

THE WORKERS' FRONT

Carpenters Protest Against Bureaucracy at S.P. «United Front»

We publish below a copy of an open letter sent by Carpenters Local Union 2090 to the Socialist party and the labor press:

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE LABOR COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

Gentlemen:—After listening to the report by our two delegates to your conference on Feb. 22, 1933 this local union wishes to register a protest against the conducting of the conference called by your committee and especially against the treatment accorded to our delegates and those whose viewpoint on the unemployment problem is similar to our own.

The initiators of the conference addressed the call to our local union and to numerous other organizations. Many of these delegates were in agreement with the views of those in charge of calling the conference. It should have been possible for all the delegates to obtain admission into the conference and to voice their views, to submit their proposals or resolutions, and then to have a thorough discussion of everything put before the conference. This is the only correct procedure for a working class movement.

Instead of this, our delegates witnessed exactly the opposite. Workers who came with regular credentials from various labor organizations, particularly Left wing labor organizations, were refused admission into the conference by a "credentials committee" which was never elected but arbitrarily appointed by nobody known who. In addition, squads of strong-arm men were stationed throughout the hall and without the slightest pretext, they were employed to make violent physical attacks upon these delegates who did not meet with the approval of the conference organizers. Not only were these workers slugged and forcibly ejected from the hall, but any delegate who rose to protest against this scandal, was immediately threatened with a dose of the same medicine. The delegate from our local union was twice pulled back into his seat by these strong-arm men, when he made an attempt to take the floor and voice his point of view and his protest.

We sent delegates, like other organizations, in order to help build up a strong and united movement to make some headway in the fight against the misery and hardship which unemployment imposes upon the working man and woman. But our delegates were not given the slightest opportunity to present our point of view, to submit resolutions or to argue for them. The time of the conference was taken up by long-winded speeches from leaders of the Socialist party and the rank and file delegates were made to listen only. Instead of serving there as active participants in a conference, they were lured there to give this conference of semi-business men and political job seekers a workers and proletarian aspect.

We held to the view we have had before, that it is necessary to unite a large and powerful movement for unemployment insurance and relief. For this purpose, we favored the merging of the conference called by the A. F. of L. committee with that called by the labor committee of the S. P. We intended to present this view at the conference. But before we could do it, the slugging and ejections began, and an atmosphere of terrorism was created.

We therefore wish to protest most energetically against the procedure at this conference. In spite of what has happened, we intend to continue as before with the defense of our point of view that only the genuine united front of all workers' organizations can give a real forward push to the movement to relieve the workers from the effects of the crisis. Our representatives, wherever they are will defend this point of view.

FRATERNAL YOURS, CHARLES EBEL, Secretary, Local Union 2090, UB of C and J. of A., 243 E. 84th St., N. Y. C.

F.S.U. Backs Out From L.O. Debate Chicago.—On the west side of Chicago there exists a branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union that engages in educational activities, hold lectures, debates, etc. This branch decided one day, that it might stage a debate between a member of the F. S. U. and a representative of the National Committee would not permit such a discussion. But the arrangements were made.

THE MILITANT Entered as a second class mail matter November 28, 1928, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Under the act of March 3, 1879. Published three times a week by the Communist League of America (Opposition) at 126 East 16th Street, New York. EDITORIAL BOARD Martin Abern James P. Cannon Max Shachtman Mfurence Spector Arne Swabeck Friday, March 10, 1933 Vol. VI, No. 18 (Whole No. 165) Subscription rate: \$2.00 per year, Foreign \$2.50. One cent a copy.

Appeal to Y.C.L. Against Slugging

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GROUP BUT IN SOME PETTY POOL-HALL GANG, THAT SUCH TACTICS CAN SERVE ONLY TO PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMIES.

For you to tolerate such tactics in the least is to sanction them. You bear the preponderance of the responsibility for this act, for you have sat by, sanctioning the beatings we have received, by your silence. You bear the preponderance of the responsibility because you sat by, never allowing a word of criticism to emanate from your office against those who persist in disgracing the revolutionary movement because of their "revolutionary, and political integrity", by beating with the aid of pool-hall hoodlums, individual revolutionaries whose political concepts differ in the least. To continue your silence in the face of the recent occurrences, is to commit the greatest injustice to the revolutionary youth movement.

We demand the expulsion from the Young Communist League of Chicago, of Red Cruck and Ted Peck, as well as all others who participated in the attack upon comrade Dannyluk and whom we could not identify, on the following charges:

- 1. For the brutal and cowardly beatings given to young revolutionaries, whose sincerity has been substantiated by countless arrests and jail sentences, by such worthless elements as Red Cruck.
2. For the violation of the most elementary of Marxist axioms: axioms which distinguish us from anarchists and nihilists.
3. For destroying the prestige of the Communist movement.

We demand that the National and District Committees of the Young Communist League take immediate and austere action against the participants of the attack, and make an example of them by expelling these elements from the Young Communist League, as undesirable who are obstructing the progress of the revolutionary youth movement. The decision you make passes judgment upon your own revolutionary integrity and will decide the problem as to whether the Y.C.L. shall continue to grow or cease.

Comrade Dannyluk was questioned by the police after he had regained consciousness. He refused to reveal the names of his assailants, nor did he utter a word that might throw the slightest suspicion upon the organization that was responsible for the deed. He pleaded ignorance to all questions that might in the least incriminate the Y.C.L. You, AND NOT THE POLICE are the ones to pass decision upon such action. YOU MUST ACT.

We have tolerated these beatings long enough. WE REFUSE TO TOLERATE ANY SUCH FURTHER ATTACKS UPON OUR COMRADES. YOU MUST ACT AGAINST THEM. We do not believe in settling our problems before the capitalist courts. We know of more effective ways of settling such problems in the revolutionary movement. Your decision, and the outcome of the condition of comrade Dannyluk, will go far to decide our action.

We register our revolutionary protests, NATHAN GOULD, For the Spartacus Youth Club, JOSEPH GIGANTI, For the Communist League of America, (Left Opposition), Chicago Branch.

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Big Oehler Meeting In Davenport

Davenport, Iowa.—A very enthusiastic audience of 125 workers greeted Hugo Oehler, member of the national committee, when he spoke in Davenport on "What is Happening in Germany". Comrade Oehler presented the situation in Germany in a very enthusiastic report showing the mistakes in the present Stalinist leadership and the trenchery of the social democratic leadership. Comrade Oehler answered many questions about the situation in Germany.

The Stalinists—there were only about six present. They made an excuse that they were doing more important work than discussing the Germany revolution so that is the reason their leadership could not be present.

About seventy-five Militants were sold at the meeting. A motion carried to send a greeting in behalf of the workers in Davenport and the greeting is to be sent through the International Left Opposition.

Comrade Oehler while he was in town gave a lecture on the principles of the Left Opposition before

our branch, about an hour in the afternoon and about an hour after the mass meeting was over. Several comrades that are not in the Left Opposition attended both of the lectures. In fact there was not even a minute of spare time for comrade Oehler from the time that he reached Davenport to the time that he left.
March 15, 1933, 8 P. M., the Workers' Educational Forum will hold a 60th anniversary meeting for Karl Marx at the same hall. Comrade H. Brady of the Chicago branch will give a review of Marx's life and the significance of his teachings. There will be a musical program by a German singing society of this city. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Admission 10c—Unemployed Free.—B.

THE ONLY ROAD The Only Road by Leon Trotsky has been completely set up and will go to press within the next few days. This is a fundamental analysis of the German situation and all the factors that led to the assumption of power by Hitler. No militant can fail to read this book. The book will consist of more than 100 pages and will sell at a very nominal price. Watch for its publication.

Comrade Cannon's Speech at Albany

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any organized movement of the unemployed on a sufficiently large scale, and the disunity in such movements as have existed have operated to paralyze the development of a real class movement. All this does not preclude the possibility of a change in the attitude of the workers, and that in a comparatively short time.

The program for the translation of the mass-discontent and resentment of the employed and unemployed workers into class actions on a broad scale and for the fusion of their interests and their actions in a common struggle, centers around the following main demands:

- (1) Immediate relief
(2) Unemployment insurance, to be paid for by the employers and the government.
(3) The six-hour day and the five-day week without reduction in pay.
(4) Long term, large scale credits to the Soviet Union, as a means of unemployment relief for the American workers and the cementing of fraternal bonds between the American and Russian workers. This implies the demand for the recognition of the Soviet government and the establishment of trade relations with it.

The tactics by means of which the scattered separate movements can be welded into one, and the still inactive masses can be drawn into the struggle, is the tactic of the united front. The united front tactic aims to bring about common action of various workers' organizations, trade unions and parties. It proposes their joint action in a common movement for immediate aims. It is addressed to the official organizations as well as to the rank and file members, and puts the leaders to the concrete test of struggle. Without this tactic the reformist leaders who disrupt and sabotage the movement escape unpunished, they continue to deceive large masses of workers with empty phrases and to thwart their desire for united struggle. On the other side, without the tactic of the

International Pre-Conference of the Left Opposition Presents Thesis

(Continued from last issue)

Cleansing of the Ranks of the Left Opposition and Composition of the International Conference

The Left Opposition is able to grow and strengthen itself only by the purging of its ranks of casual and alien elements. The revolutionary awakening after the war seized not only the young generation of the proletariat, but also revived a great variety of sectarian groups, which sought a way out on the roads of anarchism, syndicalism, pure propagandism, etc. Many of them hoped to find an arena for their confused ideas in the Communist International. Many elements of the petty bourgeois Bohemia also joined under the banner of Communism, having been thrown out of their ranks by the war and the post-war upheavals. A part of this many-colored army of partisans dissolved itself into Communism and entered into the composition of its apparatus; poachers often make the best gamekeepers. The dissatisfied ones on the other hand either returned immediately into their political non-existence or attempted, on the way, to attach themselves to the Opposition. Such elements are prepared to accept in words the best of principles; on condition that they not be prevented from remaining good bourgeois (Pax & Co.), that they be obliged to no discipline of thought and action (Sourvarine!), or to give up their syndicalist and other prejudices (Rosmer).

In approaching the task of assembling its ranks on the national as well as the international scale, the Left Opposition could do nothing else than begin with those many-fold groups which actually existed. But from the very beginning it was clear to the basic nucleus of the International Left that the mechanical combination of sep-

The New U. S. Banking Law

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drawn, more notes will be printed. If these additional notes go into circulation, you have inflation at one blow. The only thing that has prevented the increased note issue caused by the withdrawal of deposits from resulting in effective inflation already has been the fact that the deposits have been withdrawn to be hoarded, not spent. But at any time the ex-depositors may become still more panicky, may be afraid that even their bank notes will lose in value, and go out and spend them and thus put the whole 2 or 2 1/2 billions of recently-issued currency into circulation. This would at once result in rising prices and in a genuine inflation.

To have more deposits withdrawn would mean to have more bills printed and add further to the danger that if the new bills actually go into circulation, inflation, with rising prices and lower buying power of money and money wages, would be upon us.

The party cannot have both—a fight against inflation for the sake of the workers, and a fight for unlimited cash withdrawals of deposits which involves additional currency and so opens the door to inflation.

The unanimous vote in the House, and the vote of 73 to 7 in the Senate for a banking law which its own father, Senator Glass, described as shocking, show how demoralized and terrorized are the parliamentary bodies. To propose "mass pressure" on them to change the course which is being dictated by the big bankers is simply not serious.

The workers must be told plainly, without hysteria or exaggeration, that there is a possibility that the present banking crisis may develop into a period of inflation, which will amount to a wage cut. Such a situation must be met with a demand for higher dollar wages, to compensate for the lower buying power of the dollar if it develops. Representatives of the workers should determine the amount of increase needed. The struggle for such higher wages must be waged on as broad a front as possible, as it will gain in strength if fought on a national basis and be proportionately weaker if it has to be fought out from shop to shop.

Second, such workers' committees who are charged with the duty of observing and measuring the movement of prices could well carry along with them the petty bourgeois masses, organized into consumers' leagues or similar organizations into committees for the suppression of abuses such as hoarding of commodities by dealers, unjustified price advances, substitutions, etc.

These are only typical of the methods by which a broad united front movement for a fight against inflation might be developed within the proletariat and under the guidance of its vanguard, which could not be swamped by them. Such a movement, if the present banking crisis develops into a real currency breakdown, and if it is firmly guided by a resolute and correctly-orientated Communist vanguard, could rapidly develop from such practical and limited demands, to workers' control of production as a road to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

—B. J. FIELD.

What Next

Vital Questions for the German Proletariat

by LEON TROTSKY A penetrating Marxist analysis of the class dynamics and forces at work in the present situation. A burning indictment of the treacherous anti-social democracy and the criminal blunders of the Stalinists. A work no Left wing worker and Communist can afford to neglect. One of the texts of the future. 192 Pages Cloth .65 Paper .35 Postage: .06 per copy extra

The only section of the Bolshevik-Leninists for Italy is the New Italian Opposition (N. I. O.) To be continued