



LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS



THE T. U. U. L. CONFERENCE

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:—

I attended fully two days of the Cleveland conference of the T.U.U.L. Being a visitor I was obliged to sit in the balcony so I could not actually count the number of delegates on the first floor. However, I doubt if they had 700 delegates, as they claimed, during the convention as there were many Party officials, etc., sitting downstairs. However, granting they had 700 delegates present, I don't see why they stopped at 700 as they could just as easily have assembled 1,000 delegates—there must be 300 more members of the Party they could have mobilized in order to make it a nice-sounding, round number of 1000 delegates. That would have impressed the R.I.L.U. delegate so much more favorably.

For instance, in talking to R. G. she told me that she was one of a delegation of 25 who represented the N. Y. local of the T.U.U.L.: a simple duplication of delegates in order to bring the total attendance up to a big number. I suppose the different trade or industrial groups making up the N. Y. T.U.U.L. sent delegates representing their respective groups; then whom did the 25 delegates represent?

There were also delegates representing the workers at N. Y. camps such as Wocolona and Nitgedaiget. You can draw your own conclusions as to these delegates. As for the new unions, you know their strength as well as I and can judge their representation yourself. I was told the miners' union had a delegation of 235 and the Auto Workers' Union a delegation of 70. If I remember correctly, Stachel's article in the *Daily Worker* gave the miners 181 and the auto workers 37. Why this change in figures?

Oh, yes, there was a delegate from Los Angeles, representing cooks, a Party member. He told me that among the delegation from the Coast was one from Hollywood, representing those men and women who make up the mob scenes in the movies. What do you think of that?

Of course, there were non-Party delegates present. But I think the majority were Party members. In fact, it looked like a Party convention. As far as I could see all the District Organizers were present. All the dignitaries on the stage were Party members. I met and talked to Party members from all over the country. In short, the Party was well represented—too well to make one believe that there is really a basis at present for a new trade union center.

The main theme of all speeches was rationalization of industry and the resulting low wages, speed-up, etc., for the workers. This was especially true of the 15 minute reports made by representatives of the various industrial conferences held one evening. No serious (or otherwise) consideration of the A. F. of L. and work within it was made. The only time the A. F. of L. was mentioned was to call them labor fakers and denounce them generally. One delegate from the new miners' union took the floor and stated: "At our convention April 1st, there was present an A. F. of L. faker who tried to make trouble and disrupt the convention. But at this convention today there is no A. F. of L. faker present. That shows the A. F. of L. is no more. It does not exist." No one offered to enlighten him on this subject.

When Biedenkapp reported for the shoe workers, he said: "There is a union of the boot and shoe workers, but it is an A. F. of L. union. I will say no more about it than that it is an A. F. of L. union."

While I attended the conference, I heard no opposition from the floor except when a delegate protested against the way the various convention committees were organized by appointment instead of by general election. He said they had followed an A. F. of L. procedure. I guess he was not a Party delegate.

I took some notes on Dunne's speech. He spoke on the accomplishments of the T.U.U.L. in the various industries and said as follows: "In the needle trades there has been a slight series of errors. The principal error, I think, has been the failure to see that the needle trades industry is not an exception from the general scheme of concentration of capital and control by finance capital in this imperialist period. In other words, although the productive process in the needle trades industry is extremely decentralized, the decisive control of the industry is in the hands of the big banks. And so, in place of carrying out maneuvers designed to play one group of small capitalists against another, which might have been good in pre-war conditions we have to substitute the building of a powerful industrial union based on the shop delegate system. This has not been done." Of all the mistakes made in the needle trades by the Party and Left wing leaders this was the only one mentioned.

On the automobile industry, Dunne said: "In the auto industry so far, our basis is chiefly in the workers in

the lighter section of the industry—the body industry. This is not a correct basis for an automobile industrial union. Means must be found to establish a broad basis in the metal section of the industry, which is the decisive section.

"In the textile industry, although no one, I think, regrets that the N.T.W.U. was organized when it was, the instructions of the R.I.L.U. were not carried out. The instructions for a preliminary organization was to give the union a broad mass basis. The union was formed in too careless a manner. As a result of this it went into struggles greatly handicapped."

Fraternally,

REBECCA SACHAROW.

ACTIVITIES IN MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Comrades:

Bill Simons was here last night, gave a most miserable speech to about 60 people and the meeting was closed at 10:30 without discussion. Through questions we forced him to say that any organization of workers fighting imperialism would be allowed to join the A.A.A.I.L. We will affiliate to the League, although we know what will be tried in spite of Bill's statement.

We have a new strike in the linseed oil industry—a big industry here—which is taking up a lot of our time. Only a few workers involved at present, but we are trying to weld into shape, out of those striking, a group which can be used for organization work in other plants. Slow work, lots of patience required, raw workers, but real fellows who will, under proper guidance, help to move mountains.

The Party here, with Clem Forsen as political leader, could hardly be more pitiful. This fellow who has never understood where he was going, or in fact why he was in the Party. Forsen—who two years ago came to us and said that he was disillusioned and discouraged and offered as the solution that "he leave the Party". We spoke with him then as a young comrade, and finally prevailed upon him to stay in the Y.W.L. It is now plain to us that he never stopped upon the downward path. It should be recorded that he was the "Party representative" in the I.L.D. Gastonia conference, who led the attack upon us, made a 50 minute speech against us and then opposed the motion to grant me 5 minutes to state our position. He was chairman at last night's anti-imperialist meeting—positively shameful. Bill S. avoided us when the meeting was over; he only pulled down his hat over his eyes and rushed out past us into the night!

The *Militant* continues to be a joy and inspiration. Tremendous obstacle to the betrayers of Lenin's Party—their work is tough under the glare of our exposure.

VINCENT R. DUNNE.

COMMUNIST LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

The drive for the WEEKLY MILITANT constitutes a major activity for the Communist League of America (Opposition). All the branches understand the importance of a Weekly publication and are active in raising money to start the paper, securing subscriptions and increasing the sales of THE MILITANT on the newsstands and bookstores. However, activities in other fields are occupying the efforts of the Communist League members. These are indicated below.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Work among the striking linseed oil workers is being carried on by the Minneapolis comrades, as the latest development of their numerous activities in the class struggle. It is the banner city also now in securing subscriptions for *The Militant* its quota for the Weekly Militant has been filled.

BOSTON, MASS. The Boston comrades, enthused at the prospects of a Weekly Opposition paper, have pledged a regular amount each month to maintain *The Militant*. A mass meeting is scheduled for Friday November 1st. The Boston branch is working for the wide distribution of the Russian paper, *Bulletin of the Opposition*.

TORONTO, CANADA. Development of educational work, new members, drive to complete the Weekly Militant quota, arrangements to secure broad distribution of the *Bulletin of the Opposition* (Russian) throughout Canada, and discussion of trade union activities were among the points taken up at the recent meeting of the Toronto branch.

PITTSBURGH, PA. A branch of the Communist League is being formed in Pittsburgh, reports comrade James Sifakis.

CHICAGO, ILL. An entertainment for the benefit of *The Militant* will be held by the Chicago branch on October 26th. Chicago reports that its quota for the Weekly Militant will be completed within a few days.

New members have recently been recruited into the Chicago branch, and comrade Arne Swabeck writes that a broad program of activities is outlined for immediate work by the Branch.

NEW YORK, N. Y. Preparations for the mass meeting on October 22nd and the entertainment and dance on October 26th, activity to fill the Weekly Militant quota, street meetings each Saturday night, keep the New York branch busy. *Militant* sales on the newsstands increase appreciably with each new issue of the paper.

ST. LOUIS, MO. The St. Louis comrades recently held a successful meeting on behalf of the Gastonia frame-up victims.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. The Philly comrades, though few in number, are distributing *The Militant* well and

THE STRIKE IN K. C.

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Comrades:

Before leaving St. Louis, the comrades there were arranging an affair for the *Militant*. They are sure on the job there and few as they are, they are many more times as active as the Party under Delbert Early's guidance. They are making valuable connections in the labor movement and with the correct policy they will soon be an important factor in St. Louis. I just received a letter stating that their Gastonia meeting was successful.

In K. C. we have an interesting situation. The local Loose Wiles Biscuit Co. tried to introduce a speed-up and there was a spontaneous walkout. The workers are mostly young girls and their spirit is splendid. After walking out they turned their minds to organizing and the local A. F. of L. boys organized them. The first day of the strike, Stephens, the Party D. O. issued a leaflet in the name of the T.U.U.L. It had the whole bible in it, nothing omitted—rationalization, speed-up, war danger, betrayers of labor, an attack on the A. F. of L. and telling them: "Our organization is representative of the masses of workers in the United States who are organizing into fighting unions and shop committees in every industry!" He appeared at the first organization meeting of the union where he changed his mind about whom he represented, and it became instead the I.L.D. I spoke after him and tried to point out the next step—organization—and I sounded a militant note by urging the spreading of the strike to the other plants of the National, etc., and other cities and completely shutting down the plant. The remarks were well received by the workers.

We are arranging an affair in K. C. for the *Militant* in two weeks.

Comradely,

CHARLES CURTIS.

THE PARTY IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Comrade Abern:

I received your letter with stamps, which I am going to keep to organize a branch. The Lovestone group here is not more than five, circulating their secret statements without results. The movement here in Pittsburgh was wrecked by Jakira. The Party membership is very small. Since the new organizer came here some street meetings were organized with a very poor attendance, which the *Daily Worker* reported as a success.

You will find enclosed a money order to pay for my bill and for a donation to the *Weekly Militant*.

Yours for the revolution,

JAMES SIFAKIS.

completing their Weekly Militant quota.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. An affair for the benefit of *The Militant* is being arranged here. Comrade "Shorty" Buchler, a live-wire comrade for many years is ill. We hope soon to note his recovery and to see him active again.

RICHMOND, CALIF. Aid for *The Militant* comes regularly from this point.

The month of September witnessed an increased activity among the branches of the Communist League. Subscription to *The Militant* also came in in substantial numbers from various parts of the country.

WORKING FOR GASTONIA

We print the following self-explanatory letter sent by our Chicago comrades to the local office of the International Labor Defense. The "lists" referred to are the I. L. D. signature lists being circulated among workers to protest against the Gastonia frame-up.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 8, 1929.

Secretary I. L. D.

Local Chicago

Dear Comrade:

Please find enclosed herewith 3 Gastonia Protest lists with check for \$5.85 for the signatures collected.

It is today deplorable to recollect that the conference organized by you for the defense of the Gastonia frame up victims, through mechanical measures applied by the Party, refused to seat the delegates from the Communist League (Opposition). Similar incidents have happened elsewhere and done injury to the movement. The answer of our comrades has been to continue their activities for the Gastonia case and for the I. L. D. in general, the only correct answer for Communists to give. You know that several of our members are doing good, active work in the I. L. D.

The only effective way to fight the Gastonia frame-up and establish the right to organize and strike is by the broadest possible united front actions. Not only a united front of all forces of the Communist and left wing movement, but also drawing in such workers for participation who may not be in sympathy with Communism but would be willing to help fight against the Gastonia frame-ups. Such should by all means be the policy of the I. L. D.

With best wishes for success in this fight, I remain,

Fraternally yours

Communist League of America (Opposition)

Chicago Branch,

Per, Arne Swabeck.

Come to the Chicago
JAMBOREE

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**THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF
AMERICA (Opposition)**

At STISKA'S HALL

4021 N. Drake Avenue

Saturday, October 26, 1929

Dancing — Refreshments — Hungarian Goulash
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