

# All Quiet on the Unity Front

From a very well informed Party source we learn the following information about contemplated changes within the organization as the various little groups of Stalinists (all of them united, you understand) continue to jockey for position:

Robert Minor is to remain nominal editor of the Daily Worker for the time being, with the threat that the redoubtable Harry M. Wicks, may take his place. Earl Browder, however, has the thankless task of being "politically in charge", i.e., of commissaring Minor. Fralkin, who is more than suspected of having sympathies for Lovestone, is to be replaced as business manager by Wagenknecht.

## I. L. D. REORGANIZED AGAIN

The I.L.D. has been re-organized for the third time in nine months since the removal of Cannon, Abern and Shachtman for their support to the Leninist Opposition. The Wagenknecht-Tallentire administration had a swift collapse; it was followed by the Poyntz-Hacker combination which reached its high point of efficiency in a struggle between the two as to who would sign the checks. Now J. Louis Engdahl is to be made national secretary and he is sure to bring enough of his inherent bombast into the organization to put the finishing touches to the work. A. Jakira, who was so phenomenally successful in reducing the Pittsburgh District Party membership to a shadow of what it was before he became district organizer there, is rewarded for jumping off the Lovestone bandwagon in time by being made national organizational secretary of the I.L.D. George Maurer, who is one of the original faithful, becomes editor of the Labor Defender. The I.L.D.—in view of the "Third Period"—has become very revolutionary lately. It thunderously condemns the Civil Liberties Union, the I.W.W., the A.F. of L., the Socialist Party, Mooney, the Centralia prisoners with equal courage. It also gives its unqualified endorsement to the Communist Party, the Trade Union Unity Congress. The I.L.D. has become very radical.

In Pittsburgh, Pat Toohy has resigned as national secretary of the National Miners Union, evidently in accordance with the views of Lovestone whom he supports. The other proletarian fig-leaf of the Lovestone faction, William White, didn't get a chance to resign. He has been replaced as I.L.D. secretary in Pittsburgh by one of the graduates from the so-called Lenin School, Max Salzman, whose diploma was found to be duly signed and sealed by Stalin. Pat Devine has been changed from District Organizer in Minneapolis to the same position in Pittsburgh. In the meantime, the Minnesota proletariat palpitates in anguished anxiety over the selection of its next leader. Devine's solitary contribution to Communist work in the Twin Cities was his expulsion of the most able and experienced Communists from the Party for their views on the Opposition. There is no written record of any other accomplishment by him.

Unity has also been established in the T.U.E.L. John Williamson has been made assistant national secretary. His former minority group association has been balanced off by making the former majority group member, Karl Reeve, editor of Labor Unity. This anaemic sheet, starved for the last few months by its sterile editor, Hathaway, is now doomed in the name of unity to suffer the really pitiful fate of falling into the hands of so eminent an incompetent as Reeve. The patriarchal Ballam, who is distinguished from Reeve only by his age, has been made representative to the R.I.L.U. This pension was awarded him for his successful jump from the Lovestone camp to the C. I. bandwagon in the nick of time. Nevertheless, he goes "across" only by default: Foster failed to make the necessary fight for a more deserving toiler.

## CHICAGO GETS A GRADUATE

Chicago is being blessed with the appointment of C. A. Hathaway as district organizer; he also waves his "Lenin School" diploma on all occasions and his uniform is now an Open Sesame. He replaces William Kruse, who cast his lot with Lovestone and was removed. Kruse recently distinguished himself by proposing that the Chicago proletariat give up capturing the streets on International Red Day, and capture the woods instead by attending a picnic on August 1st. Sam Darcy has been offered the post of organization secretary in Chicago, but at the moment of going to press, he has not yet made up his mind whether the "Center" will be able to get along well enough without him in New York.

In New York, Benjamin has been removed as head of the Workers School and Agit-Prop director for supporting Lovestone. His place has been taken by Sam Darcy, who can write as dull and windy a thesis as any of them. Gusakoff has been yanked out of his New Jersey organizership for the same reason, and his place taken by the obedient Nat Kaplan, who all but captured the carmen's strike the first day of his job. Here, as in the case of most of the changes, it is substituting Tweedledum for Tweedledee.

Stachel, who is a cheap edition of Lovestone, has replaced Minor on the Political Committee, since the C.I. representative doesn't think much of the latter! No one knows who is the secretary of the Party, and not many care. The fact of the matter is, of course,

# The Aftermath of 'Red Day'

The international "Red Day" demonstrations organized by the Communist International on August 1st were precisely what the Opposition foretold they would be: artificially inflated actions that only demonstrated the growing weakness of the official Communist Parties and their tremendous loss of influence upon the workers. In some places this was proved more strikingly than in others, but everywhere the Parties failed by miles even to approach the aims originally set by the organizers of "Red Day". The Stalinists succeeded more in exposing their own weakness and internal collapse than they did in exposing the growing danger of imperialist war. The net result of the affair is another set-back for the Communist movement.

These sad facts cannot be covered up, even if the official Party press were to misrepresent the situation twice as much as they have been doing. The policy of falsehood and self-delusion serve only temporary ends, and even those are of an injurious nature to the working class movement. Therefore the facts must be recapitulated here so that a proper evaluation of the August 1st demonstration can be made.

## THE MASSES AND "RED DAY"

In no country (outside of the Soviet Union, of course) did the workers "take possession of the streets" either they held their meetings without any appreciable interference by the police, as in Berlin's Lustgarten, or, where the authorities were determined that no meetings were to be held, as in Paris, no meetings were held—unless the scattered, disorganized and futile turnout of a few hundred or more workers can be entitled a demonstration. Most depressing is the fact that where the police proceeded with particular violence and arbitrary measures against the demonstrations, as in Czecho-Slovakia, China, France or Finland, the Communist Parties showed themselves entirely incapable of arousing the masses of the workers to fight back. In such instances, the Communists and their very closest sympathizers fought alone. The working class masses did not rally to them. Under the best of conditions, the demonstrations were attended by no greater number of workers than are to be found at the average mass meeting held during some regular campaign of the Party. In such countries as England, the "demonstrations" were a series of miserable debacles.

In the United States, the "huge demonstrations" existed largely in the columns of the Daily Worker, which has over again justified the view current in the International that it is the worst and most unreliable Communist paper in existence. It did not even have enough sense to lie with consistency. For example, the New York demonstration, attended by 5,000 to 6,000 workers, was reported in huge headlines: "20,000 NEW YORK WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST IMPERIALIST WAR" (August 2). But the review of August 1st by Stachel (August 2) says: "New York City—Main demonstration about 12,000 workers." Forty percent cut off with a stroke of the pen! "MANY THOUSANDS MORE STRIKE" continued the Daily Workers headline on August 2, enlarging on this with: "The 20,000 who gathered in Union Square were only a small fraction of the tens of thousands of New York workers who at the call of the Communist Party of District 2, stopped work at 4 p. m. yesterday." Stachel, however, reports, 10 days later: "The partial information indicates that about 10,000 workers downed tools at 4 p. m." What fraction is 20,000—"only a small fraction"—of 10,000? "Philadelphia and Detroit held big demonstrations... San Francisco witnessed the biggest demonstrations in years," boasts the Daily Worker (August 3), but Stachel forgot this when he reports that "the Philadelphia, Detroit and California districts... did not organize mass street demonstrations". 200,000 DEMONSTRATE IN BERLIN" and on the very next day (August 3) its headline says: "140,000 MEET IN BERLIN"! What are sixty thousands here and there to these fearless leaders who have taken possession of the streets! As a matter of fact the recently arrived Berlin papers show that only 30,000 attended!

## THE PHRASEMONGERS RANT

And the streets were not only things that were taken possession of. In New York, according to Darcy, (the Daily Worker, August 10), "several hundred of the demonstrators marched to the headquarters of the socialist party (and) took possession of the front steps (!) of the socialist party building, the Rand School"

that the C.I. Commission is holding the Party in receivership; the Polcom members are too timid, loyal, obedient and Bolshevized to do anything but cry "Ditto" to anything that "George Williams" hands down from Mt. Sinai. The Almighty Williams has finally decided that a Plenum of the Central Committee can be risked in about 4 weeks, when the Polcom and the Secretariat will be re-organized again and unity established more firmly than ever before . . .

What else but unvarnished idiocy can we call such pathetic dilettantism, as well as similar nonsense about "our comrades' guerrilla warfare with the police", the "armed camp in Chicago" or "shock troops" We will not speak here of the romanticism of the "uniformed young worker guards". A Martian reader of the Party press would become seriously convinced that we stand before volcanic revolutionary convulsions in the United States, which the Party prevents from taking proper advantage of solely because of "defeatists and counter-revolutionists".

We proposed that the demonstration be called off. Our estimate was proved correct. It had nothing in common with "defeatism". It is often necessary for the workers to retreat, either because of the immaturity of the situation or lack of revolutionary preparation. Lack of preparation there was a-plenty. One has only to read the speeches at the 10th Plenum of the Executive of the Comintern for crushing evidence of that. Read the speeches of the reporter, Barbe, on "International Red Day"; read the speeches of Hörner, Semard, Gottwald, Hansen, Jaquemotte, Piatnitsky and Bell. From them you will get a fairly clear picture of the utter lack of preparation by the various Parties of the C. I. for the "Red Day", the absence of any enthusiastic response in the ranks, the universal indifference of the workers as a whole, the absence of any conviction, the depressiveness of the general atmosphere. Then compare their speeches with the light-headed vapors of one Bower, of the E. C. I., (who is this new mentor of Bolshevism, by the way?): "The excavators (of Paris) managed to break through the police cordon and to demonstrate, true, in torn shirts, true, covered with blood, with great enthusiasm through the boulevards of Paris. Such must be the line of the Comintern." With the Communist Parties weaker, less influential, more torn by dissension, more misled and less capable of the taking advantage of a revolutionary situation than at any other time in the last six years, we are condemned as "defeatists" for refusing to fall into line with such phrase-mongering extravaganzas.

Where in Europe the slogans and actions of the Parties were tragic, in the United States they assumed certain aspects of infantilism. After three damaging defeats for the Communist Party and the left wing in New York—in the cloakmakers', furriers' and iron workers' strikes—the Party goes blithely ahead with a call for a general strike on August 1st! The fact that this slogan meant nothing, that not even a sizable minority of the workers heeded it (Stachel says apologetically: "The mobilization of the Needle Trades Industrial Union was not very successful"), does not disturb these irresponsible dabblers in revolution. Nor do they worry a bit about the fact that the serious and significant slogan of general strike becomes dangerously discredited among the workers when it is played with so lightly and unwarrantedly. Never mind; the "Third Period" is broad enough to cover all sins. The debacle of "Red Day" was not the first sin of the Stalinists and it will not be their last.

## A Stalinist Provocation

### A NEW WEAPON AGAINST THE OPPOSITION—

In the early part of this year, comrade Ugo Girone, a member of the Italian Communist Party, and a refugee from Fascism in France received permission from the Central Committee of the Party to return to Italy so as to bring back his wife. After arriving in Italy, Mussolini's bloodhounds suddenly arrested him in Milan, whence he was transported to Rome for trial. In the meantime, the Party Committee had discovered that comrade Girone is a member of the Central Committee of the Left fraction of the Party (Bordiga group). While he was still in the hands of the Fascist murderers in Rome, the Italian Party press in France and Belgium, as well as the Italian Party organ in New York, Il Lavoratore, published official articles denouncing comrade Girone, declaring publicly that he had gone to Italy secretly to do work for the Opposition among the Party comrades, telling his name, that he was a professor of Avelino, and insisting that he was an Italian citizen, and not as Girone claimed, a citizen of the Argentine Republic. This infamous denunciation, the work of provocateurs or Centrists gone mad, was just what Mussolini was looking for. Fortunately, comrade Girone was able to prove his Argentine citizenship, and the Fascisti were unable to dig up clear evidence that he had engaged in seditious work. Girone is now in France again.