

# IN THE LEAGUE

For the period of the coming three months one of our plans call for an intensive campaign for new subscribers to the **Militant**. Our goal is the definite return to the **Weekly** at the end of this period. With the proper response from our branches, our readers and sympathizers the goal will become a reality.

Our branches should make up competing teams and set to work with some inducement for the winning team, that is, the one securing the most subs on a yearly basis. We offer for this period a special three months trial subscription of 25c, also a special combination offer of either one of the three books with a yearly subscription. "Criticism of the Draft Program of the Communist International", or "The Strategy of the World Revolution" (both by L. D. Trotsky), or "Since Lenin Died" (paper cover) by Max Eastman, for the price of \$2.00, good only for this period. This campaign commences Feb. 1st, continuing up until May 1st. What is your answer?

We will also have special prizes for the best individual sub. getters. A sufficient number of new subs offers the opportunity for the active comrade of acquiring either "My Life" by L. D. Trotsky or "The Real Situation in Russia!"

Our permanent pledge fund for publication of revolutionary literature and strengthening of our organization is just beginning to get under way. Any comrade interested in our work of publishing fundamental Marxian literature—in addition to the recent works of Comrade Trotsky also those of the revolutionary classics not yet published in English—should by all means enter this regular pledge fund, set the sum he feels able to advance regularly every month and meet the payments. Comrades Vincent Dunne of Minneapolis, T. Boisner of Los Angeles, Calif., and Antoinette Konikow of Boston, Mass., have been the first to enter the fund with a regular pledge of \$5.00 monthly. The Kansas City branch pledges \$20.00 monthly and the New York branch \$75.00.

Recent developments in the revolutionary movement and in the general situation of the country have brought new life to our organization. Thus in Philadelphia and in Cleveland where our supporters had for some time showed a lack of activity in an organizational sense, the comrades now report that they are getting together, endeavoring to build up regular organized activity once more.

In the International Left Communist movement, there are many interesting developments, particularly in the form of new adherents to our movement, which are all recorded in our "International Bulletin", so far printed in French and German only. This material is now being translated and each monthly issue of the bulletin reproduced in mimeographed form. Issue No. 1 is out and copies can be ordered from the **Militant** office at 10c each.

Our Minneapolis branch reports that in a special ward election to be held in the city, upon the failure of the official party leadership to file a candidate, our comrade John S. Brinda will carry the Communist banner as an officially filed candidate.

Comrade Brinda was one of the leaders of a splendidly fought eleven months upholsterers' strike in Minneapolis in 1927. His revolutionary position is well known in the ward and the campaign, we can conclude in advance, will bring additional strength to the Communist movement.

The Chicago branch is conducting a class in Marxism with comrade Hugo Oehler as instructor every Wednesday 8 p. m. at 1214 N. Washenaw Ave. The branch is the main active force in building up the Workers Forum held every first and third Friday, 8 p. m. at Fleiner's Hall, 1638 N. Halstead St. It invites all interested workers to join in both of these activities.

## OPEN FORUM

For the past few months, the New York Branch of the League has been conducting very successful Forums at the 14th Street Labor Temple. These Forums have become an institution in New York, a clarification ground for Communist workers. The most vital problems and principles of communism have been taken up and discussed. Experienced speakers and working class leaders of long standing like comrades James P. Cannon, Arne Swabeck and Max Shachtman have presented the views of the Left Opposition on such important topics as "Prospects of the American Revolution", "Alignments for the New War", "The Historic Role of the Opposition", "The Unemployment Question", "The Present Crisis—What Next?" etc. in a most interesting and informative manner.

The discussion, in which all are given the floor and in which party members and sympathizers particularly have participated, has shown a remarkably high level of interest and intelligence. All sorts of questions related to the struggle of the Opposition and to the Communist movement in general have been raised at these lectures. They have received the utmost attention from the speakers, who give clear and unequivocal answers.

Some of the problems to be discussed shortly are: "Can the Left Opposition Make a Bloc With the Right?", "Recent European Strikes — Strike Strategy", "Dialectic Materialism" and the "Communists and the Progressives" etc. All workers are urged to attend and participate in the discussion. Admission: 25c. Free for Unemployed Council members. Look for the exact date in the **Militant**.

## Weisbord and the Liquidators

The "Textile Unity Committee of the National Textile Workers Union", that is, the group of Lovestone adherents whose aim has been to liquidate the Left wing in the textile industry, has now taken a further step in its evolution, implicit in Lovestone's policy from the very beginning, which should now make clear the Right wing's rôle in the Communist movement to every militant. We learn of this recent step from a letter sent out by Albert Weisbord, who was in alliance with the Lovestoneites in this movement from its inception.

When the "Unity Committee" was first

organized by the Lovestone faction, with the aid of Weisbord, the latter made every endeavor to draw the Left Opposition to its support as a good "united front" proposal. At that time, several months ago, we rejected the whole plan and warned Weisbord and others that the Lovestone committee was a liquidationist movement which would reveal itself completely as soon as Lovestone was able to delude a sufficient number of textile workers to go along with it. Weisbord, intent upon doing "mass work" at all costs, and determined to realize his plan of a bloc with the Right wing in order to save the Communist movement from . . . Menshevism, continued not only as a member of the committee, but came forward as its most active spokesman. His rôle in the committee, wily-nilly, was that of bell-wether, leading the textile workers among whom his record and prestige still held into the Lovestone camp. It goes without saying that Lovestone had this rôle of come-on well marked out for Weisbord from the very beginning.

Utilizing Weisbord—and not utilized by him—Lovestone succeeded in holding a few meetings of textile workers in the East and making ready for his next step, just as he has already done in the needle trades, among the food workers, in the miners' union and everywhere else that the Right wing has a foothold. At the last meeting of the committee, the Lovestone faction adopted a stand which, according to Weisbord now, "stood for the liquidation of the National Textile Workers Union and for a united front with the United Textile Workers and the Associated Silk Workers' officials".

This "new program" is not at all unexpected. It is part and parcel of the Lovestone course in the trade unions, which consists of a bloc with discredited reactionaries posing as "progressives" directed against the Communist party and Communist influence in the labor movement in general, all under the guise of "mass work". That course did not begin yesterday, or at the "last meeting" of the Textile "Unity" Committee. We warned against it in time and rejected any bloc with the Right wing faction to further this aim. We called the liquidators liquidators, while Weisbord was protesting, only a few weeks ago, that it was not a liquidationist movement. He writes now: "The committee is no more a committee to put fight into and to build up the N. T. W. U. but a committee to help the A. F. of L. and the Muste fakery to sell out and to betray the workers." The fact is: It never was a committee to put fight into the N. T. W. U. It was from its inception a committee to liquidate the Left wing in the textile industry, and Weisbord contributed his modest services in this direction.

This is not the first instructive instance of where individuals have come forward with the acknowledgment that the standpoint of the Left Opposition against a bloc with the Right wing is correct for . . . Germany or France or Iceland but does not apply in . . . the United States. The results of the short-lived and destructive experience with the "Textile Unity Committee" are rich with proof of just how much wisdom is contained in such a point of view, defended by Weisbord and rejected by us. At a time when clarification on all the principle, of all the strategical and tactical questions in the Communist movement is a burning necessity, muddlers and confusionists are the most dangerous obstacle. The Left Opposition has not yet had the occasion to depart from its principled position. The latest experience of Weisbord has, far from invalidating it, only served to confirm its correctness.

## A WORD FROM BERLIN

A comrade writes us from Berlin:

The situation in Germany has become extremely accentuated. The moods of despair grow among the masses, the whole country is in a state of deep social ferment which must lead to an explosive outbreak. The disparity between the strong Communist sentiment in the masses and the radius of action of the party is frightful. Despite its four and a half million votes, the party sets in motion throughout Germany tens of thousands at most in any move, as a consequence of its tactical blunders. The results of this incapacity in the party are ruinous. The cadres of the party do not recognize that the blame for this catastrophic condition is not borne by the masses, but that the policy of the party makes it impossible to unleash the stored-up energy of the masses. That is how pessimism towards the masses rises in the party itself, as well as a certain mood of despair.

Wherever we have fractions, our influence has generally grown. In Berlin, that is, especially in Wedding, the most revolutionary and decisive working class quarter of Berlin, our comrades harass the party apparatus and we frequently learn from leading party functionaries that in many nuclei, with which we have no connections at all as yet, our conceptions and very often our proposals are defended. . . .

## Proletarian Party Meet

The Proletarian Party, we learn from Chicago, is to hold the national convention in Detroit in May of this year. The significance of this gathering lies in the fact that the more than four years that have elapsed since the last national convention of the party have constituted a period in which the Communist movement has passed through its severest crisis from which it is far from issuing today. It is precisely in these years that the revolutionary movement has witnessed the transformation of the Leninist International into the international apparatus of the Centrist faction of Stalin. It has not only been a period of one crashing defeat for Communism after another (British general strike, uprisings in Poland and Vienna, the catastrophic conclusion of the second Chinese revolution, etc., etc.), but also of a theoretical backsliding into the morass of revisionism in the most fundamental conceptions of Marxism.

The Proletarian Party, as is known, has considered itself a Communist organization, loyal to the principles of Marxism—and the international proletarian revolution, even though it remained outside the framework of the Communist International. In so-called specifically American questions, the P. P. has maintained a sectarian hostility to the official Communist Party, refusing the instructions of the Comintern to merge with its American section: in international questions, the official position of the P. P. has been an unqualified endorsement of the prevailing policies of the official International leadership not only in Europe in general, but in the Soviet Union especially. So far as its attitude towards the struggle within the Comintern is concerned, its principal declaration has been a disgraceful article by one Nowak, which repeats all the dreary and platitudinous slanders against the Opposition borrowed from the files of the Inprecorr.

This nationally-restricted outlook, largely akin to that of the Right wing Brandler group in Germany, has not met with the unanimous approbation of the P. P. membership, whose schooling in the elements of Marxism has made it difficult to swallow the feeble substitutes for Marxist science which are put forward by the "theoreticians" of the Stalin school. In some sections of the membership, notably in Chicago, a new interest has been aroused in the fundamental questions of principle raised by the Left Opposition, accompanied by a desire to study, to understand and to take a definite position on them. The realization is penetrating some of the members of the P. P. that the Communist movement today is no longer a whole, but a body divided into three parts: the liquidationist Right wing, the Centrist swamp, and the Marxist Opposition. The leanings in the direction of the latter which have been manifested by some of the P. P. comrades are the healthiest sign of a ferment in the Proletarian Party that have been seen for years.

Not even the isolated existence of the P. P. can forever be a barrier to the entry of the fundamental disputed questions. Whether these questions will actually come up for discussion at the P. P. convention depended in large measure upon the ability of the advanced members compelling such a discussion despite the unwillingness of some of the party leaders. It can be said that should the convention take place without such a discussion, it will end without having accomplished anything and could just as well never have been held—a gathering of revolutionists which refuses to take up these questions that have split the movement is a gathering from which all life is removed because it is removed from life itself. We hope that this will not be the case, because an objective and honest examination of the disputed questions would mark a big step forward by the P. P.

In future issues of the **Militant**, we expect to return to the question of the Proletarian Party and its Detroit convention.

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