LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS

NEW YORK, N. Y.

conference of a labor political organiza- Communist movement in the U.S. The tion consisting of 655 delegates represent- speaker wound up with the very "reving 300 organizations, that endorses un- olutionary" slogan of a Workers' and animously every proposition and a poli- Peasants' - pardon - Farmers' Governtical platform put before them without ment for the U. S. A. even a semblance of discussion? This is precisely what happened at the New York with its report. It read a resolution in Communist Election Conference held last imperialist war and did not forget to Sunday at Manhattan Lyccum. Whether warm everybody to be on guard against the magic personality of the great Amter the internal enemies-the Trotskyites and his wonderful oratorial talent held and the Lovestoneites (a violation in the them spellbound, or whether the present orthodox Stalinist liturgy was noticeable leadership of the Stalinist school has -the Trotskyites were not dubbed this found the secret of writing a political time: the "vanguard of the counter-revplatform with such precision and crystal olutionary bourgeoisie"). clarity that it is enough to hear it read to become convinced, I do not know. discussion, but none of the delegates Still there are some sceptics in this sin- seemed to care to speak. The chairman ful world who don't believe it possible, had to appeal to someone to break the and who venture to say that this fact ice. One of the functionaries of the only demonstrates what Stalinism has done to the movement. It either para- trades took the floor finally and deliverlyzed the minds of the delegates and ed a harangue against capitalism and made them incapable of thinking or else the social Fascists. Then the stampede terroized some of them to such an extent of the parrots began. Not a single delethat they did not dare to question any gate had any criticism whatsoever to thing.

The above occurrence would have been impossible under Leninist leadership. A the efficient and impeccable leadership same credentials committee seated deleof the Stalin crew.

steam roller mode of procedure carried of L. and the Workmen's Circle and out so that it would have made a Hill- refused to seat a representative of a man, a Schlesinger or even a Kaufman Communist organization, some of them blush. And it was made in such a cross admitted that they cannot understand manner that even a nitwit could see that and that if somebody from among through all the machinations.

already appeared on the platform (The ism' will lead". Daily Worker writes that the presidium was elected-well, that is the strange sigh of relief at the end of the conference. chairman announced that the presidium confidence in themselves; already preparbusiness. And here we realized what preach today in the avalanche of "selfwonders the Stalinist bureaucracy is criticism" that will surely follow after capable of. (Houdini had nothing on the election campaign, feeling the ground them). Not more than five minutes ex- shaky under their feet, they are ever obpired after the presidium had retired sessed fith fear of somebody or somewhen they reappeared on the platform thing. But they dread no one more than with an order, of business and more than the Left Opposition. Despite the dam of and for a resolution committee. One of men's Circle, objected to this mode of and influencing the minds of the revoluprocedure and moved to proceed with and everything was well again. The chairman explained that all this was done to expedite matters.

MILITANT BUILDERS

drive and for the period of the entire agreement made last year. campaign. No one has qualified yet for About two weeks ago our manager an- with a small majority of twenty votes. fo correct their office boys' "excess the prizes offered for the final month of nounced in the press that a conference Then our "democratic" chairman of the spending". When the capitalist robbers the drive. But several comrades are was held with the manufacturers in or- union who is a leading spirit in the fight each other they want us to help moving up on these prizes and we feel der to review the agreement which exsure that by next week when the drive pires June 1st. At this conference the against the Left wing of the union. He foolish to help one section of the capitalcloses several will have gone by the manufacturers demanded the following refused to give the floor to others who ist robbers against another section on board. This is as it should be. We will of the union: (1) a reduction in the opposed the administration. When our the question of war, taxes or any other

from his leading position by comrade tem; (3) to do away with the unemploy-Sacharow of Chicago. Will comrade ment insurance fund; (4) readjustments mittee, the membership did not want to Rather, our problem is to expropriate tions. Hedlund fight back? Will the other com- a la Hillman on the top of reorganizarades permit them to make it a personal tion and what not. The writer of this should speak first, and that the manager Many workers will say, "I do pay tax- for the Empres and for the entire Comcontest or will they have something to article pointed out in The Militant of should be the last speaker. The chairsay?

for the final month of the drive in par- cuts because they knew they could get fight, the mass of people ran to defend entheses and they are quoted in dollars, from our "Fraternal Club" administra-The other figures are subs for the entire campaign which began in March. later.

R. Sacharow (11 1-2)-10; L. Nagy (7 1-4)-8; C. R. Hedlund (6)-41; V. R. Dunne (6)-9; J. Weber (5)-2; School. Our manager outlined the de-G. Duell (5)-M. Lilly (5)-L. Roseland (4 1-2)—6; J. Sifakis (4)—2; L. The meeting was a very stormy one. The ment to the effect that he was threatened Gleisser (4)-2; M. Koehler (3-4)-5; M. Dunne (3)—8; C. Forsen (2 1-2)—3; the employers, but it was decided that the meeting hall. He accused the man-A. Buehler (2) — 2; M. Rosen (2) the union should demand: (1) a 40 hour, ager and one of his henchmen of respon--2; O. Coover (2)-3; A. Ehrlich five day week, which is necessary in order sibility for the threat. Another leading (2)-1; S. Frank (1 1-2)-2; L. Basky (1 1-2)-5; T. Vaszily (1)-1; R. Ruskin (1)-2; W. Curran (1)-2; S. Zalamanoff (1)-1; P. Carlson (1)-1; C. Cowl (1)-5; P. Schulman (1)-1; F. Barach employment insurance fund. The union is not responsible for his actions. (1)-4; C. Johnson (1)-2; S. Lessin (1)-2; B. Houman (1); S. Gendelman (1); N. Berman (1); G. R. Herman (1); H. Ross (1); H. Milton (1-2)-1; T. Drobny (1-2)-1; J. Carr (1-4)-3; C. Club" administration introduced a reso-treacherous agreement with more wage Skoglund-3; F. Cheloff-2; G. Ray-2; lution to express full confidence in the cuts, reorganizations and readjustments, M. Gottlieb-1; M. Koehler-1; W. conference committee. When the resolu- second, the administration is bulldozing Wynne-1; J. Carter-1; H. Capelis-1; tion was taken to a vote the administra- and terrorizing active workers with W. Herman-1; A. Swabeck-1; A. Glot- tion received 273 votes, 261 voted against. strong arm gangs like in the good all zer-1; L. Logan-1; A. Kaldis-1; M. The administration won by a small maj- days of Wolinsky, Shiplacoff and Co. Sterling-1.

NEW YORK, ATTENTION! with a small majority of twelve votes employers and the misleaders to force a

a good time is assured to all.

Picnic grounds at Tibbetts Brook Park, took place for such a committee and misleaders. elsewhere in The Militant. not one of the other groups accepted for

ing election campaign, which will, ac-Have you ever witnessed an election cording to him, be epochmaking for the

The resolutions committee followed

The chairman then opened the floor for United Front Committee in the needle make on the platform while the present writer remained there.

After I left, I met some of the delewhole day, perhaps, would have been gates, members of the party, and they wasted and paper, ink, labor, spent just boasted that only one delegate, repreto discuss, write and correct resolu- senting the Communist League of Amertions and propositions that would have ica (Opposition) was not seated. When come from the delegates. But not under asked how they explain the fact that the gates from such manifestly Fascist and The conference started with the usual social Fascist organizations as the A. F. the delegates had objected to the recom-The Daily Worker informs us that the mendation of the credentials committee. comrade who opened the meeting was they surely would have supported him. Stevens, District Election Campaign In reply to the question why he doesn't Manager. After delivering a brief ora- take the floor, one of the delegates said tion, he turned the chair over to comrade "A person has got to be crazy or a Steuben, read off the names of a comit- martyr. Besides I don't want to serve as tee and of the presidium. Before he was a target for the bureaucrats. I would even through reading off the names, they also like to see how far this 'self-critic-

The bureaucrats must have heaved a way it was elected). The appointed But their worries are not over. Lacking would retired to work out an order of ing to repudiate what they so ardently that, with full slates for a credentials slander and calumny built up by the Stalinites, the stream of the ideas of the the delegates, representing the Work-| Opposition appears to be leaking through

tionary workers. That is why they were Opposition.

-A DELEGATE FROM THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE.

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nominations and elections from the floor. The steering committee soon got busy Situation in Pocketbook Makers'

Now a treat was kiven the delegates. The Socialist party fakers of last year's meeting for Tuesday, May 17 to continue In short talk of about an hour and a administration forced an agreement on the nomination and election of a conferhalf, the recently celebrated Amter ex- the workers which up to-date has result- ence committee. plained the C. P. platform for the com- ed in wage-cuts, and the reorganization On Tuesday, May 17, a meeting took Our Militant builders are still hot foot a most desperate condition, due to the allow a new conference committee to after the prizes we offered for the high- fact that our administration allowed the be elected. They maneuvered, and fili- it to the workers but are unsuccessful est standing for the final month of the employers not to live up to the rotten bustured as they always do. When the in this task, at least they desire to rally

be happy to see more of them go, too. wage scale of 30 and 35 per cent; (2) Comrade Hedlund has been displaced the introduction of the piece work sys-March 26 that the employers rejected an In the list below we put the figures offer of the union of ten per cent wage

> On Thursday, May 12, a membership meeting took place at Stuyvesant High mands of the employers to the union. workers not only rejected the demand of by one of the strong arm gang to leave to relieve somewhat the unemployment "Fraternal Club" member got up and situation in the industry; (2) no reor- also made a statement that brother Dick, ganization clause in the new agreement; who threatened Black, is one of the "re-(3) that the bosses contribute to the un- gular fellows, you know"; therefore, he should also mobilize the workers for a strike if the employers do not grant our

inst demands At the same meeting the "Fraternal preparing to force on the workers a ority of twelve votes. Our manager Lub- The rank and file committee must be liner then made a speech and said that on guard and resist every effort of the All Comrades Out to the Picnic Sunday he and the conference committee cannot sell-out. Come and bring your friends to cele- negotiate a new agreement with the embrate the release of our class war prison- ployers. He challenged the rank and file together and unite against their enemies ers, comrades Morgenstern and Goodman of the union to elect a new conference the employers and the "Fraternal Club" of Philadelphia. The two comrades will committee. One of the Left wingers, administration who are agents of the

The present situation in the New York | it. The Lefts nominated ten of their Pocketbook Workers Union is deplorable. group. It was decided to call another section of the capitalists wants the other

of the workers, despite the fact the place at Stuyvesant High School. At workers voted against it. As a result the meeting everybody could see that the union remains today, a few days be- the administration had changed their fore the expiration of the agreement, in mind that they were determined not to small capitalist. chairman introduced the manager to struggle. The capitalist robbers as a hear him. They demanded that others the expropriators. man refused to recognize others. At the same time one of their gang started a the workers from being beaten up. The

Brother Black, an active member of the Joint Council then made a state-

The last two meetings of the Pocketbook Workers Union have proved first, that our corrupted administration is

It is not too late for all groups to get

so afraid to seat the delegate of the Left The Bosses' Tax Problem and the Workers

able remedy for the crisis. To no avail. duce the cost these political crooks are Now they hope to find a lever to raise piling upon our shoulders." We did not the capitalist class endeavoring to cut their profits by lowering taxes. The say that workers do not pay taxes. We campaign to lower taxes has swept the say the workers have no interest in helpbourgeois world like wildfire. Through ing the bosses cheapen their government. every avenue at their command the cap- What the workers pay as taxes is only italists and the landlords are clamoring a small part of the funds collected for for economy in government. They want taxes. It is not the task of the workers "cheap government" and the support of and our party to fight for "cheaper govthe working class to force a curtailment ernment". The tax question enters in of expenses.

are bankrupt, the national government speak later. For the sake of argument, is running in red at the rate of seven suppose all the taxes were shifted to million a day. Congress is struggling to the workers, on our cost of living. The make a two and a half billion income capitalist economists tell us that taxes meet a four and two-thirds billion ex- amount to ten per cent of the cost of pense for 1932. The capitalists say the living? What if we would help the bosses government bureaucracy is excessive and reduces this to five per cent of the cost of the increase of the cost of government living. The fall of the cost of living by has kept far ahead of the increase of five per cent would be a signal for the proven their ability. They have proven wealth. However a comparison of value bosses to reduce wages from ten per to the capitalist they can be a cheaper produced in America with other indus- cent upwards. Wages always fall faster trial countries and the taxes paid will than the cost of living and always rise show that the British, German and other slower that the cost of living and wages capitalists pay far in excess the taxes only rise, no matter how the cost of the American capitalists pay.

The cost of the American government, for more real wages. city, state and national, amounts to twelve billion a year and the total in. guns at the point of consumption, at the debtedness of the government is thirty bil-1 cost of living, etc. Our main struggle lion with the Federal government hold- must be at the point of production. The ing sixteen billion of this debt. All sec. tax question enters into the struggle as tions of the capitalists are hit by the an auxiliary problem. However, no endeepening crisis and each section is try- emy is defeated by concentrating forces ing to shift the burden to the other sec- in auxiliary struggles. We participate tions and all are trying to shift the in elections but do not advocate parliaburden to the workers. As far as the mentary action like the Second Internacrisis is concerned, the capitalists are tional. It is only an auxiliary for our constantly shifting the burden (unem- class struggle. The tax question under ployment, wage-cuts) to the workers special consideration must also be on but their attempt to shift the tax burden our agenda depending upon conditions. to the workers will not succeed. Each section of capitalist robbers in attempt- by the bosses at certain times to reduce coming war each year. Do they mean ing to shift the tax burden to the other the standard of living by indirect wage cheaper government in this sense? Of sections of their class is endeavoring to cuts. line up the workers on their side.

sales tax in the form presented to the penses of government is aimed at some-House of Representatives was an at- thing far more important for the capitaltempt to shift the tax burden to the ist class. Even when we have inflation, petty bourgeoisle. The small capitalist rise in prices or tax shifting in sections was able to rally sufficient forces to we do not aim our class guns at the throw the bill back and now they are point of consumption to remedy this profighting to see who will pay the increased blem. We strike at the more vital points taxes. The different sections of capital- in the capitalist defense. ism are well represented in the lobby and

paying the tax bill did not object so under. loudly, but now we hear a different tale. In this struggle to hold up profits each section to pay the tax, yet each section wants to dictate to the political office boys, what to do. The financiers desire to push the burden on the shoulders of the industrialists and the industrialists would like to place the taxes on the landlords, who all hope to shift it to the

All the capitalists would like to shift vote was taken the administration won the workers behind them in an attempt "Fraternal Club" made a violent speech them. We workers would be more than speak on the question of giving a vote whole rob the workers and the robbers' of confidence to the old conference com- division of the spoils is not our problem.

The bosses have tried every imagin-jes and will enter the campaign to reour problems, in the class struggle, as an Chicago and the other leading cities auxiliary problem on which we will living goes up, providing our class fights

It is futile to point our main class Inflation, price rise and taxes are used

We must be prepared for such moves, The recent attempt to put through the but the present campaign to reduce ex-

who rob the robbers.

The crisis has forced the American im-

perialists to retrench in order to produce cheaper commodities to enable her to defeat the competitors on the world market. For the last three years an intense retrenchment through discharge and speed up of the remaining workers has been the result. Now the third year finds down in other fields. Their office boys are due for a cut too. The campaign against the workers will not decrease by this move. On the contrary, the carepaign against the workers takes on new forms and more intense forms. The cheapening of the government is only another way of saying-cut the workers wages. Contracts for City, State, and Government jobs ride roughshod over the "union wages and union hours." The workers must help cheapen the government! Join the campaign and take a wage cut? The Federal employes just had a cut.

The Socialists are out for a cheap government and in Milwaukee they have office boy than those of the undisguised capitalist parties. The capitalists are cheapening their government and increasing the means of suppression of the working class. Are we to help the capitalists make a cheap government to suppress the workers? Smash strikes by a cheap government? Deport the foreign born at less cost? Legally lynch the Negro in a more economical way. Give the workers and Communists, bullets instead of bread, it is all "cheaper". Such is the campaign for cheap government. Would a same worker take part in such a game?

Each year the government spends over a billion dollars to pay interest and retire debts from the last war and each year they spend about a billion dollars to prepare for the next war. A billion for the last war and a billion for the course not. The capitalists have no intention of reducing military expenses. They tell us government expenses must come down but we know the capitalists system is built upon waste. The capitalist mode of production is so organized that billions of dollars worth of the necessities of life are destroyed each year while millions go without necessities.

Capitalism in America has a tremendous surplus means of production and consumable articles and when pressed in We workers are robbed as producers, war of struggle can turn over in taxes to behind the politicians' closed doors. The robbed of the surplus labor, of the sur- their government ten times the amount curtailment of production and the fall- plus value which the capitalist divide they are turning over now and still make ing off of the capitalist incomes has re- among themselves as; profits, rent, inter- big profits. It is not a question of scarcduced the income tax, forcing the boss- est and to pay their office boys' (govern- ity of material wealth the capitalists es' office boys in Washington to find an- ment) and for the gangster racketeers speak of, it is a question of reorganizing and preparing the minds of the The first year of the crisis showed a One aim of the present tax campaign workers to the song that they cannot add fair return from income tax but the pre- is to reduce the bureaucracy. The im- another penny to taxes. Why do they sent year tells another story. In 1930 perialists need a more "efficient appar- want the workers to think they cannot the forty-five million gainfully employed atus". There are too many small office add to taxes? Why do they say taxes (workers and capitalists, etc.) listed boys repeating like parrots the fable must be reduced or they will go bank-2,411,000 million liable to income tax. that "we" must keep out of Asia and rupt when some European capitalist are This small number paid two-thirds of the Europe and stay in our own back yard. | paying ten times as much? Because 1930 Federal government expenses. When American imperialism has no choice. It millions are starving and millions are the profits were rolling in the capitalists must move out into deeper waters or go moving for struggle for immediate relief and unemployment insurance.

—H. O.

Statement of Greek Comrades on «Empros»

To the Greek Party members and sympathizers:

and charged with spreading false rum-York City.

The hearings at the Magistrate's Court of the court were printed in the Empres.

The Magistrate's court ended the hearthe trial to the Special Sessions Court where a few weeks ago the trial began.

in an obscure corner that the trial was banks play in this rotten capitalist sysended without any appreciable explana-

This case represents a great victory

munist movement of America against the capitalists who always try to frame up Last August the editor and business working class organs, organizations and manager of the Empros were arrested individual compades. And we believe the Greek Stalinist bureaucrats agree ors against the Athens Trust Co. of New | with us in this point: If so why the silence about this matter.

The comrades ought to demand from lasted for whole weeks and the minutes the bureaucrats to announce to the Greek workers and to the working class of America at large this great victory of our ing last fall and ordered the transfer of organ the Empros against the Athens Trust Co.

This victory of ours should be hailed We learn now that the charges were dis- in heavy type and the case should be reviewed in every detail in order to edu-The Empros of April 30th mentioned cate the workers on the role that the tem. This is a duty that must be performed immediately.

> After a half-hearted retreat by the bureaucrats on the question of the Greek newspapers, we see in the Empros of May 7th that the Atlantis is leading all the other lackeys of capitalism in their role of exploiting the Greek workers, in full accord with the National Herald. This very thing we expressed in the col-

In Greece, the party members demand a united front with the Archio-Marxists, the Greek Left Oppositionists, in order On this last week-end, let us give a to fight effectively against the attacks concrete expression of our support of of the Greek bourgeois government, but our press, which is striving so determin- the bureaucrats still obstruct the applicaedly against such heavy odds to fulfill tion of this united front with all the its historic mission. Let us make a col- means at their disposal. The Greek lective pledge that the press of the Am-party members observe the militant reverican section of the International Left olutionary activities of the Archio-Marx-Opposition, the voice, in this country, of ists in their every day life and are conthe revolutionary internationalism of vinced that their differences with the Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky will oppositionists are only ideological and therefore demand from the bureaucrats to consider them as ideological opponents and not as enemies.

The same procedure, we are sure, will take place here once you will force the Stalinist bureaucrats to give you an account of their irresponsible activities, and force them to undertake a discus-Maurice Spector sion of theoretical questions.

Slanders and calumnies against ideo-Entered as second class mail matter logical opponents serve only our enemies. November 28, 1928, at the Post Office a Every sincere worker revolutionist will New York, N. Y. Under the act of demand a free discussion of the disputes between the Left Opposition and the Stalinists. That is the only way to clear the ground for united Communist

> -EDITORIAL BOARD OF COMMUNISTES

Finish the Press Drive with Donations!

As this issue reaches our readers the on after the drive is over. Newark liketion a 30 per cent wage cut a few months lights were turned out several times This is due to the fact that we go to wise increased its total. which nearly resulted in a free for all. press in the middle of the week before But the point is that we are still a cused of supporting the National Herald When order was finally restored our all the records are at hand. What in- long way from our goal. As we see it because we attacked the one sidedness manager made a provocative speech formation we have shows that the drive the only way to reach it now is to get of the bureaucrats. The correctness of press drive officially will be over. Our alone will be insufficient. As his final proven to every comrade who has heard records, however, will be behind a little. contribution to the press drive let every both views calmly. results show that,

	Quotas	Results
New York	\$ 325	\$ 80.25
Minneapolis	200	40
Chicago	100	44.70
Coronto	70	
Reveland	40	4
Duluth	10	
Philadelphia	40	
Boston	40	2
Newark	35	7.25
Kansas City	30	2.00
St. Louis	25	
los Angeles	20	6
Youngstown	10	5.25
New Haven	10	6
Montreal	10	
Springfield, Ill	10	
W. Frankfort, Ill	10	
Pittsburgh	40	4
Prenton	10	_
Miscellaneous		10.50
Total	* * *	

\$ 1,000 \$ 211.95 This is a considerable increase over be on hand and tell of their prison ex- made a motion that a committee of 15 bosses. Only through militant leader- last week's total. Very encouraging is periences. Refreshments will be served, rank and file workers should be elected ship under the control of the rank and the result of the house party held in as a conference committee. This motion file can the pocketbook workers come out Chicago for the benefit of our press. Look for directions, how to get to the was passed by the members. Nominations victorious over the employers and their More than thirty dollars were raised in Subscription rate: \$2.00 per year; fordonations and subs. Youngstown also eign \$2.50. Five cents per copy. -N. DAVIS. increased its total and promised to carry Bundle rates, 3 cents per copy.

picked up last week. The quotas and donations. Subs will help. But that our views in this specific question is comrade and sympathizer send in a donation. Let the amount be whatever he can afford.

continue to appear regularly.

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