

Letters from Militants

The Strike of the Embroiderers

NEW YORK—

On Tuesday, October 4th at 4 P. M., Local 66 of the ILGWU called a general strike of the industry.

At the meeting in Bryant Hall, McGrady of the A F of L spoke to the strikers in lowering words of how he will stand at the head of the strike and will lead us on to victory.

What was the purpose of this strike? Did you hear in the strike hall talk of the exploitation of the workers? Did they talk about the organizing of the open shops? Did they talk about the forty-hour week which was promised to the workers long ago? No! There were a few words spoken about getting back pay from the bosses who broke their agreement on Sept 1 by not giving their employees, who were working below the minimum wage scale, a ten per cent increase in wages.

The meeting was divided into three sections, and sent to three different strike halls. When we came to the hall that we were assigned to we were surprised to see our bosses there before us.

Our leaders, Leon Habbot, Quickstein and Heusel, then got up and told us that a meeting between the union officials and the bosses will take place that evening in the Hotel New Yorker, to come to an agreement on the strike. Meanwhile, we are to elect a committee from our shop to go to the Hotel. After these small committees were elected from the various shops a member of the executive board came over to discuss with the committee what was to be taken up.

Our bosses paid the union as high as \$5.00, that night and in the morning the workers reported back to work. Our bosses deducted the money from the workers' pay. Some workers owed \$18 a week all they earned was \$18 so the bosses kept the whole pay.

This was a fake strike of the first water. Not many union officials have the workers so well hoodwinked that they can do a thing like that without being afraid. This was a united front of the union officials and the bosses to make the workers pay their dues.

Workers, you must organize yourselves so that things like this should not be repeated. We must have a real union that is willing to fight for our demands and not one that will unite with the bosses, get drunk with them and then

come to us with pretty stories. Organize so that you will be able to get your minimum wage scale, so that you will have a forty-hour week and that you will get time and a half for overtime when there is work. —STITCHER.

Elections in Pocketbook Makers Union

NEW YORK—

Eight months ago the discredited Walruski-Shiplacoff gang with all kinds of fake promises during an election campaign succeeded again in fooling the workers, and elected a majority of the administration in the Pocketbook Workers Union. The workers have paid the price and will pay if they do not defeat the betrayers in the coming election that will take place Saturday, October 15.

The present "Fraternal Club" administration slogan during the campaign was, first, a job to every worker; second, they will bring back the out of town shops; third, a vigorous leadership is needed to deal with employers and negotiate a new agreement whereby the workers will get back the best conditions, which their predecessors gave to the employers without a struggle.

As soon as the "Fraternal Club" administration took office the workers convinced themselves that not only did they not fulfill one of their promises, but they brought matters to a situation where conditions became deplorable since they took office.

Now let us analyze and see what are the achievements of the S. P. gang on the "Fraternal Club" administration in the Pocketbook Workers' Union for the last eight months. The misleaders signed a treacherous agreement last June with the employers. They raved they had a victory over the employers; only once a year 5 percent reorganization will take place instead of twice a year, they claimed.

What actually happened was this: In the agreement there is a clause that only 5 percent of reorganization will take place once a year, but the rank and file pointed out at the meetings that the employers will have a right of readjustment which is far more dangerous than reorganization. This, our leaders said, is untrue, and Communist propaganda. It did not take long and the workers convinced themselves. They also brought a gang to the meeting and terrorized the workers. That's how they put over the agreement.

The Chuck Bag Company have thrown out 50 or 60 workers from their shops. Mexik's shops have thrown out the same amounts, and many other employers have done likewise. Wages under the present administration were reduced to about fifty percent. The 40 hour week which was so vital to introduce in the pocketbook industry in order to relieve somewhat the unemployment situation was given up without a fight.

The "Fraternal Club" administration have promised to bring back the out of town shops and give every worker a job. These promises they kept... more or less. The workers in New York under the present administration work as cheap as the out of town workers do. About giving every worker a job—well, they give jobs to their own clique, but not to workers who are idle for a year or two.

In New York there are about 200 non-union shops in the pocketbook industry. The rank and file always demanded an organization campaign in order to organize the open shops, which undermine the conditions of the workers; but it always fell on deaf ears. Finally the Joint Council decided to start an organization

campaign. Who was the head of the organization campaign? Abe Fine, who scabbled in the Binen shop when the workers were on strike. The administration claims they organized 48 shops, which I doubt. The significant thing is that in not one of these shops the workers gained any better conditions, with the exception that they will have to pay dues and taxes. We can imagine what workers think of such unions. Let our misleaders deny it.

Another thing—we have an unemployment insurance fund; for the last five months not a cent was paid out to the workers. The only one who is making a living from the fund is the S. P. faker, Dr Hendin, and his wife. He still gets 75 dollars a week and his wife \$35. Recently the trustees decided only workers who have books from 1932 will be entitled to unemployment insurance, although the majority of the trustees are the labor group. Which means that workers who are unemployed for a year or two will be deprived of unemployment insurance—and who is to get unemployment insurance?—the clique, of course! The unemployed workers should be deprived and driven out from the industry altogether.

The "Fraternal Club" administration's accomplishments are wage-cuts, reorganization, readjustments, a reign of terror to keep the workers in submission, and

above all to work with the employers hand in hand against the interests of the workers. This is the "Fraternal Club" administration's achievements since they are in power.

On the other hand the rank and file carried on struggle against wage-cuts, against reorganizations, readjustments, etc. The rank and file always fought for a militant policy in the union. Therefore every worker should vote a straight rank and file ticket and not let themselves be terrorized by the "Fraternal Club" gangsters. Workers, be on guard! Do not let yourself be misled by the "Fraternal Club" fake progressives or the L. W. society. They are all united for the purpose of defeating the rank and file who fought and will continue to fight for a militant union for the interests of the workers, not the interests of cliques and the bosses.

Pocketbook workers! A vote for the rank and file is a vote against wage-cuts, reorganization, readjustments, against terror, against gunmen, and for the union in the interests of the workers. Vote a rank and file ticket. These are the rank and file candidates: for manager, H. Guffer; secretary-treasurer, U. Kassman; business agent, Ch. Shapiro; organizer, C. Mehlman; recording secretary, M. Lyons; chairman, M. Drevnowitz. —N. DAVIS.

Right Wing Wins at Gillespie

(Continued from page 1)

that the convention was not made up of delegates at least a majority of whom were directly from the pits and knew the question involved. Undoubtedly even the majority of those 98 who voted for the retreat were rank and file working miners. The convention was an affair mainly observing the rules of working class democracy. We gather that it particularly felt the weight of a situation essentially created by the traitorous action of the Lewis-Walker sell-out. But there were two aspects to the question which influenced the convention decision, deserving some special attention.

The Opportunists Favor Retreat First of all, the opportunist elements within the leadership, who glaringly showed their timidity and lack of moral courage were essentially animated by fear of courting the displeasure of capitalist society. Their cry was: "We must not soil our hands with the Reds". The logic of their position drew the conclusion to avoid any sharpening of the struggle by any means. Their arguments showed clearly that they did not even approach this question from the point of a temporary retreat compelled by a situation over which they had no control and to be overcome again by a renewed and strengthened offensive under more favorable conditions. No, their position was rather the one of admitting defeat in advance for the sake of collaboration with the enemy at all costs, and to remain respectable in his estimation.

Such was the essential character of the position taken by Percy, Keck Jones, Pieck, Humphries and others. By this they were marking out further their Rightward course. They were speaking to a young movement, as yet inexperienced in conducting its own union, and the false position carried its weight in influencing the decision for a retreat. There should be little doubt, however, that the miners in general will look upon it only as a temporary one and turn their attention toward speedy preparations for a new offensive to regain what has been lost.

But there was another factor of at least equal importance playing its part in the decision. It was expressed in the numerical weakness of the Left wing. Those among the delegates in agreement with the position we have advocated, had to make the fight alone. The com-

rades of the Left Opposition proposed to the leaders of the official party, who were on the spot, a united front for the Left wing program of militant unionism, including a fight against proposals to accept a wage cut retreat. The party leaders refused this offer. They thus bear the responsibility for the weakening of the Left wing.

To the Right or to the Left—Which?

The new union is now starting out with a handicap. Only fools would contend that it cannot be overcome, or that what is lost cannot be regained. But the success of this depends entirely upon the course the new union will steer in the future. So long as the Lewis-Walker machine will be able to maintain the remnants of the U M W A intact and bolstered by the favors of the Peabody company, so long will the new union be in a position of a rival union. There should in that very position be many factors at work which will press it in a Leftward direction. As far as the objective conditions are concerned such is undoubtedly the case, but the union course is not decided by the objective conditions alone. Much depends upon the union leadership. And it is time to say with all possible emphasis that the degree to which the opportunist elements are permitted to hold sway in the leadership to that degree the danger of a backward direction increases. A sentiment, as expressed by them today, for collaboration with the operators rather than struggle will tomorrow become a sentiment for rapprochement and collaboration with the Lewis-Walker clique as well.

It is in this respect particularly that the miners must watch themselves on the road of retreat which they have chosen. With a militant union leadership, one step backward, which sometimes may become unavoidable, will mean only preparation to gain two steps forward later. Given this condition the Progressive Miners of America will be able to perform its duty. But a militant leadership is still to be created and the experiences which will inevitably flow from this retreat will help the rank and file miners in making their selections. —A. S.

Shachtman in Boston

Two lectures will be delivered in Boston and vicinity by Max Shachtman, editor of the Militant, under the auspices of the Boston branch of the Communist League of America (Opposition). The first lecture on "Communism or Fascism in Germany?", analyzing all the factors and parties in the present situation in that country, will be heard at Otisfield Hall, corner of Blue Hill Ave., and Otisfield Street, Roxbury, Mass., on Friday, October 21, 1932, 8 P. M. Admission to the hall will be fifteen cents.

The second lecture, on the same topic, will be held in Lynn, Mass., 235 Summer Street. Admission to the Lynn meeting is free to all, and a silver collection will be taken to defray the expenses. All workers interested in the burning problems created by the German situation today are cordially invited to attend.

LITERATURE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SCHOOL

The reading matter required and suggested for the courses offered by the International Workers School can be had from Pioneer Publishers. List and prices will be supplied on request. This applies not only to students locally, but to out-of-town students as well. The school is preparing correspondence courses. The necessary texts will be indicated in the outlines and most probably will be unavailable in smaller cities and towns. This is where we come in.

For some time now we have been supplying the "Communist Manifesto" and other Marxian works to our propagandists in the field. We are making these works staple items in our stock.

ATTACK IN UNION SQUARE NEW YORK.

It has been brought to my attention that certain dubious characters, who pose as members of the Communist party

MILITANT SUB DRIVE

Our Club Plan

WANTED—\$1.00

Comrade Hamilton of Chicago sent us a dollar with the following words: "This being the notable day of the P. M. A. convention in Gillespie, I feel moved to celebrate by sending you the sum of a dollar to put a couple of miners on the list as per your liberal offer in the current Militant. I regret that this contribution is no larger but, as you have, no doubt heard, the spirit is what counts anyway. Chiefly I am writing to express my extreme gratification at the excellence of the material on the miners in the current, special miners' edition. Such work justifies the claim of the Left Opposition to be the expression of the true Marxian line, and should make every member of the L. O. enthusiastic all the more for his affiliation with this group."

Now who will watch this spirit and donation so we can make up a complete club plan of four subs for two dollars? Who will send us another dollar for this purpose?

WANTED—\$2.00

Who is going to give the snowball another push on its way? Who will send us two dollars to start four more subs rolling on their way to the mine fields? In New York we have seen a number of comrades with their club plan blanks half filled out, looking for workers to sign up in the blank spaces. They have promised to report in a day or two. We dropped them a hint about the mine field sub idea and they rushed off hot foot. Watch next week's issue.

GOOD NEWS

Just as the issue was about to be closed the postman brought in some of the best news we have seen in a long time. Here it is, comrade Ruby of the Chicago Friends of the Militant Club reporting: "At the last meeting of the Friends of the Militant Club we collected the following sums: donations for the Militant—\$2.50; for four new six month subs on the new club plan—\$2; one new six month sub at the old rate and one six months renewal."

And listen to this from comrade Vomi-

vas in Pittsburgh: "Enclosed you will find \$2. for four subs for the miners. The subs were given by Nick Laperis—\$1; L. Fotinos—\$.50; and a worker—\$.50" Boy! It's not going to be a snowball rolling downhill, but an avalanche. Come on. Who's Next?

MILITANT BUILDERS

With our plan beginning to hit on all six cylinders we are now able, for the first time, to give a standing of the staff.

H. A.	\$2
P. Vomvas	2
Chicago Friends of the Militant Club	2
J. Hamilton	1

Keep your eye on the Chicago Friends of the Militant Club. We'll tell you all about it in the next issue or so. Here's the record by cities.

Chicago	\$5
Pittsburgh	2

How about it New York, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and the other hives of Left Opposition activity? Are you going to take a licking lying down? Or are you going to stand up and fight?

JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

As the Militant announces elsewhere we have made a change in plan for the Jubilee Anniversary Issue. Instead of devoting the issue of November 12 to this celebration we are moving it up to the issue of November 5 and combining it with a celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the October revolution.

We are going to put out an 8-page issue. It will carry documents on the Russian revolution never before published in the English language. As previously announced we expect to carry greetings from comrade Trotsky and our brother sections. We will also carry a page of greetings from our comrades, sympathizers, friends, and workers' organizations. The premium we offered to the Militant Builder who stands highest at that time, "The Proletarian Revolution in Russia" by Lenin and Trotsky still holds good. But as one week has been lopped off the time, get busy. Use the blanks below for subs and greetings.

MILITANT BUILDERS CLUB PLAN BLANK

A \$1 HALF YEAR SUB OF 26 ISSUES for 50c in CLUBS OF FOUR or MORE. THE MILITANT, 84 E. 10th Street, New York City.

Enclosed find \$2 for which send the MILITANT for 26 weeks to the following:

NAMES	ADDRESSES	CITY	STATE

MILITANT BUILDER..... Address ..... City..... State..... Help Circulate a Marxian Paper for Class Conscious Workers

A Double Anniversary

After the Paris Commune, 1905. After 1905, 1917, the March days, the July days and finally November 7, the victory of the workers supported by the peasants, under the leadership of the Bolsheviks at whose head stood Lenin and Trotsky.

Intervention, counter-revolution, civil war, the blockade, famine. But the aroused and victorious masses following the policies of Bolshevism hammered out by Lenin and Trotsky, fought their way through to a second victory against the imperialist brigands and their brothers at home.

The dark days of Lenin's sickness, the mole-like work of the disloyal Stalin in gathering into his hands the apparatus of the party, the campaign against Trotsky; finally the birth of the Opposition.

The fight for the policies of Lenin against the revisionism of Stalin and the Rights. The ultra-Left zig-zag, the capitulations, the banner of the Left Opposition carried into the prison camps, into exile—throughout the Comintern.

In the United States a handful of comrades, three generals without an army, raised their voices for the Left Opposition. They founded the Communist League of America (Opposition). They issued the Militant as the clarion of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism against the American and International Stalinist regime.

The publication of The Militant is a direct continuation of the fight for Bolshevism. It is an extension of the Bolshevik October. It floats the banner of the great traditions of revolutionary internationalism.

For four years it has raised its voice, loudly and consistently for these ideas. It has stung the Stalinist leadership of the party and the Comintern with its

THE MILITANT 84 EAST 10th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Enclosed find.....for which please enter my greeting in the Jubilee Anniversary issue, November 12, 1932.

Name..... Address..... City..... State.....

Marxian criticism of their opportunist policies and blunders. It has put forward the policies of the League concretely in opposition to the caricature of Marxism that pass for policies and programs in the Stalinized Comintern today.

November 15 will be the fourth anniversary of the appearance of the Militant. It comes close to the 7th of November, the fifteenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Both days are ours. What more fitting than a joint celebration? We have decided to put out the November 5 issue, which falls closest to the November, as a joint anniversary number of the fifteenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution and as the fourth year of the Militant.

It will be an 8-page issue. We will print historic documents of the Russian Revolution never before published in the English language. The issue will carry other appropriate material on the two great events.

The back page will be a page of greetings from comrades, sympathizers, friends, and workers' organizations. If you want to greet the Militant make use of the blank below. The rate for single names is 25 cents. The rate for a one-inch one-column wide greeting is \$1; for a two-inch, one-column wide greeting \$1.75; for a five-inch, one-column wide greeting—\$3.00. The rate for two-column widths is double the other rates.

This issue marks a significant day in the history of the League. It should be distributed and sold widely. We want our comrades and friends to help us in this sale by ordering bundles now, in advance. The rate is three cents a copy. Orders must be accompanied by remittance in full. Use this blank:

'United Labor' or Communist Ticket?

(Continued from page 1) objective. It is definitely circumscribed by the limits of the existing capitalist society and conforms to the rules of the capitalist state. It cannot step beyond these limits because that would lead to a conflict with the state power and lead to revolutionary conclusions, which is something the social reformists would never permit. The logic of the class struggle, however, presses inexorably beyond these limitations and the social reformists, fearing the revolutionary conclusions, betray the interests of the working class and give up even the struggle for reforms.

What is the Right Wing Position?

The revolutionary policy, on the other hand, does not at all reject the struggle for necessary reforms. On the contrary, considering reforms as by-products of the revolutionary struggle, it takes the every-day needs of the working class as the basis of its immediate demands. But it sets for itself the objective of change in the class relationships, the objective of replacing the capitalist power with the working class power, the objective of revolution. Only when this is made clear in political elections by the revolutionary party, will it fully perform its duty and only on that basis can it fully justify its participation in them.

It should follow from this, that the Communist party in a political election is also duty bound to appear before the working class directly under its own banner, planted solidly upon a revolutionary platform. With this, the Right Wing Lovestone group is in total disagreement. True to its opportunist position in every respect, this group proposes a "united labor ticket" for the New York majority elections. The fact that it is advocated for New York should not

deceive anybody for if it is correct for that city there should be no particular reason for its being wrong elsewhere.

In the Workers Age of September 24, a leading editorial, in addition to waxing extremely indignant at the "tin box" corruption of Tammany Hall and in the City Hall, gives precisely such advice. To make sure of no misinterpretation, we quote directly from this editorial:

"The job of the labor movement in this situation is clear: to unite all its forces and all its organizations in support of a UNITED LABOR TICKET (emphasis in original), standing foursquare for the interests of labor and determined and able to make a clean sweep of the whole dirty mess."

Which labor movement is here referred to? Perhaps the trade unions are taken into account. Be that as it may, there need be no doubt that the editorial aims at the Socialist party and the Communist party as both are mentioned in this connection—a united election ticket of the reformist party and the revolutionary party. Only from a politically degenerated group could such a proposal emanate, despite its attempt at still covering itself with the name of the Communists.

A United Front or a Reformist Sham?

We have often in these columns commented upon and emphasized the necessity of a working class united front for specific and limited objectives of struggle. We have important historical experiences of working class unity of action in the sense of revolutionary and reformist organizations or parties joining forces to attain specific and limited aims upon which members of both were in accord and which were of general interest to the broad mass movement. The threatening Fascist menace in Germany still demands the united front of the

Communists, the social democrats and the trade unions to defeat that menace. A united front in this country for the struggle for freedom of political prisoners is a vital necessity. A united front of the Communist forces, the socialist forces and the trade unions in the struggle for the immediate needs of the unemployed would be entirely correct, and help to put the social reformists as well as the reactionary leaders of the trade unions to the test on their professed claim of favoring actual relief measures from capitalist society. But political elections are an entirely different matter. None of these issues is decided by elections. They are decided only by actual struggle.

Where is the common point of interest between the two parties in an election? To propagandize and to rally the workers for the attainment of reforms or for the working class revolutionary objectives? To win expression of support for the candidate voicing the reformist program or for the candidate voicing the aspirations of the revolutionary program? To educate the working class in an election campaign, to obtain reforms under capitalism or to educate to the concept of the struggle for power? Obviously there can be no point of common interest between the two.

Among the brethren of the various reformist stripes there would be no obstacles in the road to unity in elections. Their objectives in essence coincide. The Lovestone group should therefore have confined its proposal to that camp where they could find full harmony. Their group would only complete the circle, that is, with the exception of the workers within it who still see the revolutionary objectives, who will separate from it and march with the revolutionary sections. —A. S.