

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Effective Action

Minneapolis, Minn.—Early in April, the German Campaign of the Minneapolis Branch of the Communist League was the "talk of the town" among the party members and the class-conscious workers and the labor movement at large. The Mooney conference was under way. The Left Opposition was seated in this conference before the party officially showed its face in it. Our delegates, C. Skoglund, O. Coover, and C. Lammie, played an important part in building this movement from the very day they entered it, though Spector, of the Party, had initiated it on his way East from the West Coast. The City Election Campaign was on with the League correctly criticizing the opportunism of the party in the Workers United Front Election Ticket Conference. The call for the May Day United Front had been issued by the party. Here is a calendar week by week:

March 30th: Issued first statement upon the Workers United Front election ticket of party with the politically unreliable Walter Frank. Entered the Mooney conference, our comrades were placed on transportation, tag day, and City Auditorium meeting committees. Recruited three members for branch. Held Tag Day collection for Militant on Sunday.

April 7th: L. O. instrumental in adding a trade union and W. C. Branch to Mooney conference. Its members on Committee which got permits for City-Wide Tag Day and use of City Auditorium. Was seated in May Day Conference of party and its members were active visiting organizations for further delegates. Comrade Skoglund made motion in Mooney conference that endorsed the May Day movement and affiliated this body with it. Branch donated \$5.00 to May Day Conference. Two comrades joined U. C. and were active in same, one being manager of the Hunger Fighters, its local organ, for his section.

April 13th: League member elected for U. C. to Mooney conference, and made member of its District Council. Three members active in only I.L.D. branch, wrote resolutions on Scottsboro and spoke at two Negro churches on same question. One comrade elected to May Day Conference from I.L.D. branch.

April 20th: League participated on mass in Mooney City-Wide Tag Day, had 27 collectors out of about 60 participating. Brought in about one-third of all the money collected. Meanwhile its delegates in conference on a committee with two trade unionists and one party member collected some \$70.00 from solicitation of prominent individuals and received pledges for considerably more money. One comrade elected from I.L.D. branch to Chicago Mooney Congress, another elected from party-controlled John Reed Club to Chicago, another from a Coal Drivers' organization, a supporter of L. O., was proposed and elected in one of the largest Workers' Circle Branches by our comrades in there. The City Mooney conference elected one of our comrades, C. Skoglund. The party sabotaged his election but was powerless because of his leadership and activity in conference. Proposed that Mooney Conference support May Day Demonstration with \$5.00 donation, accepted. The total amount of money collected by May Day Conference for expenses was \$3.00. L. O. was instrumental in collecting about one-third of this fund also.

April 27th: Week of May Day. Mooney conference included about 17 local trade unions. Two L.O. comrades were on its executive of five. In last conference before Chicago our comrade, O. Coover, ran against the party organizer, J. Karson, for chairman of send-off meeting, lost after splitting votes with the Party candidate, 15 to 13. Our delegate in May Day Conference was on committee that gave reply to the S. P.'s refusal to have a joint May Day demonstration. All League members marched in May Day parade. We had several banners with our slogans and name. Following evening we held our indoor May Day celebration meeting in the Court House, where between 40-50 workers heard our position upon the United Front, Germany, and C. I.

May 5th: The comrades from Chicago Mooney Congress gave reports in their respective organizations upon the Congress from the Left Oppositionist point of view. They were in the City conference, the John Reed Club, and the local I.L.D. branch. The Branch issued a second lengthy statement upon the party election policy and pledged again its support for the Communist candidates, while criticizing the opportunism of the party policy and tactics in the elections. Our Jewish comrades were active in a broad united front against German Fascism, which included every Jewish workers' organization. Here we found the opportunism of the party running rampant, side by side with adventurism.

May 9th: Our activity in the various united fronts with the party resulted in causing much talk and excitement in party ranks. Branch decided to use contacts to build fraction of League in party. There had been expulsions and much threatening of members by the local bureaucrats. The City primary elections had taken place and the party had made a bad showing compared with elections prior to 1931, despite the false covering the party put around itself in this election, running its candidates under the

name, United Front Workers Ticket, and the opportunist propaganda around its "immediate demands." Decided to issue statement on Results of Election and indicate line for party in the General election, June 12th. In Mooney conference, three comrades were elected on committee to arrange meeting for Congress reports. Our comrades in I.L.D. initiated a welcome meeting for the I.L.D. D. O. Davis, who was released from jail that week. Meeting was successful. Three comrades spoke in a meeting of 125 Railroad workers, arranged to discuss the Wage Question. Our comrades in the Unemployed Councils were active, one being elected on the City Council, another elected to a district council. On Sunday, fifteen comrades turned out for a Tag Day collection for the German Opposition press and collected \$24.32.

And so we progress. We have from day to day seen direct results from our activities. This has encouraged us to more activity. Our ideas and our example to the party members is shattering the edge of the weapon of slander the Stalinist bureaucrats use against us. Our press and leaflets are being read daily in every corner of the party halls and headquarters. Germany, the united front tactic, and "inner-party democracy" is worrying the party leadership here as much as it interests the rank and file members.

Jobless Force Relief in Los Angeles

(Continued from page 1)

immediately arrested by the Red Squad. After this one of the finest spectacles of working class militancy occurred. About 150 women and as many kids piled off the trucks, surrounded the police car and demanded to be arrested along with the committee. Here ensued an unusual occurrence. Hynes' thugs were absolutely flabbergasted. They didn't know what to do in the face of the tremendous crowd assembled. Any attempt at the usual violence would have precipitated a fight such as Los Angeles has never seen. In fact, the subsequent attempt to disperse these women and kids only resulted in their militant resistance. Empty milk bottles were used freely by the women and the kids, who couldn't reach high enough kicked the shins of the police and the Red Squad thugs.

The committee was then released and ushered into the chambers where the Board of Supervisors were in session. The entry of the committee was greeted by a confused exchange of whispers on the part of the supervisors. The committee demanded to be heard and the Board of Supervisors immediately suspended all other business. This body treated to a barrage of speeches carrying a clear and open challenge, which was topped by a concise analysis of the class nature of the unemployed movement and the need of organized working class pressure. After a lengthy speech by Jane Rose, a motion was made to adjourn for lunch.

Demand Continuation of Hearing This was done with the object in view that the calling of a recess would result in the demoralization of the demonstrators. When the session was renewed after two hours adjournment, the committee of women reached in, in a body, and proceeded to demand a continuation of the hearing which was granted. After several others of the women had taken the floor for a number of hours, comrade Jane Rose summarized with the warning that any indefinite promises would result in a demonstration at the next session of thousands of women and children instead of hundreds.

A motion was immediately made by the chairman of the body of Supervisors, Shaw, to the effect: "That the Board of Supervisors instructs the Food Administration office to furnish whatever amounts of milk may be required by all the units of the unemployed organization of Los Angeles County." This demonstration was the first effective one of its kind carried on by the unemployed as a result of the initiative of a few members of the Communist League of America (Opposition). Los Angeles branch. It implies a sharp line of departure from the previous class collaboration policies which dominated the life of this unemployed organization.

Without the calling of a formal united front, the committee elected by the women represented practically every phase of the Los Angeles labor movement. They worked cohesively and accomplished marvelous organizational results. Out of this movement grew the organization of a Women's Council of the U.C.A., which bids fair to become a vital force in forwarding the class struggle concepts of the unemployed.

— S. M. ROSE

DEMOCRACY IN ILLINOIS

Determined that the miners shall hold no gathering to discuss their own affairs, Sheriff Robinson, tool of the coal operators, refused the request of local union, 1752 UMWA, Royalton, Ill., to hold a meeting to vote funds for payment of taxes on their hall. Hitler must have obtained some of his ideas from "democratic" Illinois.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MILITANT!

T.U.U.C. Attacks Left Wing in the Furniture Union

The policy of craft unionism into which the Stalinists are slowly pushing the Furniture Workers Industrial Union—as exemplified by the Newport strike (see Militant of April 15th, 1933)—has received the official approval of the Trade Union Unity Council in its decision finally rendered in bureaucratic fashion three weeks after the strike was over—almost two months after the Left wing appeal was raised in the union.

In presenting their conservative viewpoint in the form of a decision against the appeal of Sol Lankin, secretary of the union, it was necessary for them to resort to childish distortions and falsifications on the Left wing proposals in order to vindicate themselves.

When the Newport framemakers struck in April we immediately proposed "that no man in the shops which we control be allowed to up-noise a frame which comes from the Newport Furniture Company and is made by scabs." We don't know exactly whether it was simply because we proposed it, or whether they are inherently against a Left wing policy, but at any rate, they quickly defeated our motion and carried a proposal for a mere "propaganda campaign" against Newport frames, leaving it up to the individual worker whether or not to work on these frames. Now every rebel worker knows that solidarity between the crafts of an industry is the ABC of industrial unionism. Unless this solidarity is manifested in action, the Industrial union forfeits its right to the name and starts back on the road that leads to the swamp of craft unionism.

Call Proposal "General Strike" It is because they felt the correctness of our viewpoint and the effect that our appeal for solidarity had upon the workers that the T.U.U.C. was obliged to distort our proposal into a utopian call for a "general strike of the industry," and then proceeded with the fierceness of a Jeremiah to flay this alleged position of the Left wing.

"A general strike in an industry where our union has not yet control over the workers," runs the post-mortem strike decision of the T.U.U.C., "can only be an empty phrase and secondly, cannot be carried out in a bureaucratic fashion due to wishes." We are happy to see the apparatus men acknowledge that a general strike cannot be carried out by bureaucratic wishes. It marks a step forward. This does not prevent them, however, by bureaucratic wish, from striking out of the union records the proposals of the Left wing. The practice of striking out all defeated motions (minority proposals) from the records of the union is unprecedented even in the A. F. of L. and has no place in our ranks. Only by fighting against such non-democratic methods in the Left wing unions will the class conscious workers be drawn into the movement.

Militant Attacked With naive indignation against the publicity appearing in the Militant on the question of the strike, the Trade Union Unity Council "further condemns the articles signed by Lankin in the Militant in which he accuses the union of craft union practices and which actually in its contents condemns the union leadership for refusing solidarity action and also for publishing this slanderous attack before even appealing to the T.U.U.C."

These charges are manufactured out of the whole cloth and once more indicate the need to cover up a false policy. It was not until after the appeal made in April was ignored and left unanswered during a strike in which every hour counted, that Lankin finally stated the Left wing point of view in the columns of the Militant (April 15th). This article sounded the clarion call of unity and solidarity of all furniture workers during a strike of one craft. The T.U.U.C. on the other hand, did not see fit to act on the strike policy until three weeks after the strike was over.

The right to publish views on the strike and the movement generally in the working class press, and especially in the revolutionary press, cannot be abrogated simply because the facts in the articles do not complement the leadership. The logical outcome of that position would be to insist on the mechanical acceptance of Stalinism as a prerequisite for membership in the industrial union. Discrimination or persecution of workers who do not hold the same views as the leadership will not build the union. It is a direct violation of the industrial union program, and would cut off all possibilities for the movement to broaden out. More than that, it would reduce it to even a thinner shadow of the official Communist party and its sympathizers. It is the aim of the Left wing group to prevent this and to help build a militant movement in the furniture industry.

For the Left wing group, SOL LANKIN, CARL COWL (Next week's issue of the Militant will contain a report of the upholders unity negotiations)

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Militant will contain a new article by comrade Trotsky on the Brandler group and a piece of Alfa on some new Stalinist falsifications. There will be a first-hand account of life in the Reformation "paradise."

A Postscript on Amter

Unfortunately, we are forced to set aside a little space to some idle and premature gloating by that old, inimitable goosemaster, the venerable Israel Amter. In the Daily Worker of Monday, June 5, under the title "Remnants, Cliques at the Unemployment Conference," our own Ichabod Crane takes the Left Opposition fraction on one of his "Trotskyite" proposed resolutions on long term credits to the Soviet Union and that this resolution was amended by the Stalinists to read: "where they are building socialism and have already abolished unemployment." Then, shedding a few crocodile tears for the poor plight of ourselves, the followers of Leon Trotsky, having to "swallow" this, he tells us that the "Trotskyite" on the Committee opposed this amendment on the ground that it is impossible to build socialism in one country, saying that he would vote against it. But, after "consultation with his caucus," he returned saying he would vote for it, etc. Quite a jam for the Left Opposition! It takes an Amter to draw the noose so tight.

Only... comrade Amter laughed too soon. If he weren't the Ichabod Crane that he is, he might have asked himself a few questions first. For instance, why is it that only now, after the Five Year Plan has been completed, after four years of crisis and unemployment, after years of agitation by the Left Opposition, this slogan of long term credits has finally been accepted by the party? Further, why it was left to a Left Oppositionist to propose it? Still further, how the Stalinist bureaucracy in Moscow, which ditched this slogan of militant revolutionary action for backdoor maneuvers with the capitalist government, would react to Amter's own belated boldness? The joke is on Israel himself, if the truth must be told.

But, a word on the action of the Left Opposition caucus at the adventurist bungling of the bureaucratic centrism in Russia itself; instead of telling the American workers, that because of this and because of the rise of Fascism in Germany—for which Stalinism likewise bears its share of responsibility—the world imperialists, Wall Street in the lead, are more ready to bleed, open interventionism against the workers' fatherland than for the extensions of credit to it; instead of telling the American workers, that due to these dangers, the land of the Soviets is more in need of their active help than ever, in their day to day struggles, in the struggle against unemployment—that instead of all this: the epigones of Stalinism in America merely cover up the dangers and resort to a meaningless phrase which only serves to cover up their own "infallibility," or rather, their own bankruptcy.

The Left Opposition made the concession and voted for the resolution as amended because the concession of the Stalinists to the point of view of the Left Opposition was all the greater. Once again the Stalinists in America voted for a slogan proposed by the Left Opposition which they had previously denounced as "counter-revolutionary!" In voting for this slogan of the Left Opposition, they at the same time dealt a terrific blow to the theory of socialism in one country and to the knee-bending reactionary diplomacy of Stalin, subordinating back-door deals with the bourgeois governments to the international working class—which flows from that ill-begotten "theory." That was what was really involved. And that was a genuine victory for Communism and a real step forward for the Left wing of American labor in the struggle against unemployment and capitalist misery.

SUBSCRIBE TO "UNSER WORT"

Workers and friends who read German and are interested in getting first hand accounts of conditions in Germany can do so by subscribing to "Unser Wort," the illegal organ of the German Left Opposition, published in Prague.

The paper appears every other week. Subscriptions are for a year only and are \$2.00. Subscriptions must be accompanied by currency. Checks and money orders will not do.

Comrades who subscribe must take into account the time element involved. They must allow time for their subs to reach the center here, and ten days for the sub to reach Prague and on top of that ten days to two weeks additional for the paper to reach them. In short, the first copy should reach the comrade about three weeks after remittance to us.

Address all subs to Unser Wort, care of the Militant, 126 East 16th Street, New York City.

CLASS IN "CAPITAL"

A course in Karl Marx's Capital is being given at the Labor Temple, 14th Street and Second Ave., by Albert Weisbord. The course will be held every Wednesday evening at 8:30 from May 31st to August 1st, including 10 sessions.

The unique feature of this course is that "Capital" will be given page by page and the ideas explained just as Marx gives them.

A Fighting Farmer Subscribes: Are You a Subscriber?

We print below a letter we received from one of our subscriber friends in the middle West. The letter is one of many. All these letters tell the same story. The Militant is important to these workers because it gives them a Marxist understanding of working class problems.

A LETTER FROM SO. DAKOTA

Strool, S. D., May 28, 1933.

I received the notice that my sub has expired. Les Miller subscribed for me for six months and I had forgotten how long it ran. Things are moving so fast these days that the time slips by on a person. I am a sheep man and I will have some coin in a few days when I sell my wool and I will send you two dollars for another year if you will please continue the paper. Igit now I am broke.

Since reading the Militant I can see your position and the position of the party and I look forward to the coming of each copy. It grinds on me that there has to be so damn much friction in the ranks of the rebels but when we look back over the pages of history, I think the old sap head people are doing pretty good to have taken over one country and held power as long as this. I can plainly see how the rest of the world might jump on the neck of the USSR and try to take it away from the people but the people at home might raise a little hell too.

Out here we are organizing the farmers into local committees and we are building the soviets and the farmers don't realize it yet. I find that we can't organize just as fast as we can get them. Our programme is to resist elections and to secure necessary relief in the form of work or cash.

Although the work has just started we are going along at a rapid rate, considering the distance between the neighbors and the fact that there have been so few elections. I find that the young fellows are keen for action although they don't take any active part in meetings.

I suppose you are aware of the National Committee for Action in Washington and the relief conferences that we have been putting on all over the country (united front). The party furnishes the leadership but we have to depend on non-party men to carry on the work in the field because there are not enough party men to go around. I don't belong to the party but I have been drawn into the work and will end up in jail one of these days but they can't put us all in.

After we get organized here so that we have enough strength and they jail anyone, we will go up to the county seat and tear down the jail because it is rather weak and it is in an inland town with a small population.

If you have any men you can spare you should volunteer some help to the National Committee 1622H. S. W. Washington, D. C.

If you have a list of the literature and the price I would like to have it so as I could order some a little later on. I want some of Trotsky's speech at Copenhagen.

Your truly, A.

Unemployed and employed workers: Demand the extension of long term credits to Soviet Russia, which will bring Soviet orders to open American factories and relieve unemployment!

AMONG THE YOUTH An Open Letter to the N.Y.D. Committee

We publish below an important letter sent by the Spartacus Youth Club to the National Youth Day United Front Committee. The letter speaks for itself.—Ed.

June 5, 1933.

N. Y. National Youth Day United Front Committee:

Dear Comrades, The Spartacus Youth Club addresses this communication to you to sharply protest the actions of the committee in charge of the demonstration held in Harlem on National Youth Day. We wish to further the protest the conduct of members of the organization which initiated and is in the leadership of this united front, the Young Communist League.

The executive committee of the Conference had decided that various representatives of the participating groups would speak at the demonstration. At the last minute it was decided that too many speakers were scheduled and a number of speakers were arbitrarily eliminated from the list, among them the representatives of the Spartacus Youth Club. But that did not suffice. Three or four comrades who had not been scheduled to speak were given the platform, clearly showing the dishonesty of the reason for the cutting down of the speakers list, that is lack of time. A united front cannot be organized on such a basis.

Open air meetings were held by non-participating groups around the demonstration. The committee refused to stop them. This helped in the general confusion and lack of order. More important than even that, we charge members of the Young Communist League with violating the program of the united front by tearing leaflets issued by participating groups—the copies of the Militant and Young Spartacus, organ of the Spartacus Youth Club, and the leaflets of the Young Communist League. Opposition—Love-stone group. Despite the fact that some fighting ensued the comrades responsible for the demonstration and for the conduct of the YCL members refused to intervene. The Red Front Fighters, under whose initiative we do not know, formed a cordon sanitaire around the members of the Spartacus Youth Club thus dividing the demonstration into two and causing disruption. These actions were brought to the attention of the chairman of the steering committee and the district organizer of the Young Communist League. Both denied any knowledge of disorderly conduct or of the action of the Red Front Fighters. After some persuasion, the chairman consented to investigate, but when he saw the circle of the Red Front Fighters, around our comrades he very innocently pretended indignation at us for protesting against the Red Front Fighters' participation in the demonstration! When the torn copies of the Militant and Young Spartacus which were lying on the ground were shown to him, he walked away without a word. The steering committee is responsible for the conduct of the Red Front Fighters.

A lynch spirit existed among the YCLers. Despite the fact that the Daily Worker, the Liberator and other papers were distributed and sold they refused to allow the sale and distribution of our papers. Was this a united front demonstration or a meeting of the YCL and the Communist Party?

It was solely due to the discipline of the members of the Spartacus Youth Club and their refusal to be provoked which prevented an actual riot at the demonstration. The police would have intervened and the value of the united front would have been lost.

We demand that in the united front the participating groups refrain from physical attacks or provocations which would lead to it. We demand the right of every participating group to sell or distribute its literature at united front meetings or demonstrations without interference.

We further demand that the National Youth Day United Front

Conference precisely define its attitude toward the conduct of the steering committee and its chairman at the National Youth Day Demonstration and the conduct of the members of the Young Communist League.

For this purpose we present the following resolutions:

1. The National Youth Day United Front Conference criticizes the conduct of the steering committee and its chairman at the Harlem demonstration for:

(a) discriminating against speakers.

(b) permitting other groups to hold open air meetings around the demonstration without control of the steering committee;

(c) permitting the Red Front Fighters to disrupt the demonstration by forming a cordon around the members of the Spartacus Youth Club;

(d) not calling to order the members of the Young Communist League for provoking fist fights and tearing up leaflets and papers at the demonstration. The Young Communist League, as any other organization, is responsible for the conduct of its membership. We suggest that the Young Communist League inform its members that they must refrain from any physical attacks or provocations on the members of other groups and maintain discipline during United Front action.

3. We declare that every group participating in the United Front maintains its full right of criticism but must refrain from any physical attacks or provocations. That every group has the right to sell or distribute its literature at the United Front meetings and demonstrations except at the time when comrades are speaking.

4. We believe that by the adopting of this resolution we can go ahead with our work and convert the United Front on National Youth Day to a broad united action against Roosevelt's starvation program, against Fascism, against imperialist war, and for the defense of the Soviet Union, on the basis of a concrete minimum program. If this resolution is carried out we can proceed with the preparations for a conference for this purpose. The non-Communist youth, as well as the Communist youth organized in the Spartacus Youth Club, will reject the kind of united action dished out in Harlem on National Youth Day. The present conference must decisively and clearly condemn such tactics.

Fraternally,

Perry Meyers, Sec'y

National Youth Day in Perth Amboy

Perth Amboy—National Youth Day in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, resulted in one of the most brutal attacks by the police who used tear gas bombs, guns, nightsticks and clubs against the workers, young and old girls, children, women, Negro and white in order to break up the demonstration. About 500 youth and workers had come to participate in the parade from all parts of the state of New Jersey. The YCL was represented by Passaic, Paterson, Jersey City, Trenton, Perth Amboy, Newark, Elizabeth and other cities of the state. One of the features was the large number of Negro youth and children present. The Left Opposition was represented by the comrades of the Perth Amboy unit of the Communist League of Struggle.

The parade was formed on Elm street; we marched through the city to the city field to hold our meeting and to carry through our sport event program. The songs and shouted slogans of the marchers gave a fine spirit to the parade and made a good impression. When we got to the city field all the police were lined up and refused to give the marchers the use of it but after a meeting with a committee, they decided to let us use Coppers field at the other end of the city.

At Coppers field the meeting was called to order by Alexander who was followed by Charles White, Rebecca Grecht and Froiman. In every way the police tried to disturb the meeting but finding they could not do so made their plans for a regular attack. Police, dicks and thugs of the American Legion began to infiltrate the demonstration and then at a signal a group of them came over to the platform, demanded a permit for the meeting and kicking over the platform began to slug the workers. Without the slightest provocation guns were drawn, shots fired, gas bombs hurled and a terrific beating given to the workers. Several of the comrades were badly hurt and sent to the hospital and nine were arrested.

Throughout the demonstration and the events that followed the Left Opposition, through the members of the Communist League of Struggle, took a very active part. They were the last to leave the grounds and were given responsibility to take care of the affair after it was broken up, getting bail, sending out various committees to get help, etc. There is no doubt that the prestige of the Left Opposition was greatly raised in Perth Amboy by our correct and prompt action. The party members now see that far from being counter-revolutionists we know how to take our place in the front ranks of the struggle.

— SAM FISHER

Special Offer! RUSSIA & GERMANY At BREST-LITOVSK By Judah L. Magnes A day-to-day documentary study of the negotiations between the German imperial staff and the Bolshevik delegation headed by comrade Trotsky. Lenin, Trotsky, Karakhan and others move and speak through the 192 pages of the book. What they said and did is quoted from documents and the sources are given. Cloth Cover Originally \$1.00 Now .25 Postage—.06 extra per copy - PIONEER PUBLISHERS - 84 EAST 10th STREET NEW YORK, N. Y.

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