

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

L.O. Issues Stir Party Membership

The situation in Brownsville, New York City, after several months of a campaign against "Trotskyism", is tense. The apathy and lethargy among the league and party is being displaced by grumbling and discontent. Think all are beginning to think for themselves. The masses became crystallized lately when due to the looseness among the leadership, not a single meeting let alone a demonstration was held on International Youth Day. This despite the empty mouthing of the Sklar, Gilberts and Schramms, about the necessity of youth carrying on a struggle against war, Fascism, etc., etc. Blood is demanded. The repercussions of this affair has penetrated to the district. The bureaucrats there are asking for an accounting, particularly because of the disquieting rumors of "Trotskyism".

Sherman, the section organizer of the Y. C. L., is slated to be removed. His place will probably be filled by either Al Dasch, who earned his spurs slugging Oppositionists, or John Morris, who proved his organizational ability, by expelling sympathizers of the Left Opposition from the American Youth Club, when he was organizer of that club.

It was at this opportune time that comrade Shachtman appeared in Brownsville to speak on the future of the Socialist and Communist movements. The impression that his criticism of the bureaucrats, who are strangling the movement, made upon the party and league; can best be gleaned from what happened at the Bob Minor Election rally two nights later at the Brownsville Youth (?) Center.

The gigantic and monstrous (so advertised) rally attracted about 200 workers. The drive of his remarks which dealt with misery, starvation and hunger, were so dry, that an atmosphere of listlessness permeated the hall. It was so bad that the singing chorus of the club and a group of league members had to be rounded up in order to inject some life into the "rally".

With the appearance of these boosters Minor was in his element. Thereafter every remark no matter how trivial was greeted with applause. At the end of the Minor esque oration, the chairman called for questions, while the customary heart rending appeal for a collection was being made.

Despite the absence of a single member of the Opposition or even a close sympathizer (excepting the writer of course) every question handed in was on "Trotskyism" and on the very points that comrade Shachtman had raised at the meeting where he spoke. The election "rally" had so suddenly turned into a discussion on "Trotskyism", that Minor was left dumfounded. Taking the floor again he pathetically appealed for questions from the audience.

After a violent and vituperative harangue in which Trotsky was referred to as an organizer of paid police bands and the head of the worst sort of scabbing scum in the working-class movement, (here several matured workers who evidently remember the part played by Trotsky in the Red October walked out) he made the following answers to the questions:

- 1. "What is the circulation of the Role Failure?" (This question evidently prompted because of Shachtman's remarks about the increase from 60,000 before Hitler took power, to the imaginary sale of 300,000 after the Fascist victory.) Answer: "I don't know." This from a Central Committee member and former editor of the Daily Worker.
2. "How did Stalin come to power?" Answer: Not Stalin but the working class came to power. All those who dare to raise this question are but miserable agents of the bourgeoisie.
3. "Why was Trotsky and the Left Opposition expelled?" Answer: Because they disagreed with the workers (!) of the Soviet Union. Don't we expel scabs from the unions, fellow workers? Deep silence on the part of the workers was the answer to this.
4. "Why does the leadership of the C. P. retain its leadership after this group of self avowed incompetents admitted FULL RESPONSIBILITY for the weakness of the Communist Movement?" Answer: A long lynch incitation against the Trotskyites, followed by: "Only provocateurs and Trotskyite police (!) bands would raise this demand. (Talk about inner party democracy.)
5. "Did Lenin ever say Socialism can be built in one country?" Answer: Stalin-Lenin's co-worker is proving (!!) it. SOCIALISM IS BUILT (!!!).
6. "Why did the German C. P. fail to lead the workers in a struggle against Hitler?" Answer: "They did lead (!) that's why comrade Thaelmann is in jail," (and Hitler in power and Heckert in Paris.)
7. "Why weren't the tactics of the October Revolution used in Germany?" Answer: "The same tactics were used (!) and the working class today (!!) stands on the threshold of a Soviet Germany (!!!).
But the baseless slanders and pompous boasts will not avail. The league and party members are beginning to think and investigate. The truth of the platform of the Left Opposition is sifting through

everywhere. And before long an accounting with the bureaucrats will be made. The triumph of the Left Opposition is assured. —LEAGUE MEMBER.

League Growing in Youngstown

Several months activity in the unemployed workers movement is yielding good results for the Youngstown Branch. Not only is there a marked increase in our influence and prestige among the organized workers, but along with this we have gained in membership and supporting sympathizers. The demand of the workers for the Militant is increasing steadily and the support of our sympathizers has enabled us to furnish subs to twelve unemployed workers this week. Besides this we distribute twenty-five copies of the Militant each week among Party members, the YPSL group, and a few rank-and-file members of A. F. of L. unions.

We have among those who choose to follow our program in preference to that of the Stalinists, the Muskettes or the Social Reformists, several who are active in the local unemployed workers movement and a few who are active members of mass A. F. of L. unions. Our attempt to fraternize and discuss with the YPSL members succeeded after many months of sincere, comradely approach to them. In their ranks is a goodly share of half-heartedness and confusion; but there is also a small number of serious youth who are honestly searching for a class solution to the evils of capitalism. With these elements we shall always find it easy to collaborate, and we hope that from among them will come more than one who will eventually accept Lenin's program of revolutionary Socialism.

The new perspective spurs us on! —N.

Labor Partyites Convene

Chicago, Ill.—The significance of the gathering held at Chicago on September 2-3 and calling itself the United Conference for Progressive Political Action was not very great, its representation was such that nothing much can be expected of it in the way of harm and certainly not in the way of any good as far as the American labor movement is concerned. The old intellectual stand-bys who have been yearning for a Labor party to furnish them with an opportunity to play some political role in the movement were there. A few old and young enthusiasts from small groups of the League for Independent Political Action and a non-scripted group of old men and women made up the majority of the hundred and fifty or so delegates to the conference.

Farmer Answers Judge There were several representatives of real organizations of farmers. The outstanding representative from the farm regions was a Judge from Iowa, John F. Wirts, President of the United Farmers of America. The incident that occurred at Le Mar, Iowa, where a group of about a hundred farmers gave one of Wirts' colleagues on the Iowa bench the scare of his life was to him, a result of the machinations of a few insane radicals. The only real farmer in the conference answered the Judge simply and effectively when he said that immediately after the demonstration at Le Mar the state and federal authorities began to do something for the farmers.

Two delegates represented bona fide organizations of unemployed workers. Their confusion was great. Nevertheless whenever they spoke the atmosphere became a little fresher. Obviously they were "Muskettes" and all the lack of clarity and all the hesitation so characteristic of that group was recognizable. A red tinge to the conference was furnished by Ben Gitlow who was quite careful not to protrude his Communism and run the chance of antagonizing the conservative delegates.

Warn Against Revolution Wery one to judge from the first few speeches made at the conference the conclusion would be almost inevitable that the delegates were meeting for the purpose of preventing a revolution in the United States. The more conservative element at the conference, led by Mahony, mayor of St. Paul and Judge Wirts, had the floor for most of the first session. They testified to the ferment existing amongst the city workers and farmers, especially the latter, and warned the delegates that unless a Farmer-Labor party is organized a violent revolution would result. It would be unfair to the other delegates to state that the conference met for that purpose.

There were many sincere elements anxious to further the interests of the workers and farmers. These honest elements actually believe that a Labor party is the instrument by which the American workers and farmers will ultimately free themselves from the yoke of capitalism. They will live, to see the day when the Labor party will be the instrument of saving capitalism and not of destroying it.

Postpone Organization It was recognized by the delegates that to proceed to form a Labor party at the conference would be the height of absurdity. It would

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ference called for the purpose of dealing with working class problems.

Issues Unclear

Unfortunately no one made the issue clear to the delegates. What was necessary was someone to explain that the reactionaries are taking advantage of the party leadership to set a precedent. It was necessary to point out the difference between the official party and the expelled groups and to insist that in spite of the disruptive tactics of Communist party leadership the party represents an important section of the American workers and should not only be permitted to join but invited to do so. Gitlow was very weak. Weisbord was not effective. The non-Communists made a good fight in their own reformist way but could not overcome the fear of and the hostility to the official party.

Sentiment on the National Recovery Act was divided. The more conservative delegates saw good in it and wanted to give President Roosevelt a chance. Why these delegates who have hope in the N. R. A. should at this time be interested in a Labor party is somewhat of a mystery. Probably they figure that a Labor party should be organized for the purpose of helping Roosevelt put the N. R. A. over. To cut the discussion short the matter was referred to the incoming national committee. Truax representing the Unemployed Leagues of Ohio, in the closing session and during the discussion on the N. R. A. pathetically asked: "If you go on record in favor of the N. R. A. how can I go back to face the unemployed who are starving? And what shall I tell them that you accomplished in the two days of your conference?" Poor Truax! He has yet to learn that out of a conference of about a hundred and fifty delegates there are only two real workers and two real farmers nothing much should be expected. —A. V.

carrying critics, but science is science, and it ought to be exact. Take his advice to "Gertrude" on August 24: "Six dry prunes have often a laxative effect on the bowels of some persons." Is that what Gertrude wanted to know? We doubt it. What effect would they have on her? And then again, suppose the prunes are wet, what then? He should be more concrete and give illustrations. Thus, in replying to W. J. C. on Trigonitis-Verumontanitis, he says that "getting sexually excited without completion of the act aggravates the condition."

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Cracks in N.R.A. Structure

The NRA, as a machinery of recovery, is one of those marvels of American technique, like the ninety-day ships built during the war or the flimsy mass-production houses put up during a boom, which is as astounding for the speed of its construction as for its makeshift, jury-built character. While the house is still being put up, the cracks are already appearing in its walls. Barely two months after the act was passed which created the NRA, and on the eve of another far-reaching publicity campaign intended to whip up enthusiasm for it, we can say that the Marxian analysis of the futility of such devices is already being borne out by the bourgeoisie who will not stop at the concrete facts. This means that the bourgeoisie will not stop at the present stage of its efforts to climb out of the crisis on the backs of the workers. As one stage after the other proves insufficient, it will pit more and more pressure to bear. Correspondingly, the resistance of the workers will need to be ever more aggressive and better organized.

In the present stage of the bourgeoisie offensive, the basic strategy is to concentrate and coordinate economic and political power through increasing State intervention, to win the support of the broad masses for this program by demagogic bluff, and to avoid sharp challenges and irrevocable decisions. That is why no decisive answer has been given to the question of inflation, why no action has been taken on the imposing public works program involving the expenditure of 3,300 million dollars, why the "spread-work" program and the leveling-down of the higher wage scales have been disguised as maximum hours and minimum wages, and why the struggle against aggressive trade-union organization has been disguised as a concession in favor of "collective bargaining".

The official justification for this course is that purchasing power will thus be increased, and this in turn will increase production and consequently employment. The beginnings of the breakdown of this policy, and the likelihood that the bourgeoisie will have to resort to more drastic measures, are shown in the following developments:

1. The ambiguous character of the governmental policy is shown by the fact that two important officials have resigned from the NRA for exactly opposite reasons. One from the left and the other from the right; Mary Van Kleeck as a liberal social worker because not enough concessions were being made to labor, Dudley Cates because labor was receiving too many concessions in the so-called right to "collective bargaining".

2. The nation-wide wave of strikes which greeted the NRA and has continued to develop until it now embraces hundreds of thousands of workers shows that the elemental needs of the working-class which are incompatible with the NRA are expressing themselves in spite of the bourgeois ideology represented by the NRA humbug which is being pumped into them by all the agencies of the bourgeoisie state. Faced with the realities of the strike movement, the state has no choice but to discard the bluff of impartiality, and breaks up picket lines, shoots workers, discriminates against Left wing un-

The "Daily Worker" Goes to the Masses

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FROM THE MILITANTS

Strike Lessons on Pacific Coast

Los Angeles.—It is sad to have to write to you that the workers on strike against Golden Bros. Millinery shop were defeated. The bravery of the strikers, their militancy on the picket lines, their courage before the clubs and saps of a degenerate group of police, the great number of arrests bravely endured (17 in number) were not able to overcome the objective fact of the strike being forced on the workers in the off season and the subjective condition of weakness in the Trade Union Unity League echelon. (To grace them with the name of "leaders" would be sheer violence of the latter term.) Victory could have been won, even though the strike took place in the slack season, but for the passivity and lethargy in the general activities—a condition due to the actions of the apparatus of the T. U. U. L. and not the strikers themselves.

The chairman of the strike committee, comrade Louis Meyers insisted on a more militant attitude, but to no avail, as a result scabs manned the shops. After much effort, comrade Meyers succeeded in securing what amounted to a little more than a verbal agreement with his views. In spite of its weaknesses, the strike has created a tradition in Los Angeles. To all workers, particularly needleworkers, it showed how even the most brutal of police terror can be fought. Smashed picket lines were reformed. Jail did not daunt. In this manner strikes are won; not in the class collaboration of the conservative trade union fakers.

A storm of strikes, in the needle trades above all, is in the offing. The first strikes, the forerunners are already here. The NTWU is conducting a number of small strikes. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers has struck the Kurtzman Clothing Co. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union is planning a general strike and has been waging a series of minor strike battles in this situation it becomes yet more important for the L. U. W. I. members to finally learn too that the place of the Left wing is within the mass unions. To the strikers out now and to those who are yet to strike, the workers of Golden Bros. shop have taught lessons that we hope will not go unheeded. Although the strike has been called off, rearranged battles remain to be fought. These are the struggles for the freeing of the strikers arrested on the vicious anti-picketing ordinance, a piece of legislation aimed to maintain Los Angeles as the pride and joy of employers. These trials are now going on. First results have not been good. Two workers were fined \$20 each. Two girl strikers, Elsie Meyers and Sally Wegdorow, have been fined \$50 or 25 days in jail. This case has been appealed. Three girls are going on trial now. This fight cannot remain solely in the courtroom. Behind the victimized strikers all of Los Angeles labor must be mobilized. The fight against the anti-picketing ordinance concerns every worker who is ever going to strike whether he or she is in a union affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League, the A. F. of L., the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, or independent unions. For workers to strike without picket lines is like soldiers marching to war without fire arms. Around the right to strike and to picket a broad united front can be formed. The acute need of the moment for all workers is the winning of this right. The most important ingredient of successful strikes is strong picket lines. The anti-picketing ordinance stands in the way. Only action by the workers can remove this anti-picketing ordinance, not legal argument before the bosses' courts. Although this latter angle must not be ignored, the following must be driven deep into the consciousness of stirring Los Angeles labor: "Only united action by the workers can do away with the anti-picketing ordinance, and open the road to higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions." —C. C.

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This action on the part of the Stalinists is strikebreaking, no matter what the intentions. This action is to be doubly condemned as dragging the name of Communism in the mud, and playing into the hands of the A. F. of L. reactionaries. The reformists of the A. F. of L. can now get up on the platform at strike headquarters and tell the workers that Communists are strikebreakers and to have nothing to do with them; and, in fact, to beat them up wherever they meet them. This greatly hinders any work of building a Left wing within the union. All attempts to expose Farulla and Cannon are almost worthless for a while, thanks to the criminal blunders of the Stalinists. Workers, be on your guard against those who attack the Communists. Examine their deeds, and see if the attacks are not to cover up their criminal policy of selling out the strike last year, and, then, after being kicked out of office and union, going to the A. F. of L. and getting a charter without the consent of the union membership. Judge these leaders by their actions and deeds and not by their words. To that end, see that the strike, settlement, and shop committees function so that the leaders (whom we did not elect are checked up. Finally, elections of officers on the basis of their work within the strike, should be cared for when the strike is settled. —A DOLL WORKER.

T.U.U.L. Disrupts Doll Strike

The sad pass which Stalinism has reached is clearly manifested in the Doll and Toy Workers' strike. The toy part of the industry, where the Stalinists have a small foothold, is told by them not to join in the general strike. They did this first with leaflets, (distributed by members of the Young Communist League) and then with hits.

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means provided for in the inflation act would be utilized, no doubt; Federal Reserve credits would be expanded, new currency issued, and finally perhaps, as a last irrevocable step, the dollar might be cut down to half its gold content. Every one of these steps, insofar as for as long as it has any effect, will result in raising the cost of living, and thus cutting the real wages of the worker—apart from the rest of the capitalist offensive in cutting relief, cutting school budgets, speeding-up labor, etc. —B. J. FIELD.

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