LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

A Criticism of the Needle Trades Article

BROOKLYN, N. Y. Dear Comrades: My attention has been called, somewhat belatedly it is true but still in time, to the article in the April 15 issue of The Militant, entitled "Left Wing Victory or Treacherous Bargain." The appearance of an article of this type over the signature of J. P. Cannon is cause for great concern-concern for the revolutionary integrity of The Militant and apprehension for the honest detachment of comrade Cannon. It is quite in order for the Right wing of the C. P .- the Lovestoneites, to besmirch themselves with fabrication woven out of their own disordered minds, but for The Militant to fall a victim to as openly treacherous and perfidious a piece of work that has ever been attempted by the Schlesinger Right wing, is to almost believe in the possibility of the impossible. Amongst a few misleading statements comrade Cannon makes, is one that "The third group, the weakest numerically and one that came to life only recently and has played very little part in the life of the local, is the "Left wing" group directed by the C. P." This statement is absurd. The slightest knowledge of the situation in the International L. G. W. U. and especially Local 9 points out clearly that the strongest forces of the Left groups are concentrated in Local 9. The Left group of Local 9 was the first to defeat the \$3.75 tax, proposed by the In. has to fight his way. He is almost cer-sibility of a doubt the official party's deternational administration. In the elec. tain to be unpopular, to be in a minortions for the Executive of Local 9, last ity. Often he finds himself outside of December, the predominant Kirtzman- the union and forced to go into another Lovestoneite Bloc was so uncertain of organization. When I walked out of the its ability to retain control over the union hall, several members followed me Local that it opened a speakeasy, used and expressed their disagreement with approved John Lewis vote-stealing meth. the actions of Hudson and his gang ods, etc., (all ancient history). Here was They told me that my criticism had been a perfect opportunity for the I. L. G. W | correct and has in some respects already U. administration to order the election illegal and corrupt and call for new elections, thereby practically assuring the defeat of the Kirtzman Bloc. It did not grasp this "opportunity". The reason is file, are now being elected from among apparent and especially to the Right wing the membership. The article of Hudson forces. Another inaccuracy: "The Left wing group", states comrade Cannon, "came to life only recently." By innuen. aries. do this would compel one to believe the group was formed "recently". Not so. It is a fact that the group has been in corporated in the officially organized true on every smaller battlefront. The existence since early 1930 and was in-Left wing groups in March, 1931. All Opposition has to show the way, in spite these mistatements pale into insignific of the attempts of the bureaucrats to the workers who read this article, that ance beside the major charge, the idea discredit it. of a secret deal. Does comrade Cannon know taht a leastet was distributed publicly by the Right wing group endorsing the Left wing candidate. Was this also part of the deal? The cloakmakers knew all along that the "Rights" had endorsed the "Left" slate. There was no mystery about this such as Cannon's article attempts to create. Does Cannon believe the discredited Right wing endorsement through a leaflet would rebound to the credit of the Left group.

additional evidence, if more is needed. Dear Comrade: Otherwise comrade Cannon's remarks on the "Company Union and slogan of "Unity" are absolutely correct and valid. I can only conclude that comrade Cannon was misinformed by a few overzealous Left Oppositionists. I hope to see this letter appear in the columns of The Militant as a sign of good faith on the part of the Editorial Board of The

Certainly not, one would have to be dull

This is borne out by the bloc of the

in the recent Dress Strike betrayal is

Yours for Unity in the Class Struggle, —A. BOJARSKY. (Reply to comrade Bojarsky's criticism appears on page 4.--Ed.)

The Bureaucrats Act against s-, L- and other progressive mind. the literature from them and trampled Oppositionist on Waterfront country with the view of building up ensued, reinforcements were called by

NEW YORK, N. Y.

of the International Seamen's Union, omic development has already made the receiving a bad cut over the right eye. back in 1921, threw out members of the workers more responsible to practical This display was the most violent act Union from the hall, after they had fought militantly on the picket line for stinctively know that they are proposed by no means the most alarming manifesover three months, because they exposed the sell-out policy of his leadership, I thought that American seamen would never allow such a bureaucracy to grow again in their unions. But history seems

to repeat itself. When I stepped into the Marine Workers Industrial Union hall last Monday morning, as I have done almost daily for the past eight months, I was immediately accosted by half a dozen huskies road workers to break down craft isolaand ushered into the office for the purpose of identification concerning the together in big meetings and there to author of an article that appeared in take up some of the most burning ques-The Militant of February 2, which dealt tions for discussion and treatment. This here in Minneapolis, the police made the with general conditions on the water will give the Left wing the opportunity same demands upon the very worker

After some fruitless efforts at questioning and record searching. I went an opportunity to expose the bankruptcy with threats and with slugging. back into the hall and was there imme of the Brotherhood bureaucrats and their diately surrounded by Hudson, secretary do-nothing policy, of the union, and his Chinovniks, some of whom smelled strongly of bootleg liquor

ing, replied by shouting: "See this-here is your hearing".

office equipment of the union, which also urged the necessity of providing for would have been damaged in the scuffle | Union meetings of all R. R. workers. had the provocateurs succeeded in start All of it was enthusiastically received. ing it, I left the hall, calling to the at He was then successful in getting the tention of the comrades the actions of B. of L. E. members invited also to the bureaucracy.

this same Hudson that American sea- 24th. men are "relatively better off than the other workers", that they have not felt May Day in Minneapolis the effects of the crisis and that their wages have not been cut generally. The official party has often encouraged critic- thought out. The sections in the various the apparatus.

"encouragement" of criticism is merely a ruse of the official leadership, the average rank and filer will object: that is the correct line of the party and the union-the line laid down by Lenin. But let a member from the floor arise and attempt genuine discussion. Instantly he finds himself jeered and made uncomfortable. The bureaucrats appear to want only yes-men.

The sincere worker and honest critic been effective in the activities of the union. The delegates to the Soviet Union are no longer selected as formerly. but under pressure from the rank and we quoted has been condemned and likewise the splitting tactics of the function-

It is a common truth that everything that is good and healthy in the Soviet each case, our comrades were denied Union can be traced back to the program admittance to the hall and refused all of the Left Opposition. This is also opportunity for work within the "uni-

has its roots not only in the National from the party leadership and were there-Office or in the party. They can be fore prepared. After being rudely extracked down through the R. I. L. U. to cluded from the meetings of the committhe very doorsteps of Stalin. The mani- tee on agreements, our comrades and festations of new life in the Marine friends proceeded, under instructions Union are certainly heartening. But from the League, collectively and as inthey are only temporary and we cannot dividuals, to work for the success of hope for any real change of policies un- the demonstration. The League issued til the Left Opposition is readmitted into a special leaflet calling upon the workers the Comintern and the Russian party. Only with the readmission of the Left the central demonstration. Our com-Opposition under the leadership of comand stupid to believe this! Manifestly, rade Trotsky will all the ills-all the this was an attempt on the part of the splits and groupings-vanish and the sections and join the marches to Bridge bloc and infamous Schlesinger group to Communist forces once more united Square, to take an active part in the swing votes to the fake progressives. against the capitalist class and its

-PAUL SCHWALBE.

Right and Center in Local 1 and a separate Right wing slate in Local 22. The bloc between these two "opposing" camps From a Railroad Worker

lackeys.

Kansas City. I also wrote a similar our conduct in the meeting further exletter to a railroad fireman at Everett, Wash. L- is a locomotive engineer on the Kansas City Terminal Ry., and the march up Nicollet Ave., of an ata member of Division No. 824, B. of L. tack upon three of our comrades, who E. The brother at Everett is, S---He is local grievance man for his Lodge at that point on the Great Northern Rail way, Cascade Division. I ran a locomotive on that Division in the summer of carrying Communist literature which 1907. I was a visiting member of called upon the workers to join the debrother S---'s Lodge several times that monstration. Several of the party worksummer. The Lodge is No. 501. I sent er guards, acting no doubt, under the brother S- a Six months sub. for mistaken idea that they were doing their The Militant. I am working on both duty, grappled with these comrades, tore ed railroad workers throughout the it under foot. During the scuffle that a minority Left wing, on a National one of the lesser burocrats, who jeered scale, inside of the Railroad Unions upon as our comrades were overpowered and When that old fogy, Andrew Furuseth a program of definite proposals. Econproposals and slogans, even if they in of the day, by the Party workers but

by Communists. On Sunday, April 24th, C. R. Hedlund attended a Union meeting of all Twin City Lodges of Locomotive Firemen. This meeting was the culmination of several months efforts on the part of the Left wing locally under Communist guidance. We are working on the idea of setting up a local machinery for the holding of periodical Union meetings of all railtion and permit the R. R. wokers to get to furnish the rank and file with program guards who carried out this task. The and leadership, and it will also give us bosses' cops backed up the demands also

Although all Firemens' official meetings are supposed to be strictly secret means, but we know that it is our duty All of them crowded around me with in- and admission is only gained by sub- to bring to the attention of the worker sulting remarks. When a certain Gal- mission of secret password and grip, Communists, the false attitude forced laghan pointed me out as the writer of C. R. Hedlund was not only admitted to upon them by the doubly false and badly the article, Hudson thundered, shaking address themseting but was invited to frightened leadership. Only terrified his fist under my nose: "Get the hell out remain until its close and was also per- burocrats could issue this kind of inof this hall or we'll throw you out. You mitted to participate in the discussion. . . . dare write articles about me in He spoke to the meeting on the role the ranks of the party of Lenin. the two administrations of the B. of L. | Communism made gains in Minnea-

E. and the B. of L. F. & E. were play-; ing in trying to keep him and other militants from joining the ranks of our organized brothers. I also stressed the vital necessity of amalgamating these small and helpless 21 railroad crafts; on I protested that I am still a member paying labor officials union wages and of the union, and that if I have done not a thousand dollars per month when anything wrong, I have a right to get one half of the union membership was an open hearing before the membership. out of work of any kind; and for us Hudson, again swinging his fist, threaten- full-time workers to divide the work with those brothers who have been laid off until such time that we can mobilize a In due respect to the property and the movement to secure a six hour day: He their next Union meeting which will Readers will recall that the article in take place in the Lodge Hall of No. 814 question criticized the point of view of of the Firemen on the evening of May

(Continued from page 1) ism-self and otherwise-from the mem- parts of the city and along the line of bership. But it seems that standards march up Nicollet Ave. to the Parade and limitations are established by the Grounds, were adequately and effectively few bureaucrats who are in control of directed. If those workers who followed the marchers along the sidewalks are If anyone were to say that all this taken into consideration, the numbers will easily reach 10,000.

> Literally hundreds of placards and banners of revolutionary significance were carried by the marchers. Communist party banners almost without exception. Communist literature was the only kind on sale, Communist buttons and tags calling for a struggle against imperialist war, were everywhere in evidence. It was, beyond the slightest posmonstration.

> Merely to say that the Party led the demonstration would be to ignore the real attitude of the party leadership. The party really dominated this May Day, from the first propaganda letter to the last word from the platform on the Parade Grounds. This was done by the simple expedient of mechanical exclusion of all workers and organizations who were even suspected of harboring any difference on any political question. During the weeks just before May Day, after the call had been issued. The Communist League (Left Opposition) on several occasions sent representatives and delegates to the meettings which were called "united front" meetings. In ted front".

Now it must be clearly understood by the Communist League and most of itsi The bureaucracy of the M. W. I. U. friends, knew beforehand what to expec to turn out for May Day and support rades and their close supporters were instructed to assemble in the different sible in making the main march, a militant and impressive event.

Our loyal and effective work for the success of the May Day meeting most effectively branded as lies, the vicious tales circulated by the party leadership. I wrote to the railroad worker L- at They were, of course, not content to let pose them and decided to provoke trouble at any cost. This took the form, in were in their places in the column.

These comrades, M. and G. Dunne and Louis Roseland were conducting themselves as Communists should, they were Roseland was slugged about the head, tation of non-Communist attitude towards workers.

At the entrance to the Parade Grounds, worker guards had been stationed in impressive numbers. The task that had been assigned them was, to prevent the comrades of Trotsky from entering the grounds with literature of any kind on their persons. Further, the guards de- The League comrades are proud of their manded that our comrades keep silent, part in these achievements. not to discuss with the workers. The dmeand was "No Communist leaflets, no talking at this "united front" meeting".

Only a few short weeks ago, right

It is not our purpose to intimate, in any way, that the worker guards are in league with the police. Not by any structions or condone such actions in

:-: ORGANIZATION NOTES :-:

yet to the point of taking advantage of good contacts. the opportunities available.

increased its membership during the York, Minneapolis and St. Louis, Jewish They have so far shown up well. In New York and Cleveland. Study classes present, every militant worker should Gleisser and others. This branch under- Boston. While the Philadelphia branch on the subject, supplementing thisits inception. It held weekly open forum suffered under the handicap of two of German Proletariat." We expect to go meetings, the secretary reporting excellits most active and leading comrades to press with this book in a month. It lent audiences usually composed of na- Morgenstern and Goodman serving a will consist of about 200 pages and sell tive American workers in the main. But the branch has taken up work also in activities. Both comrades will, however, other fields. It has organized a Jewish be released by May 17th and can thus workers club and Unser Kamf now enparticipating in the meeting and march joys a good circulation in Cleveland. The new branch in Youngstown is numerically smaller and therefore has had to contend itself with more modest activities. In the main the comrades there have conducted individual propaganda, making some very valuable contacts and extended the Militant circulation. From our new carried several reports which give testimony to its substantial activities.

Regular open forums have been conducted during the winter months by the branches of New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis and for a while in Kan- yet succeeded in setting up barriers to of one of the volumes of pamphlets. sas City. The St. Louis branch, despite our participation in "United Front" ac- "Strategy of the World Revolution is the its small numbers, made particular en- tivities. But in regard to this we can second part of this criticism. ergetic efforts in this respect. Some very also affirm that these walls of isolation excellent meetings were held and a gen- are being broken through. eral good attendance came to the forum. As a result new members have now been futable proof of this. At the onslaught shipment within two weeks. Paper cover,

Spartacus Youth Clubs have been or- yours before they are all gone. With but one exception every branch ganized so far by the branches of New term in prison for their revolutionary at 50c.

a whole. their place in the ranks of the general order at once, enclosing payment. working class struggle and given an account with credit to themselves. It is branch in Newark, N. J. we have already necessary, however, to state that on this score there is still much to be desired. But the obstacles in the way are mainly the ones of the natural limitations set for an opposition group. For example in many instances the party bureaucrats

official Communist Party, our branch order now as we need funds to rush out took its position, after some hesitation the book on Germany immediately after as to how to proceed, squarely for the party defense. It made valuable contributions for effective united front organization of the defense. So much so that its co-operation became quite generally accepted-at least without any open bureaucratic hostility. Our members were in the thick of the defense work and thus! able to demonstrate in actual practice our readiness for a united fight for the Communist principles. That practical example helped to further the prestige to extend our publishing work, to include and strengthen the sympathetic contacts all the Marxian classics. If you have for the Left Opposition. It is to be ex- already purchased one of these certipected that the Toronto branch will now ficates, send in your name and address go forward to new growth.

press drive. We are therefore temporar-

ily unable to comment on the results

of the collections. This we will do next

wherever we distributed free.

Pioneer Publishers Notes

The Spanish Revolution

The Spanish Revolution which began a year ago is not yet completed. Things From time to time we have in these; Communist movement has never been are happening in Spain, and the reformcolumns emphasized the activities of in- numerically strong, which first of all ac- ists of all description are retarding the dividual branches. Naturally in this re- counts for the smallness of the Left Op- forward movement of the proletariat. spect the bigger and better established position. Yet our members from the be- Only a correct Communist policy can lead ones can show a better record, but that ginning led in important activities in the Spanish workers and exploited farmis only a quantitative difference. A review, the city, particularly in unemployment ers to full emancipation from the capiof the work accomplished during the win- demonstrations. After that it suffered talist yoke. Read what Trotsky has to ter months, which are now about coming a relapse and disappeared for a while say in his two pamphlets "The Spanish to a close, would affirm our contention but became reorganized again and is now Revolution", 10c; and "The Spanish Revof steady but slow growth, though not going forward. It has now many new olution In Danger", 15c. We have only 60 copies left of the first pamphlet. Get

Germany

To fully understand the events as they winter. Three new branches were added. workers clubs have been organized in are shaping themselves in Germany at Cleveland we have as members among have been conducted this winter by the read "Germany, the Key to the Internaothers the very early Left Oppositionists branches of New York, Chicago, Minnea- tional Situation" a small Ten Cent pamsuch as John Brahtin, Joe Keller, Leo polis, Philadelphia and for a while in phiet. Trotsky has written a new book took extensive propaganda activities from has gained new members it has lately "What Next?-Vital Questions for the

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All the pamphlets marked with a * in soon be welcomed back into the active our list of publications, printed elseranks, agair, strengthening the Philadel- where in The Militant, will be bound into phia branch and the Left Opposition as one volume and sell for \$2 a copy. We have a limited number of 100 copies. Our members have everywhere taken To make sure you get yours, send your

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polis on May Day. We of the Communist League (Opposition) understand this

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Make Our Press Drive a Success! We go to press in the middle of thet W. Frankfort, Ill.. second week of the final month of the Trenton

Miscellaneous 8.50 Total \$1,000 112.50 We are still a long way from the The results of distribution week are goal but with our heavy hitting branches

full of interest. For example, comrade girding their loins for another assault Milton of the New York branch went out on the quotas we should be well on our to Union Square with a bundle of three way to success by this time next week. hundred copies of recent back numbers If past performances mean anything then of The Militant. By announcing "Com- comrade Coover's report is an augury of munism or Fascism in Germany by Leon success. He says: "The comrades have Trotsky" in a loud voice, he disposed of decided on a tag day with distribution all he had in about fifteen minutes. An and sale of papers for next Sunday hour later he repeated. It was the same (May 14) in Minneapolis and, tentatively, on a tag day for St. Paul a week Because of the free distributions the from Sunday to introduce Unser Kamf results fell off a little. We are confid- and Young Spartacus. In the meantime ent that next week we will more than the comrades are to solicit supporters make up for this slight lull. Our sym- and sympathizers for contributions as pathizers are still responding with ex- well as subs, renewals, etc., and we are cellent spirit. A comrade writes from out to get results." We believe they Rockford, Ill., "Although the times are will.

very hard and I have been unemployed Sixteen subs were reported last week for a whole year now, I would not miss bringing the total for the entire drive up one single copy of The Militant. So I to 203. Eight of these were brought in went out and loaned a dollar from a by the New York branch tightening its close friend of mine in order to put up hold on first place. Minneapolis will my sub. I will try to take advantage of have to step on it if they want to regain the sub drive and see if I can't earn me their lost honors. The standing of the a copy of Trotsky's WHAT NEXT? and branches now is: New York-79; Minneaat the same time stabilize the circulation polis-65; Chicago-12; Newark-4; of The Militant here in Rockford." Go Boston-4; Youngstown-4; Kansas City -2; Miscellaneous-30; St. Louis, Montreal and Philadelphia remain where they were at one each. We call attention to the appearance in the standing, for the first time, of Kansas City. Keep it up, K. C.!

For the remaining weeks of the drive all emphasis must be placed on the financial end of it. Remember that the life of the weekly Militant depends directly upon the success of the drive. No effort must be spared. Money must be raised. Wherever there is a dollar it must be pried loose from its owner. All sympathizers should be canvassed for donations. Sympathizers should not wait to be canvassed. They should respond at once. No amount is too large, no amount is too small. Everybody do what he can! Let us insure the regular appearance of the weekly MILITANT.

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