on the Chicago massacre, the testimony concerning the responsibility of the Ford Company for the brutal beating of union organizers outside its gates, the story of Massillon, which I have already repeated in this column, the evidence in many parts of the country of the systematic efforts of employers to recruit their own army—these things give the lie to the charge that the CIO is the instigator of violence in what otherwise would be a peaceful industrial situation.

As a matter of fact it must never be forgotten that the real responsibility for the events of these turbulent weeks must rest upon steel companies which prefer strikes to orderly collective bargaining.

ON LA GUARDIA

The workers of America in town and country have paid and will pay a great price for their slowness in organizing a labor party of their own as an effective political tool, and for their failure to recognize that the plenty, peace and freedom which they want cannot be obtained under the capitalist system.

Nevertheless it is a gain to observe the real progress of the labor party idea in the last year. This is to be seen, as we said last week, in John L. Lewis's attitude on national politics. It is to be seen in New York State by the encouraging growth of the A.L.P. That party still fails to meet the test of absolute independence from capitalist parties which we socialists must require for membership in it or full cooperation with it. But its progress in twelve months is most encouraging.

A year ago the condition of membership in it was support for Roosevelt and Lehman. Today it is support for working class political action. A year ago it nominated no candidates of its own. This year in New York City apparently it expects to nominate a fairly complete ticket. A year ago it endorsed Democrats who were masters in their own party. This year for Mayor it endorses LaGuardia who has publicly expressed his general support for the ALP, who is fighting the leaders of the Republican Party, and may not run in the Primary.

Unquestionably the ALP has the support of the progressive unions of New York. A continuance of its progress in the direction in which it is now going will make it a real factor in creating the right sort of a labor party, not only locally but nationally.

We socialists are committed to such a labor party. If now we alienate ourselves utterly from the

and on the electoral front, by our urging the unions to break from all capitalist candidates and by calling upon all workers to vote only for the candidates of their class.

Where large unions, together with the Socialist Party, can unite behind a labor candidate running against all capitalist candidates—so much the better. Where labor tags along behind a capitalist candidate, the Socialist Party must call upon the workers to vote for their class candidate, the candidate of the Socialist Party!

ALP because of its imperfections we shall lose our influence and because a sect like the SLP. The ideas of the SLP aren't bad, or wouldn't be bad if the workers would accept them, but it is always bad to persist unnecessarily in a line which alienates a radical group from the masses whom it must influence. It is far more possible for us to advance true socialism by seeking cooperation with the ALP in view of the present circumstances, than if we seek to preserve our purity by isolation in a dwindling party.

It is far more possible for us in friendly relations with the ALP to influence LaGuardia in the proper direction on sales tax and other matters than if we antagonize the masses represented in the ALP. Emphatically we are not giving indirect support to the "good man" theory if under certain conditions we withdraw our candidate for Mayor against LaGuardia. We are recognizing that LaGuardia's administration has been well above the average and that where he has failed it has been because of lack of proper labor support or labor pressure on him. This kind of pressure we can better help to supply by friendly relations with the ALP than in unnecessary hostility to it. And in so doing we can always maintain our socialist position.

Of course it is always possible that our negotiations will fail, but in that case we shall have a cause we can explain to the workers. At present indications are that our negotiations will not fail in establishing a basis for cooperation with the ALP out of which good may come for our great cause.

I heard of the death of Carl Minkley in Wisconsin too late for comment last week. We have lost a fine man and a most loyal comrade; one of the old socialists whose spirit and whose loyalty were ever young.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Three weeks ago notices were sent out to all subscribers whose subscriptions had run out at that time, with a warning that they would be dropped from our lists if they did not send in a renewal.

The address stencils of all these readers are being withdrawn from our files this week. If you received such a notice and have not renewed, this will be your last copy.

Look at the address label on the wrapper. If the number is 125 or lower, renew your subscription immediately in order to insure getting the CALL regularly. If you have already renewed and the number has not been changed, please disregard this.

The Cultural Front

James T. Farrell

We Must Wreck the Wreckers

New Masses is in danger. In recent issues, it has printed full page appeals to its readers for financial aid which will enable it to weather a serious pecuniary crisis. Would as important, as influential, as beloved an organ as *New Masses* be in danger of folding up because of a lack of popular support? Only an enemy of culture or a confused fair weather liberal friend, would even dare countenance such a probability. We know that the public stands firmly and loyally behind *New Masses*.

It is in trouble because of other reasons. The danger lies within. For years now, the entire American cultural front has been systematically, cleverly, consistently sabotaged by a gang of wreckers. These termites have eaten their way in everywhere, in *New Masses*, *The New Republic*, *The Daily Worker*, The League of American Writers, even into *International Publishers*. Some of them have written deliberately dull articles and books in order to discredit the entire movement. Others have done more dastardly work, hiding themselves behind the tactic of "Left phrases and a bloc with the Right against the aims of the Left." But now the saboteurs can be exposed. The proof against them is so irrefutable that it will not be denied by any honest and intelligent persons who think for himself.

Mike Gold, the Trotskyist

One of the ringleaders of this gang is Michael Gold. He cannot, of course, come boldly into the open as a Trotskyist, because the whole world now knows that Trotskyism is the advance guard of counter-revolution. But he was once more open and more bold. He once even dared to preach Trotskyism in the very pages of *New Masses*. When Leon Trotsky's *Literature and Revolution* appeared in English under the imprint of *International Publishers*, Michael Gold wrote in *New Masses*:

"Trotsky's book on literature is an amazing performance. This man is almost as universal as Leonardo da Vinci... Trotsky was the most single-minded of pacifists, but made himself the best general and military tactician in Europe. He is a great financial expert. He is now chief organizer of the reconstructed Russian industry... Criticism like Trotsky's is creative criticism."

And these are only a few of the eulogies to be garnered from that review. We all know that Trotsky was never a good Bolshevik. But did Michael Gold say that? No, emphatically not. Instead, he concealed Trotsky's real role from the American masses. Is he not then a Trotskyist in his heart of hearts? How do we know that he has undergone a genuine change? What proof have we? Did not the criminals, Radek, Platokov, Kamenev, Zinoviev, and their fellow assassins pretend to have recanted. Do not the Moscow trials prove that once a Trotskyist traitor is always a Trotskyist traitor? How can we believe Michael Gold after he has written thus of Leon Trotsky? And Michael Gold is not alone here. Others have cooperated.

Granville Hicks in his book, *The Great Tradition*, and Robert Forsyth in *The Sunday Worker* have aided Gold by lauding him as a genuine revolutionary writer. Malcolm Cowley, literary editor of *The New Republic* has printed

friendly reviews of Gold, and has also invited Gold to write for him. What is such activity if it is not collusion in a plot to sabotage and poison the cultural development of America?

Seaver the Bukharinist

On *The Daily Worker*, Gold is able to console himself with the solace and companionship of that Bukharinite literary critic and diversionist, Edwin Seaver. All the world knows that in 1934, Bukharin was conspiring and plotting to commit the most foul and treasonous deeds. Yet, in that period Seaver recommended him to readers of *New Masses*. In 1934, Bukharin made a speech at the first All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers. It was published in English by *International Publishers* in a work titled *Problems of Soviet Literature*. In *New Masses*, October 24, 1935, Seaver reviewed that book, writing in part:

"We must dare, Comrades! It was with these words that Nikolai Bukharin closed his memorable report... a report by virtue of its analytical power, catholicity of view, depth of insight into the nature of the poetic process and profound erudition must long remain one of the outstanding critical achievements of the time."

Seaver praised Bukharin for having said, "We must dare, Comrades." Are we fools enough to believe that such a traitor and assassin as Bukharin would bother to say that writers must dare to write poetry? He, the enemy of all culture, calling for the production of poetry? No, such an interpretation is only a Bukharinistic-Seaveristic fairy tale. The Moscow trials, as well as irrefutable facts and logic, make it clear that Bukharin must have been advising his allies, telling them that they must dare to murder, to sabotage, to wreck, to dismember the territory of the Soviet Union. And this is what Edwin Seaver approved. Do we need any more proof concerning this plot?

Seaver is not alone here either. Kenneth Burke has served as a cover for Seaver by praising the latter's novel, *Between the Hammer and the Anvil*. Burke also stands revealed as a Bukharinist. And Malcolm Cowley prints Burke in *The New Republic*. Cowley, Burke, and Seaver are associated in *The League of American Writers*. The evidence against this gang grows and grows.

Olgin a la Radek

These plotters have wormed their way on all sides. For instance, there is Moissaye Olgin whose pamphlet on Trotskyism must have been merely camouflage. For he read a paper at the first American Writers' Congress, discussing the first All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers. He concluded with liberal quotations which contained directives given to the Congress by Earl Radek. To be sure, these directives were literary in nature. But how do we know that they were not in code. Radek was a clever plotter, and he was dedicated to a career of assassination, not to one of cultural production.

These plotters were all very tricky, and they devised their

codes. How do we know that Radek's literary directives were not actually in code, and that actually, they were instructions for a world wide sabotaging of the cultural front? Olgin's speech appeared in *American Writers' Congress*, issued by *International Publishers*.

What are we to say of Joseph Freeman and Henry Hart, the men who edited this work, and allowed Olgin's paper to slip through? They can only be described as enemies of mankind. Freeman, of course, has exposed himself before. In one of his contributions to *Voices of October*, he brazenly characterized *Literature and Revolution* as "a landmark in Soviet criticism." At the first American Writers' Congress, he hid behind a cover of left phrases, calling the Mexican government "fascist," and attacking the premises for the building of a peoples' front.

Here, I have only suggested the plot. I have presented only a limited number of quotations. I could add to these for pages on end, citing most of them from *New Masses*. These men have escaped exposure for years. But they have not been clever enough. We see them now for what they are. We know now why the *New Masses* must be in danger when Freeman is an editor, and Michael Gold has been associated with it for years.

We know now why the second American Writers' Congress was a fiasco, when the plotters were all prominently placed on the speakers' lists. We must act now! We must throw the diversionists out! We must spew them forth! To perform this task, we must have unity! Unity, Comrades, unity, friends of mankind, unity, democrats and progressives, so that we may go forward to wreck the wreckers on the American cultural front!

Left Wing Gains At Congress Of French Socialists

By Herbert Zam

The outstanding feature of the French Socialist Party Congress, which met at Marseilles from July 10th to July 14th, was the revival of the Left Wing after a considerable period of retreat and inactivity. The Congress was of tremendous importance, as it was the first since the participation of the Socialist Party in the Popular Front government. The Congress had to draw the balance from this experience. It further had to pass judgment on the decision of the National

Council of the Party to participate in the Chautemps cabinet, and on its decision rested the fate of the Chautemps government. In view of the recent developments in the country, which had resulted in the ousting of the Blum cabinet and the erection of the Chautemps cabinet, the Congress felt the need for a declaration of solidarity with Blum. Consequently, the vote expressing approval of the activities of the Blum government was carried by an overwhelming majority, the vote being 4,549 against 26, with 828 abstentions. The real struggle, however, came over the attitude of the Socialists toward the new government, and it was on this question where the newly crystallized Left Wing began to show its strength. On the motion to approve participation in the Chautemps cabinet, the "no" vote was 1,866 against 3,484 "yes".

Three points of view were presented as to the future policy of the Party. The Blum-Faure group called for the essential continuation of the Peoples Front policy with certain modifications. It obtained 2,946 votes. A centrist motion, introduced by the "Bataille Socialiste" group (Zyromski-Bracke) while not calling for the immediate withdrawal from the cabinet, called for the orientation of the Party toward a "real" popular front, with a bold program of social reform and under Socialist leadership. This motion received 1,545 votes. The Left Wing (Marceau Pivert Group) motion called for the immediate withdrawal from the Chautemps cabinet and for a revolutionary Socialist policy. It received 894 votes. Twenty abstentions were recorded.

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Thus, the majority, with an even 3,000 votes was only slightly larger than the united opposition, with some 2,500 votes. This is in marked contrast to past congresses where the leadership used to obtain 75% of the delegates. Further, in the past, the opposition was made up largely of the centrist Zyromski group, while the Pivert Group never could obtain more than 100 odd votes.

But now a genuine Left Wing with respectable strength and a well-ried leadership has appeared on the scene. A section of the Blum-Faure majority group, represented especially by Bracke, has moved to the left and stands with Zyromski.

What might have happened had the Congress been held several months later, when the need for a demonstration of solidarity with ex-Premier Blum had disappeared and the full effects of the Peoples Front capitulation had its problematical. Certainly, as time passed, and Chautemps uses the openings made by Blum to blast the working class, the reaction against Peoples Frontism will grow not diminish.

The Left Wing was not only strengthened at the Congress. In the new Executive it has six representatives, as against a single one in the previous Executive. Thus, one of the main weaknesses of the Left Wing of the past, insufficient representation in the leading party bodies, and therefore insufficient means of reaching the Party membership, has been removed. The six members on the National Executive Committee can become the center for a powerfully organized movement to bring the French Socialist Party into the column of revolutionary Socialism. The Zyromski-Bracke group also increased its representation on the Executive, with nine members.

It is clear that the perspective of the Left Wing, to remain inside the Socialist Party as the best means of working for revolutionary Socialism has borne excellent fruit. The defeatist elements, such as the Trotskyites, who became discouraged after a few months and dropped out, and who proclaimed, on the occasion of the actions against the Pivert group several months ago that the Socialist Party is hopeless, have thus been proven totally wrong.

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Socialists Charge "Anti-War" Parade is Really Pro-War

Adhering to the Oxford Pledge, "We refuse to support any war conducted by the government of the United States," as the minimum basis for Socialist participation in the American League Against War and Fascism anti-war parade August 7, delegates Jack Altman, Hal Slegeland, Irving Barshop from the Socialist Party, Local New York, and from the Young Peoples' Socialist League, upheld a minority position at the conference at the New School for Social Research for the purpose of planning the parade.

"Is this to be a mobilization against war, or is it to be ideological mobilization for the next war—against Fascism—as we were ideologically mobilized for the last war—to save the world for democracy?" asked Slegel in a minority report of the Resolutions and Slogans Committees. With the rejection of the Oxford Pledge and of the slogans—"All war funds for the unemployed," "For independent labor action against war," "No reliance on collective security," "No reliance on the League of Nations," and "Against all capitalist wars," the stand of the conference was indicted. Altman's suggestion that slogans and resolutions be not in conflict with the Socialist Party position on war was ignored.

Contradiction The confusion of such an "anti-war" position was obvious in slogans adopted on Spain. "Enforce international law," the conference stated, but continued "Support the Soviet Union's proposals to the non-intervention committee" and "Force non-intervention committee to enforce provisions against Italy and Germany." The proposed slogans "Democratic England betrays the Spanish people" was rejected although the committee agreed unanimously that it correctly stated the fact. The Conference

raised the slogan "Salazar betrays the Spanish Masses," although Salazar, dictator of Portugal, is but the puppet of Great Britain. Why, then, did it refuse to indict England directly?

Communist Party delegates, lead by Amter, took the position of compromise on the right with no concession to the left. Particularly blatant was an Amter amendment which added the word "compulsory" to the slogan "Abolish the R.O.T.C." The Communist Party also refused to approve "Support Americans fighting in Spain" on the grounds that that slogan might offend pacifists. Another Communist statement was, "We might fight a war for defense."

"If it is to be the kind of parade that in its major aspects violates the traditional position of the Socialist Party of this country, and in effect both in terms of the rejected slogans, and of those that were accepted turns out to be a parade that will marshall opinion for participation in the next war, then the Socialist Party cannot go along," the Socialist delegates stated. "The outcome of a war against Fascism" would be Fascism in this country unless the working class in this country utilizes the war to carry on its program against capitalism and for Socialism."

Nazis Find New Way To Exploit Workers

The Nazi labor ranks stand in rigid rows, their arms raised in salute to Big Boss Hitler, and their faces raised to an ultraviolet ray machine. They are being treated to become more efficient robots.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

SOCIALIST YOUTH

By Al Hamilton

National Secretary, Y.P.S.L.

AN OPEN LETTER TO WM. HINCKLEY, CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

DEAR MR. HINCKLEY:

One of the most important developments at the 4th American Youth Congress was the large labor delegation and the generally pro-working class attitude that dominated the congress as a result of the large labor representation. The Young People's Socialist League hailed this development as the most important single aspect of the Congress.

Back of our recognition of the importance of building unified action between labor and youth on immediate questions of the day was a certain fundamental outlook. Youth will have to choose its allegiance in these days when the conflict between labor and capital has reached such a high pitch. There can be no middle position; there can be no waiting to the heights above this struggle.

For this struggle between labor and capital both in its immediate implications and in its final developments is the basic struggle in society.

Must Choose

The American Youth Congress in choosing the issues around which the affiliated organizations will conduct their activities will have to make a choice in this struggle of labor with the visible and invisible power of capital. If the AYC is to lay claim to being the center for the rallying of progressive youth to fight the immediate battles of youth today, it must be pro-labor in its orientation. If the AYC is to play a progressive role in American life then its general orientation will be anti-capitalist. (Let me make myself clear. When I say anti-capitalist I do not mean that the AYC can or should be Socialist. But I do mean that in the methods, adopted for the carrying through of a campaign, in the people from whom support is sought for campaigns, in the slogans raised during campaigns, the American Youth Congress must choose those that will make clear that the AYC is aligned with the labor movement.)

Governor Hoffman

All of this brings me directly to the point of this letter. On the national advisory council of the American Youth Congress is the name of Harold G. Hoffman, Governor of New Jersey. Now Gov. Hoffman has been one of the public officials in the United States that has an anti-labor record that nobody can deny. In the recent upsurge of labor behind the CIO in New Jersey, Gov. Hoffman stepped into the leadership of New Jersey's labor sweaters in the attempt to break the strike of 20,000 laundry workers.

But there is no need to enumerate in detail Hoffman's record. It is clear. He is an opponent of basic workers' rights. He has lined up on the side of the employers in their effort to suppress the determination of American labor to organize.

As Young Socialists who are active in the daily struggles of the working class, as an organization that seeks to have the American Youth Congress become the center for unity of youth and labor for immediate action, we cannot remain silent. We must demand that Gov. Hoffman must be removed from the advisory council of the AYC. His continued membership on the advisory council can only mean that labor will ask: "What kind of an organization is this that allows a leader of our enemy to remain on one of its committees?"

It is well to remember that the delegates from the Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers' union of New York came to the Congress in Milwaukee with instructions to work for his removal. That was not done. Now the National Council must take action.

I have received a report of a speech made by yourself to the LID Summer schools in which you spoke for allowing such men as Swope, and Ford to be speakers for the American Youth Congress. Of course this report is second hand. I hope that such was not the case. For I cannot believe that you have any illusions that the AYC can be removed from the struggle now raging between labor and capital.

The AYC must keep itself clear of all things that will in the public eye place it on the side of capital and not of labor. Those whom we should strive to have on the Advisory Council of the AYC nationally, on local councils, as speakers for the AYC locally and nationally, are those men from the heart of American industrial struggles, men from the labor movement.

The issue is not drawn as yet. There is still time to make it clear to labor that the AYC has nothing to do with labor's enemies. The first step in making this clear is the removal of Hoffman from the Advisory Council.

Trager Reports On West Coast Labor Dispute

By Frank N. Trager

The unions of the West reveal a situation which thus far has not reached East of the Rockies but will in all probability shortly do so. When this occurs there may be a national change in the present West Coast CIO set-up. If, however this change does not

take place there will be a justifiable rank and file revolt against the present leadership of the West Coast CIO.

This cannot but hinder the general movement to organize the unorganized on an industrial basis. Furthermore, literally thousands of workers who are already unionized as in the agricultural and maritime industries — and who have a CIO orientation will turn, wrongly enough, against the CIO as such, if the change needed does not take place.

The conflict is primarily arising as a result of the real issues behind the so-called Bridges-Lundberg feud. Actually this is not a feud between leaders fighting for power but a basic controversy between the Bridges-Communist-Party dominated forces and the rapidly crystallizing west coast CIO unions and maritime progressive forces.

When I speak of Bridges I mean not only the man but also the support he has from an unholy alliance of the CP and the backward if not reactionary labor sources. The sailors, firemen among the unlicensed crafts, the auto workers, rubber workers, shoe workers and needle trades workers are in major degree convinced that it was a colossal blunder on the part of Lewis and Brophy to appoint Bridges west coast CIO director because Bridges has forfeited the confidence of many workers by virtue of his cowardly policies in the last maritime strike; his attempts until the recent change in the CP policy to make his peace with such arch reactionaries as Vandeleur on the west coast and Ryan on the east.

Now that Bridges is apparently in the CIO saddle he is trying to scuttle the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, as well as the Voice of the Federation, its mouthpiece. This because the job that was begun at the San Pedro convention of the Federation (1936) was completed at the convention at Portland this year, when the Bridges leadership was rejected in a democratic convention that lasted one month.

New CIO Paper

Because he no longer controls the Voice he is trying to build up the Oakland Labor Herald as his organ as well as a CIO paper.

In the complicated atmosphere which permeates the entire labor movement of the Pacific we find that the Bridges "march inland" by means of the organization of the Warehousemen (in conflict with the Teamsters) and the Cannery workers, also affects the Agricultural workers — the basic industry of California. The agricultural field for organization is divided into two main sections: the wage working field and migratory workers and the packing-shed and cannery workers.

It is the former that bore the brunt of California reaction and semi-fascist treatment in the organization drives of the 1932-4 period. These field and migratory workers are among the most exploited in America. The shed and cannery workers are less mobile, more accessible to organization and now compose the larger organized group. But in any indus-

trial union these two groups are absolutely necessary to each other if the industry is ever to be organized.

The real conflict in this situation between Bridges and the CP, and the progressives, is the fact that because Bridges has had some success in organizing these workers via "the march inland", he has sacrificed the state-wide interests of the migratory and field workers. And in his haste to get a CIO charter for the groups he controls, he has split the progressive forces inside the State Federation of Labor of which he had been vice-president.

With the assistance of Don Henderson, ex-Columbia University economics instructor, he helped to set up the new CIO cannery and agricultural union at whose birth John Brophy presided.

Despite the many mistakes thus far made by the National CIO leadership in this connection two things emerge in which all socialists and progressives can take heart: The CIO has formally announced that it will set up a national CIO agricultural committee to coordinate the work of organizing labor with the working farmers of America, and secondly, the west coast socialist and progressive forces in the maritime and CIO unions are preparing to fight for the CIO principles of industrial organization, even though it means a fight with the former leadership of the west coast militant longshoremen.

(In subsequent issues the full details of this story will be presented.)

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LEWIS LORE

By McAlister Coleman

As was the case with the New Deal, the CIO had its honeymoon days. Now they are as definitely over as is Mr. Roosevelt's "must" legislation.

It seems almost incredible, looking back over the short two years of CIO history, to realize how swiftly capitalism has been able to mobilize its old terror techniques against an organization which at the outset enjoyed at least a benevolent neutrality in that vague sphere we call "public opinion."

At its beginning the CIO was God's gift to the city rooms. It took labor news out of the obituary columns where the AF of L had interred it, slapped it spang on page one, right-hand column, and kept it there for the longest coverage that the movement has known in its history. Of course, it was a good story. There was the sturdy frame of John L. Lewis to hang it on. He was usually good for a Shakespeare quotation or a mean crack at Green. Further he was not known to the rank and file of the readers and there was "human interest" stuff about the man, his coal digger past, his effervescent bellicosity (two dollar words, boys), his living habits and philosophy.

A fight between two labor leaders, the prospects of some interesting stirring in labor after years of "innocuous desuetude" and a new personality to be exploited at a time when personality stories are at their peak. All that was lacking was the woman interest. The attempt to supply that by the introduction of the supposedly entranced Mrs. Myra Taylor into the steel negotiations was a flop, but by that time the story had been sold to the public anyway.

Lewis and Beethoven

So we had Lewis for breakfast, for the noon editions, the cocktail hour and the after-theatre cordials. Run o' mine reporters, Washington correspondents, trekkers, researchers, the bright young psychopaths who write "Time," trained seals of all varieties, barked briskly, snapped pictures, wore down the front steps of the Lewis home at Alexandria. Even "The Atlantic Monthly" got hysterical and printed a piece by a French count comparing the physiognomy of the Lucas mule-driver with that of Beethoven's. "The March of Time" had pictures of Mr. Lewis reading Homer. There was a suggestion that here was an American "Lawrence of Arabia," man-of-action-with-literary-bent-business.

It was too bad that Heywood Brown did not earlier come upon Mr. Lewis' love for the violin. Mr. Lewis holding a violin in one hand, a copy of Homer in the other, while he dictated a Shakespearean letter to Van Bittner would have been colossal in "The March of Time." As it was, the beelling brows of Mr. Lewis speedily became as familiar to the gum-chewers as the smiling features of their President. The CIO was Lewis, Lewis was the CIO and that's how the most significant social movement of our times got covered.

None of Us Dreamed

Then the fog of tear gas rising from the Mahoning Valley blotted out the honeymoon. He is no Beethoven now, but a Muscovite Beelzebub, this low Lewis person, who after all was serious about organizing the workers. And it is a Nero fiddle that he plays. "Can you imagine it, I met the man at dinner a year ago? A lawyer chap I know invited some of our crowd to meet him. We went for the fun of it. Quite an experience to be sitting next to the biggest labor leader of them all. Of course, none of us dreamed that he would raise such a terrible fuss. None of us would have gone near him if we had thought that he was going in for mass picketing and sit-downs and all that sort of rowdy business. Some of us who were at that dinner got together at the Union League the other night and sent \$1,500 to Johnstown, as a sort of conscience fund, for having been decent to the man."

Have you read the labor stories in "Time" recently or "News-Week" or any of the other publications that were lyrical about Lewis a year ago? Notice how The New York Times is playing down the conscientious, factual reporting of Louis Stark, one of the two or three (our own Eddie Levinson is another) labor reporters of integrity who know what it is all about? Seen the full-page advertisements of the scurvy crew of pulp-pounders, small-town riff-raff and panic-stricken peddlers that is fronting, under the name of The Citizens' National Committee, for the Tom Girdlers and Gene Graces?

The honeymoon is over and none should know that better than John Llewellyn Lewis. From the White House down, his erstwhile "liberal" friends are running out on him. But the rank and file sticks and will continue to stick to a man at the head of a militant organization that goes places. Let the scab-herders holler "Red." Labor leaders, who really lead, have ears for only one voice, the thunderous "forward march" of a determined rank and file.

Mayor LaGuardia Offers New York A 7-Cent Fare

By George Baker

(This is the last of the George Baker series on Mayor LaGuardia.)

Editors know: when a dog bites a man there's no news value in the story, but when MAN bites DOG, THAT'S NEWS. And the same might easily be said of the transit question in New York City politics: when a politician is for the five cent subway fare he's the usual politician, but if any candidate for office in New York were to come out for a higher fare, he would really be NEWS.

How many men have bitten dogs is not recorded, but so far NO politicians have come out openly against the five cent fare; as a matter of fact they have defended it vehemently. La Guardia is no exception. Yet, slight scratch under the verbiage reveals that La Guardia is the sponsor and political god-father of a scheme (The Seabury-Berle Plan) which will inevitably lead to a higher fare; perhaps seven cents, perhaps more.

Before going into the various phases of the plan and the attitude of its perpetrators, it might be well to mention here why New York workers are interested in the five cent fare. For one thing, an increase to seven cents would mean \$25 a year out of the pockets of the average New York family; for another, the Untermyer Reports (in September, 1927, and June, 1931) made an exhaustive study of this phase of the transit problem and found that the five cent fare on the subways was extremely profitable for the operators.

The Contract

Originally the five cent fare clause was put into the "Dual Contracts" signed between the city and the transit companies in 1913. At that time the city invested \$326,000,000, the IRT and BMT \$287,000,000; the companies were guaranteed an annual profit of \$10,000,000. Since that time the city, an actual partner, has suffered losses of \$332,500,000. The fact that we still have the fare is due, not to the good graces of the companies or the politicians, but rather to the greed of these two.

The companies, when they signed the contracts, were fearful that the public might learn of their enormous profits and demand a lower fare, so they insisted on the insertion of the clause: "the rate of fare shall be five cents but no more." After the war there was a sharp rise in prices, and ever since then the transit companies have been running from court to court to prove the phrase invalid, but they have always been defeated, and the five cent fare has remained.

For many years the city has been facing a deficit because it was forced to guarantee the earnings, not only of the subways, but of the dilapidated and outmoded elevated lines. For the past five years the elevated has been steadily losing traffic, but the transit companies insist that they be paid for at a fancy price.

Once before the transit companies tried to unload their own headaches on the city: in 1921 when they were ready to sell their street cars (which were eventually replaced by buses) to the city for some \$200,000,000. The public howl stopped this, but today there is a new gang of traction lawyers out to unload the outworn and outmoded elevated lines.

Set Up Commission

In 1934 Mayor La Guardia and the Fusion-controlled Board of Estimates set up the Seabury-Berle commission to look into a

unification plan. In 1936 they came out with it, and it won the immediate approval of the BMT, the IRT, the bankers of the city, the business men and real estate boards. Coming at a time when the IRT was already in the hands of receivers and the BMT was facing a continual decline in revenue it is little wonder that the transit companies hailed the plan, and warned the city that "prices would be higher later on."

Under the plan some \$425,000,000 would be paid for the companies' properties, some \$200,000,000 more than the actual value. The city has the right, through its original contracts, of terminating the existing leases and paying back to the company their investment in construction and equipment plus fifteen percent.

At this rate they could recapture the lines at about \$200,000,000. Seabury and La Guardia, however, are willing to pay out the difference for the utterly useless elevated lines and the companies' power plants (It has been proven the current could be furnished much cheaper even by the present gouging private companies). By the simple method of paying high prices for current to its own subsidiaries the BMT has shown a large income and has put it down at a high capitalization in order to be paid a high price for the property by the city.

Even after this huge sum entered the pockets of the transit companies and their banker owners, the city would have complete control. To them it would give a seventy five year mortgage, and not only on their former properties, but on the city-owned Independent System as well. It would freeze for seventy five years more into our transit system the 17 percent a year profit guaranteed the IRT by the dual contracts and \$3,500,000 preferential given BMT at the same time for the use of its dilapidated elevated lines.

Get Franchise

Not only this, but the BMT got a promise for a ten year extension of the Brooklyn Bus Company franchise granted by Tammany, and against which LaGuardia and Blanshard had originally fought.

There would be no real physical unification. The same conditions as are in operation today will continue. There is, further, no provision made for better service.

The price is so high that the amount to be paid out would leave no money for other city expenses, and, in order to stay within the statutory city debt limit it will be absolutely necessary to raise the fare. At a conference "called as part of Mayor LaGuardia's campaign to enlist the support of bankers, real estate men, and business interests" in speeding up unification, Mr. Delaney dropped the hint that unification would mean higher fares, and then went on to give utterly

false reasons why the public "won't object" to a higher fare when the roads come under city control.

La Guardia's attitude can be seen from his attitude to the bill introduced by Assemblyman Edward S. Moran, Jr., calling for approval by popular referendum of any unification plan, and a perpetual five cent fare on all rapid transit lines after unification. La Guardia and his advisers stated that unification would be achieved on the nickel fare basis, but that later the fare question should be strictly one of "municipal financial and social policy." In other words, let's get it over and then we'll say: We must raise fares and the higher fare will come in, just as the sales tax did.

Concerning labor in La Guardia's unification plan: no provision is made for decent wages or a collective bargaining system. The argument here, too, is that this is a matter to be discussed at a later date, but La Guardia has a pretty black record in dealing with the city's subway workers. For a long period he tried to put over a company union, telling the workers he would deal with his own employees directly, and not with "outsiders" such as the heads of the Transport Workers Union (A.F.O.L.), in spite of the fact that they placed fifty-one members out of seventy-nine on an employees board in an election. La Guardia was also instrumental in the veto by Governor Lehman of a bill setting a mandatory eight hour day, forty-eight hour week, and a fixed overtime pay schedule for all workers on the city subway.

What to Do

What could be done by a Socialist mayor to settle the transit unification snarl?

The Independent Subway could be expanded; present reports show that the Independent is more efficiently run than the IRT or BMT and that it is making large gains in passengers and revenue. In this way the city could continue to put the transit companies on the defensive; time and bankruptcy would work in its favor, as it did with the aforementioned street cars which the companies tried to dump on the city at a fancy price. Then the city could either recapture at a reasonable price or even buy, for once the transit companies see that the weapon of recapture is actually to be used they will sing an entirely different tune.

Of course, the real estate interests would like to see the city buy at present, for they are primarily interested in the immediate demolition of the elevated lines, regardless of the cost to the city. Since there is no provision at present for increased taxation along subway routes, they are anxious to see their property values increase painlessly with the destruction of the elevated structures.

The bankers want the city to buy at present because it will enable them to exchange their

Copeland: Coleman Knew Him When—

Copeland. Royal S. Copeland. Senator R. S. Copeland. Where have I seen that name before?

Oh, sure, he's the funny fellow who's been hiding up in the U.S. Senate all these years.

He's the other Senator from New York. Of course, I remember now. He makes those dull speeches. That doesn't distinguish him in the Senate but his is more than run o' mine dullness. He has a flair for dullness. He has an infinite capacity for giving pain. A genius, that boy.

I ran against him once many years ago. I was nominated for the job of U.S. Senator by none other than August Claessens. He made one of those "man who"

speeches. It was a panegyric in so exalted a style and so overwhelmingly laudatory that it was not until he hollered out my name at the end that anyone, myself included, realized that he was nominating me and not Sir Galahad. That was many years ago.

The "doc" had but recently arrived in these parts from Ann Arbor, Michigan. When he hit Grand Central he asked a porter what the politics were in town and he was assured that they were Democratic. The doc had been Republican Mayor of Ann Arbor, but he had his Democratic whiskers in his bag and hastily donning them, he joined Tammany Hall. The boys were delighted to receive not only an ex-Republican Mayor but also a doctor who could write. That is, who did write.

He wrote pieces for the Hearst

falling transit securities for gilt-edge city corporate stock and Board of Transit Control bonds. They also want to unload the elevated lines on the city before the junk man gets them.

But the workers have nothing to gain by this plan but an increased fare . . . and LaGuardia knows it. He feels, however, that he can get the support of the bankers and business men on the real basis of the plan, and he can demagogically come out for "unification," "municipal ownership," etc., before the workers. The Socialist Party is for municipal ownership, but this plan will not give us municipal ownership; it will raise the fare, will only guarantee inflated profits to the bankers who control transit in New York. Surely we cannot depend upon LaGuardia for a solution to the transit problem, a solution, that is, that will benefit those who need it most, the workers.

papers about pneumonia and how to keep out of draughts and what to do until the doctor comes. He was a real high-brow around the Hall. The only other doctor they had were probers, not writers. They probed the bullets out of the boys when there was any trouble.

On the whole it was a red-hot campaign. The doc came out like a man and took a firm stand against pneumonia. He went from the Bronx to Cattaraugus

County darning pneumonia and he flashed his eyes and worked up quite a sweat about it. I came out against intermittent fever. But he had me licked. As it turned out, there were more voters in the State who were against pneumonia than there were against intermittent fever.

The Doc Again

Now I see the boys are going to try out the doc again. They're going to run him for Mayor against Gardenia Grover in the primaries. Gardenia has been doing some hefty spade-work during these lean Tammany years. He muscled in on the World's Fair, we're going to have over in Queens somewhere. The idea being to put New York on the map and get some of the tourist trade. Grover is pretty sure to sweep the hot-dog and skee-ball concession vote if he gets the nomination. It will be a close race in the primaries between Grover and the doc. But I figure the doc will win. It would be his luck to have an outbreak of berri-berri just before the primaries and he could simply mop up with a few pieces telling folks what to do when the berri-berri comes. Grover's lovely picture looking at the Palace of Sanitary Engineering for the World's Fair won't get to first base if doc can get in some eye-flashing and fist-pounding against berri-berri.

On the whole it looks as though we were in for a swell educational campaign in New York this fall. With old Change-of-Political-Life Copeland whooping it up for Hearst and Hipocrates and Grover welcoming Art to our city the Democratic primaries will be something.

Does Your Neighbor Read the CALL?

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207 E. 14TH ST., COOKING
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JOHN'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Lunch and Dinner, Wines and Beer Served
Favorite rendezvous of Eugene Victor Robe.
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• PRIVATE DINING ROOMS FOR PARTIES •

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OPEN DAY AND NIGHT
Private Dining Room for Ladies and Gentlemen

5th Ave. Cafeteria and Bar
74 FIFTH AVENUE. The very best food—Most reasonable prices. Large Hall

HARTFORD BRUGG AND LUNCHEONETTE
Co. 17th and Union Sts.
Complete Luncheon 30c. Freezing Specials.
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Right Next Door to The Call

THE AUTO WORKERS MEET IN NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Ben Fischer

Executive Secretary, Socialist Party of Detroit

DETROIT, MICH.—The coming convention of the United Automobile Workers of America in Milwaukee, opening August 23rd, holds the center of the stage throughout the auto area. For all practical purposes this is an initial convention, for the UAW now is a great mass organization as compared to the small struggling group which broke from the AF of L and joined the CIO last year at its South Bend convention.

With some 360,000 members, the UAW is one of America's most powerful unions. The 300,000 members concentrated in Michigan constitute a solid bloc closely integrated and vastly influential in every phase of the life of this state.

Nevertheless, the union is young. A great deal of development and experience as well as struggle, vigilance and organization, will be necessary before the auto union will be a stable force which can be depended upon to weather any storm.

The UAW contract with General Motors, the foundation of the organization, expires on August 11th. The question of what happens then must be taken into account very seriously in considering the path which the UAW should follow.

These two considerations—the instability of the union and the GM contract—are the underlying conditions which dictate the union's politics. For some months now an intense factional struggle has been going on between the Administration group headed by President Homer Martin, and the progressive group known as the "Toledo caucus". Until very recently this struggle was becoming consistently more intense, more bitter and more widespread.

EXAGGERATIONS

Administration supporters have attempted to simplify the whole issue by charging the progressives with being Communists responsible for the many "unauthorized strikes". Many progressives on the other hand classed the administration supporters as reactionaries, red-baiters and opportunists. Maybe in each case the higher ups who hurled such charges felt that some exaggeration was permissible in a factional struggle. But thousands of rank and file workers have followed suit and have often exaggerated the exaggerations; even talk of split has been heard from some workers.

The struggle in the auto union has done great harm to the union. Socialist leaders were among the first to understand this. A stable union may be able to stand this type of factionalism but in the UAW it borders on suicide. In the face of the coming test with General Motors, a divided union split from top to bottom between warring factions would be very much to the liking of the bosses and would make them more defiant and more cocky than ever.

The capitalist press has plastered every bit of gossip about UAW politics all over its pages. The charge that progressives were responsible for "unauthorized strikes" has helped GM center attention on this issue more ef-

fectively than could have been possible otherwise. The accusations against union members and leaders as being Communists has also been a handy weapon in the hands of the enemies of the union.

Fortunately, the situation is rapidly changing. The pressure of the necessities of the union has had some effect; serious minded union leaders are beginning to review the hectic events of the past six months in a more objective fashion thereby creating a healthier situation.

Various people and groups assign different causes for the trouble in the union. But several things have become clearly apparent. The forces led by Martin have resorted to every type of factional practice to strengthen their position at the coming convention. The ousting of Roy Reuther and Ralph Dale from the leadership of the Flint local and of Emil Mazey from Briggs illustrates the manner in which union strength and solidarity has been disregarded and union politics elevated to the prime factor in determining administration actions.

REACTIONARIES

More effectively to carry through this line, the Martin group has made alliances with frankly reactionary elements. The Independent Communist Labor League (formerly the CPO) has continued to support the Martin group without differentiating itself from these alliances or any of the reactionary practices of the administration. Despite these alliances and some reactionary methods used by the Martin group, however, it is not a reactionary group itself. The fight against the real reactionaries becomes more difficult unless this fact is borne firmly in mind.

It is possible in the heat to overlook the fact that the UAW is the most progressive union in the country today. The present administration rates as at least as progressive as the leadership of any of the other CIO unions and in most cases it is far ahead. However, the present difficulties have undoubtedly driven the Martin group to the right and have strengthened the base and prestige of the reactionaries. Their association with Martin has done Martin no good but has surely reinforced the scent following which these reactionaries have managed to build up.

Running through the present fight is the quest for jobs in the

union. It would be wrong to overestimate this factor but a realignment based entirely on trade union principles would find many elements in both camps switching horses. However, such a realignment can only come after the present situation is cleared up.

THE SLATES

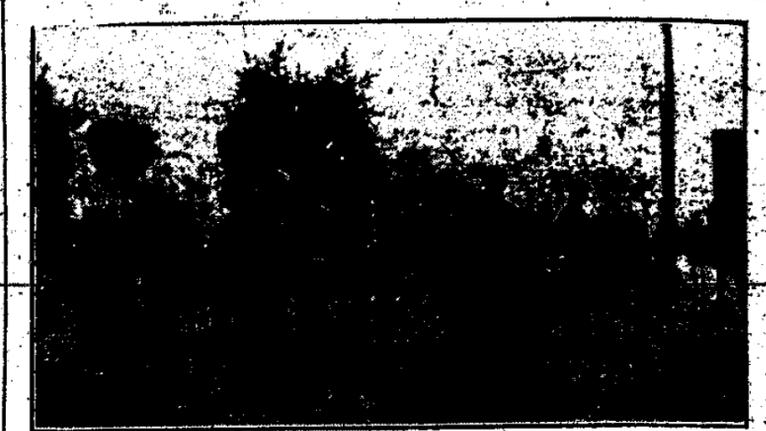
As the convention approaches, two slates for the elective officers of the union have been issued. The Martin group has named Martin for president, Richard Frankenstein, Martin's right hand man, for first vice-president; Merrill, president of South Bend, for second vice-president, and Wells to retain the third vice-presidency. This slate specifically excludes all adherents of the Toledo caucus. Its inclusion of Merrill is a source of extreme embarrassment to some of the better elements in the Martin group.

The progressive group has prepared a unity slate, also headed by Martin. It proposes the elimination of a numerical designation of vice-presidents as an unnecessary source of friction and asks for four, instead of three vice-presidents. Its nominees are Frankenstein, Wyndham Mortimer and Ed Hall, both progressives and at present the first and second vice-presidents, and John Thomas, president of Chrysler and of the Detroit District Council. Thomas is not aligned with either caucus.

This slate offers a real basis for unity. No one dominates it. It includes no reactionaries. Unity at the present time must mean unity of the progressive and loyal union elements; it cannot include reactionaries. The reactionaries are not wanted by any appreciable portion of the membership and they must be isolated from the leadership entirely.

The progressive group has changed its name to the Unity Caucus. Recently it approached the Martin group for unity negotiations but was not allowed the floor, finally being granted twenty minutes with the steering committee which turned down its proposals flatly.

The Unity Caucus has issued its program to the membership. It reflects a combination of a general acceptable progressive program and the newly-developing line of the Communist forces. The CP has changed its line sharply. From intense criticism of the administration it has swung to mere refrain of the need for unity without attacking the reactionaries and without defending such progressives as Reuther and Dale to the fullest possible extent. It has tried to put the Unity Caucus on record



The militia are always ready to "protect" private property. They did it this time, in Canton,

Ohio, by chasing people off the streets and taking possession of the streets themselves.

against all caucuses. It does not face the whole problem of the sit-down and the "unauthorized strike" boldly but rather takes a position hardly distinguishable from Martin's.

THE STRIKE ISSUE

The defense of the sit-down strike and the clarification of the whole matter of "unauthorized strikes" are two of the central issues in the union. Of course it is necessary to oppose "unauthorized strikes" but this can easily be made a smokescreen by a timid administration for not authorizing strikes. This is the tactic GM has in mind when it campaigns against "unauthorized strikes"—to discredit the union and to frighten the leadership.

The GM campaign must be met with a firm resolve to face every GM attack squarely. The right to the sit-down, a tactic on which the union was built, needs to be affirmed and stressed. The necessity of using the strike as a last resort to prevent chiseling on contracts and to enforce the all-important steward system must be firmly established. A union policy of authorizing strikes along these lines is the best answer to the problem of the "unauthorized strike," a problem which in any case is fast being overcome as the relationships between the union and the management develop.

On the question of the sit-down and the "unauthorized strike", therefore, the official pronouncements of neither group can be admired. However, among the progressives there is substantial allegiance to a genuine progressive approach on these questions, which is a good deal more than can be said at the present time about the Martin forces.

The question of union democracy is one on which there is very little disagreement, so far as programs go. As to what will be done, that is a different question. One cannot help but be suspicious of the Communists' championing the fight for union democracy in the UAW when one examines the record of Communists in other unions. But regardless of what course the Communists may follow, the desire for union democracy is deeply imbedded in the ranks of the auto workers. The

enormous powers of the president will almost certainly be curtailed. The power of the locals and the districts will probably be defined more concretely.

The question of independent political action will find the union lining up regardless of caucus; the present position of the unity group calls for cooperation with Labor's Non-Partisan League. A position for labor action independent from the capitalist parties will find delegates lining up across the present dividing lines.

The Milwaukee convention of the UAW presents the progressive labor movement with a real challenge. Enemies of the CIO and of militant unionism have been making much of the internal difficulties of the UAW. But there is every indication that the union delegates will hammer out a course which will produce a far healthier situation than prevails at present. Disagreements will not be done away with but disagreements fought out on a high level and within the discipline of the union will not be harmful. It is intense factionalism, unscrupulous factional practices, and neglect of the basic need for solidarity and workers unity which are the danger spots. The auto workers have proved their ability to fight successfully against the bosses; they will undoubtedly prove their ability to defend and advance their union in the face of great difficulty, internal division and the gigantic tasks of the immediate future.

BKLYN - QUEENS LABOR PROTESTS TO LA GUARDIA

Appointment of Inspector Lobdel of the 11th division in Brooklyn, New York, to investigate police brutality in the shipyard strike has been protested by the Brooklyn-Queens Labor Committee in a letter to Mayor LaGuardia.

The letter points out that it is the tactics of Inspector Lobdel himself which are to be subjected to investigation and further calls the attention of the mayor to the record of the Inspector in previous strikes, at May's Department Store and at the Fein Tin Can Company, (where one picket was killed).