

EDITORIAL

Trade Union Perspectives

(One year ago, on the occasion of the A. F. of L. Convention at Washington, we analyzed the trade union situation from the Marxist point of view and outlined the perspectives in an editorial in the Militant.

The attempt of the Roosevelt administration to "plan" industry on a basis of capitalist private ownership is inevitably doomed to a resounding collapse, and that very probably in the near future.

Then, as has already been clearly intimated in the speeches of Roosevelt and Johnson at the Washington convention, the benevolent mask of the Roosevelt administration will be taken off.

"The capitalist attack against the trade unions as organs of struggle will be carried inside the unions. Green, Lewis & Co. will be called upon to purge the organizations of their militant elements and restore the union to conservative and respectable docility.

"The trade unions, swelling into larger proportions by the influx of new members on one side, will witness wholesale expulsions and splits, engineered by the reactionary bureaucracy, on the other.

The movement of the masses into the trade unions can be seriously influenced only from within.

"Before any serious development of a revolutionary organization can be expected in America this penetration must be begun in earnest. The militants who undertake this task now, after all the discredit brought to the name of Communism by the Stalinists, will labor under a double handicap.

"The labor fakery will start new expulsions against the radicals the moment their influence is felt again in the mass movement.

"We give no pledge to refrain from revolutionary activity in the unions or to turn our back on 'outlaw' strikes.

Drug Clerks Union Calls Bronx Strike

The deadline in the general strike of Bronx drug clerks was set for Thursday night at midnight.

The Pharmacists Union is more than 90 per cent organized in the Bronx, and expects quick victory.

The settlement terms obtained by the Union in nearly half of the employing stores is hailed by Union leaders as a signal victory.

Inasmuch as licensed pharmacists have been working 75 and 80 hours a week, for \$15 and \$20, these terms obviously will attract new members into the Union, and greatly expedite the city-wide fight.

"We have the men and the resources to fight this thing to a finish," he said. "Drug clerks everywhere are in revolt against sweatshop conditions, and they mean business. The Bronx is only the beginning."

Workers must patronize only those stores in the Bronx that have signed with the Union, and lend every possible support to the strike.

Anti Fascists to Rally on Oct. 12

(Continued from Page 1) denied having received the invitation, which had been delivered by messenger, and proposed a joint committee elected by his conference and the United Youth Committee.

The Y.P.S.L. repeated its position on the united front. (See its letter to the Y.C.L. printed elsewhere in this issue).

The United Youth Committee reiterated its desire for common action. It proposed that the American League conference elect a committee which would work with the United Youth Committee for one mass demonstration.

The United Youth Committee will have a delegation at the conference called by the Italian Socialist Anti-Fascist Party, La Stampa Libera, to organize a demonstration on October 12.

HOT SPOTS IN THE WORLD SITUATION

The Need for the 4th International

FRANCE—October 7, 1934, 8 P.M.

Speaker: ARNE SWABECK

SPAIN—October 14, 1934, 8 P.M.

Speaker: MAX SHACHTMAN

UNITED STATES—Oct. 21, 8 P.M.

Speaker: HUGO OEHLER

IRVING PLAZA Irving Place & 15th St., N. Y. C.

Admission: 15 Cents per Lecture. Auspices: Communist League of America, New York Local

Robins-Gras Appeal

With impressive backing from the labor movement, the appeal of Harold Robins and Andre Gras, imprisoned strikers, will be heard in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, on Oct. 9.

Convicted of assaulting a scab during the general strike of New York hotel workers in February, Robins and Gras were sentenced last April to Sing Sing, for two to four years and one to two years respectively, by General Sessions Judge, Joseph Corrigan.

According to the Socialist Lawyers Association, now in charge of the legal aspect of the case, "the conviction was based on flimsy testimony and prejudicial remarks and errors of the Court which prevented these workers from having a fair and impartial trial by jury.

Among the unions and fraternal organizations which are backing the Robins-Gras Defense Committee and which have contributed the funds for the appeal are: United Hebrew Trades, the Workmen's Circle, the Joint Board Dressmakers of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the Millinery Workers Joint Board, the Amalgamated Food Workers Union, Walters Union Local 1 and the Delicatessen and Confectionery Union Local 302, and the Forward Association.

Attorney Abramowitz, in a statement to the Militant, after commenting on the case, said: "The lesson to be drawn from the Robins-Gras case is that there is a desperate need for a permanent, non-partisan united workers defense organization fully equipped to fight these injustices."

New York Newstands

The Militant can be bought now at the following stands: Delancy and Clinton St. North West Suffolk and Delancy Subway Sta. Stand in front 128 Delancy St. Delancy and Essex St. N. E. Houston and Clinton St. S. W. 3rd St. and Ave. B. S. E. 5th St. and Ave. A. N. E. 6th St. and Ave. A. N. W. 7th St. and Ave. B. S. E. 8th St. and 2nd Ave., S. W. 9th St. and 2nd Ave., S. E. 9th St. and 3rd Ave., N. E. Staynesant St. and 3rd Ave., S. W. Ave. A and 10th St., N. E. Pioneer Bookshop, 192 E. 11th St. 14th St. and 2nd Ave., S. W. 14th St. near the Jefferson Theater 14th St. and 3rd Ave., N. A. V. 14th St. and 3rd Ave., S. E. 14th St. and 3rd Ave., S. W. 14th St. and 4th Ave., S. E. 1st stand 14th St. and 4th Ave., S. W. 14th St. and Broadway, S. E. 14th St. near 41 E. 14th St. 14th St. and University Place, S. E. (Blind Man)

ATTENTION Cleveland Branch OPEN FORUM Held at 3529 E. 143rd Street Every Sunday at 2:30 P.M. Speaker: J. BRAHTIN Oct. 14—"Dictatorship versus Democracy." Oct. 21—"Why a Fourth International?" Oct. 28—"A United Front with Whom and How?" Nov. 4—"The NRA and the Strike Wave" Nov. 11—"Bureaucracy or Democratic Centralism"

OPEN FORUM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION—WHO WILL LEAD IT? Socialists - Stalinists - Fourth Internationalists? Speaker: AL DASCH Friday, October 12, 8 P.M. 144 Second Avenue, N. Y. C. (Questions and Discussion Admission Free Auspices: Communist League of America, New York Local

PHILADELPHIA FORUM Will the United Front in France Stop Fascism? Speaker: HUGO OEHLER Member of National Committee Communist League of America Sunday, October 14, at 8 P.M. 431 Pine Street

Lecture Series HOTSPOTS IN THE WORLD SITUATION The Need for the 4th International Subject: FRANCE Speaker: ARNE SWABECK Sunday, Oct. 7, at 8 P.M. Irving Plaza

THE NEED FOR THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL Lecture by MAX SHACHTMAN Editor of New Internationalist Sunday, October 21, 8 P.M. at Bronx Free Fellowship 1591 Boston Road, Bronx (Corner Suburban Place)

Issues at the A. F. of L. Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

organization to satisfy the requirements of the thousands of new recruits from the basic and mass production industries must be considered; the question of the government in its real expression will arise to hound the unions and throw the officials out of their tranquility.

Strike in War Time

Even during the war the no-strike pledges were of little avail. In 1917 there were a total of 1,227,254 men involved in strikes with a total of 15,000,000 man-days lost.

In its acceptance of the strike proposal, the National Association of Manufacturers says that "neither employers nor employees... should attempt to take advantage of existing abnormal conditions and the country's necessities to change existing labor standards in employment relations which they are unable to change under normal conditions."

It is reported that when the Republic Steel company last summer cancelled its contract with the steel workers union the president of the company, T. M. Girdle, said that he would rather go back to cultivating his apple orchard than deal with radical labor leaders like Wm. Green and John L. Lewis.

Mr. Girdle may even have known of Green's pleadings at last year's A. F. of L. convention: "We must have faith," pleaded Green, "faith in the New Deal; faith in the principles of this act; faith in those who are honestly and liberally administering it, and most important of all, faith in that great, fearless leader, the President of the United States."

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Organizing the Unorganized But, at the last A. F. of L. convention, Green also issued what he termed his clarion call to "Organize the Unorganized in the Mass Production Industries," with a membership of 10,000,000 as the next goal and after that 25,000,000 "which will bring the majority of Americans genuinely and actually within the trade union family."

GOOD NEWS The Youngstown Branch, through comrade Koehler have donated an addressograph to the Militant. This means a saving of at least \$150.

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paid-up membership of 697,393. With these hundreds of thousands of new recruits the A. F. of L. is undergoing a change. It is not static. It is a living organism which can be understood correctly only when viewed in motion.

Pressure on the Workers It is not necessary to cite facts and figures to prove the growing economic pressure upon the working masses and the growth of the speed-up system and the increase in intensity of exploitation, nor the misery of mass unemployment.

Both speakers pointed out that the failure to offer proper resistance to the sell-out settlement endorsed by Green, McMahon, Gorman and Co., was due to the single fact that the militants in the union were unorganized and without competent leadership.

"You have not been defeated," said comrade Cannon. "In your hearts you know there was no real test of strength in this strike. You had all the fight still inside you when you were cheated out of victory by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats and their little imitators in the Paterson locals."

"We are unalterably opposed," said comrade Muste, to the mechanical control of trade unions by any political party. The union is the organization of all the workers, and to put political barriers in the way of any worker's membership in a union, is to split the working class on the fundamental immediate economic issues.

When Moe Brown yelled in answer that the C. P. "would not lower its intelligence by sending Browder or Hathaway to oppose Cannon", a loud laugh swept the hall.

The Stalinists now tried a last desperate maneuver: they rose in a bloc on a signal from Moe Brown, and shuffled noisily out of the hall, urging the workers not to listen any longer to these "counter-revolutionary agents of the bosses" who were slandering the Lord's own chosen revolutionary party.

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FALL TERM OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SCHOOL TO OPEN OCTOBER 1st The International Workers School will open at its new headquarters, 144 Second Avenue, on October 1st, with the following courses:

BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD SPECIAL "Left Wing" Communism—by Lenin.....\$ 25 Lenin on Britain—316 pages..... 2.50 Development of Agriculture in the U. S.—by Lenin..... 30 History of the Russian Revolution—by Leon Trotsky 3 vol. (Publishers Price \$10.00)..... 8.50* Whither England?—by Trotsky..... 1.00 Minutes of the 3rd Congress of the C. I. In German—1086 pages—cloth..... 3.00* Letters of Rosa Luxemburg..... 1.00 Letters of Sacco and Vanzetti..... .50 The Militant—Bound Volume (1933)..... 1.50

CHICAGO ATTENTION! SUPPER & DANCE Given by Chicago Branch, C.I.A. Saturday, October 20, 9 P.M. at 2557 W. North Avenue Celebrating the First Anniversary of the opening of International Labor Center. Good Music—Supper—Novel Games Admission 50c

PHILADELPHIA CLASSES "PROBLEMS IN TRADE UNIONISM" Held Every Thursday 8:15 P.M. Starting Thursday, October 4th at 1207 North 5th Street Instructors: R. CAREY and T. HOLMES (To enroll, get in touch with one of the instructors at above address.)