

Organized Left Wing Task of Real Progressives in Silk Workers Union

Strike Vote Sabotaged By Delay of A.F. of L.

By FELIX GIORDANO
HAZELTON, Pa.—Three weeks have elapsed since the Allentown Conference of Silk Workers...

tion of the machine laid. To achieve a decent level of wages on a graduated scale and to enjoy any amount of security on the job the silk workers must win the 80-hour week and the closed shop...

During recent years silk has become perhaps the most seasonal industry in this country, with the periods of slack and inactivity becoming longer and longer...

Slack Season Is Near
But today, after the passage of three invaluable weeks, the period of intense activity is on the decline...

Obviously, a strike call now would mean a long drawn out struggle, with the chances for success uncertain...

The line of strategy to pursue is clearly to prepare for a strike which should be called and put into effect at the very first signs of a real revival in the industry...

Security on the Job
The industry, we repeat, has become extremely seasonal. The principal objective of the silk workers must be to make it more steady...

Certain branches are doing an excellent job on bundle payments, keeping them right up to date. Among these are Los Angeles, Oakland, Tonawanda, Cleveland, Dickson City, Allentown, New Castle, Northampton, Salt Lake City and Riverview...

Contest Note

IN SPITE of a bad start due to moving the offices the New Militant building campaign is well under way. Minneapolis stands first in number of new subs sent in and the Central Branch in New York City second...

And now, another week of concentrated effort to achieve our goal of 10,000 circulation by May 31. Send subs today! Build up the bundle orders!

RULES OF PRIZE CONTEST FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS
1. Who may participate?
The contest is for individuals and branches. Any individual, not employed in the national office of this publication, may compete...

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* In case of tie in any category duplicate prizes will be awarded.
* All remittances must be payable to the New Militant, 2 West 15th Street, New York...

to such petty fraud as might have been perpetrated under the circumstances? But more important still, how well based is the claim of the Stalinists that the strength of the reactionaries is due to Keller's underhand tricks?

Every silk worker in Paterson knows how discredited Keller is. In the largest department of our union, the Plain Goods Department, the Keller clique a few weeks ago failed to elect a single man to the executive board of fifteen...

No Clear-Cut Program
In the first place, the present "left wing" is in reality a loose bloc with no clear-cut program and policies, a bloc that places stress on catching votes rather than on crystallizing a genuine left wing movement...

At the same time, the C. P. spares neither wind nor effort to discredit those militants who proved themselves in the activities of the United Silk Workers Club—whom as a matter of fact did yeoman's service in the fight against Keller...

Secondly, the activities led by the C. P. members were concentrated primarily in a single department, the Plain Goods Department. This short-sighted policy, whose goal was to get immediate results, could not fail to isolate the left wing and tend to weaken it.

Thirdly, the sentiment the Stalinists primarily cultivated was a negative one: against the Keller clique, as if the entire problem could be settled on the single issue of Keller. The lack of a positive alignment of militant forces is illustrated in the fact that the workers in the Plain Goods Department gave the Stalinists bloc as high as 900 votes in the elections for the department executive board...

Results of C. P. Policy
In short, Sarkis Phillian and the left-wingers were defeated because Phillian was endorsed not by a genuine left wing with a clear cut program but by the C. P. bloc. The reactionaries were able to capitalize on the fact that many members of the union still remember the dual and splitting tactics of which the C. P. was the torchbearer up to a very few months ago...

The defeat is all the more dangerous because it gives new ammunition to those "militants" who have long howled for the "independence" of the Plain Goods Department, who have long preached the hopelessness of achieving any progress within the union as a whole...

We repeat what we have said time and again: the basis for the left wing is a policy and not a vote catching bloc; the left wing must be built in the union as a WHOLE, and the industry as a WHOLE and not in a single department. And above all: BEWARE OF ADVENTURISM!

NBC BUSE FAILS
NEWARK, N. J.—A barrage of missiles smashed truck windows and a number of scab drivers were rushed to a hospital here when the National Biscuit Co. attempted to run out a fleet of trucks loaded with "dummy" loads...

Thirty strikers have been arrested. The militant strike of the Ohio Rubber Co. union at Willoughby, Ohio, about 45 miles from Akron, is having an effect here. There 400 workers are facing 450 scabs and 200 gunmen directed by the notorious strike breaking agency from Cleveland, the Associated Industries...

Fargo Rallies To Aid Strike

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ed for adequate legal defense, both in the appeal of the case of the sentenced sixteen, and in the trials of the remaining 44 men.

Leaders Picked Off
Bill Cruden, president of Local 17, of Fargo, was singled out as one of the first sixteen. So was Secretary Austin Swalde, and Hugh J. Hughes, another union official...

Meanwhile the Fargo Central Council of Trade Unions passes resolutions. It does nothing in the way of positive action. But that is more than the American Federation of Labor, of which Local 173 is a member, is doing for the A. F. of L. is in reality sabotaging by being conspicuously absent...

Fear of antagonizing the police has disappeared in the city of Fargo. Even the back-biting, reactionary, red-baiting paper, the Fargo Forum, is being forced to tone down its open strike-breaking.

Stalinists Attack Worker Opposed To Union Policy

Joseph Fox, member of the New York Food Workers Industrial Union, was slugged and beaten up by an organized mob of Stalinists after inciting speeches made by Kramberg, Beal and other officials of the union at a membership meeting held on Monday night, Feb. 18...

The officials are using every despicable means of terrorizing the membership into accepting the dissolution policy of the T.U.U.L. The basis for unity, comrade Fox pointed out, must always rest on our fight for the adoption of a class struggle policy as against class collaboration and unity of action of all the workers in the industry...

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AFL Starts Drive in Akron With Anti-Strike Ballyhoo

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from the A. F. of L. unless something is done. The other two big unions at the Goodyear and Goodrich plants which combine with Firestone to make the basis of the rubber industry, have lost over half of their 15,000 membership, and dues aren't coming in.

Most important of all, all three of the big locals planned a strike vote. Claberty hopes to divert the energy of the workers into a futile campaign. He completely ignored the fact that Akron labor dropped out of the A. F. of L. because of its inaction and that it would flock back if strike action was taken against the arrogant rubber barons.

The Willoughby Strike
The militant strike of the Ohio Rubber Co. union at Willoughby, Ohio, about 45 miles from Akron, is having an effect here...

The brutal beatings of 12 strikers, the terror caused when strike breakers and professional gunmen threw tear gas bombs at school children in a "playful" mood, not only aroused the populace of Willoughby, which is backing the strikers, but caused resentment in Akron.

After Claberty and Shepler left the meeting, a misguided but sincere A. F. of L. field organizer, George Roberts, who is leading the strike at Willoughby spoke briefly and aroused the rubber workers into a fever pitch when he told them that "You have to tell all labor boards to go to hell..."

Thomas Quits New Leader; S.P. May Split (Continued from Page 1)

the Right wingers hold the offensive. This tendency to play a weak, defensive role has in turn been due in large degree to the fact that they themselves have no clear consistent position. This has again been evident in recent discussions among the militants on the question of the "road to power", some standing for proletarian dictatorship, some for "workers' democracy", without defining, however, what this means.

At present the majority seem to favor "a mass labor party organized on a federated basis", some on the ground that "the alternative to a labor party is either armed insurrection or fascism!" Some favor a labor party with a "minimum program of socialization of basic industries". Others assert that it is the business of revolutionists to build the revolutionary party—not a reformist party.

Thus on top of the cleavage between the Old Guard in the S.P. and its opponents, fresh cleavages develop immediately among the latter. The most crucial question for the future is whether out of these developments a substantial element standing on an uncompromising Marxist and Leninist program will crystallize.

574 BOYS SUPPORT ALBERT LEA PICKETS
Several of the men who helped make labor history in Local 574's Truck Drivers and Teamsters' international, far-reaching strikes of last summer, were in Albert Lea last week to add their strength to the picket lines which surrounded the Potter foundry.

The Minneapolis picketers were Carl Skogland, Hiney Strand, Harry Wilson, Frank Hill, George Brethren, Lee Glyn, Clifford Westlund, Hank Kluse, and Glasse.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SCHOOL
First Year—Winter 1935. Beginning Feb. 18, 1935
MONDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Workers Party Fundamentals—B. Borkeston
MONDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Organizational Principles—M. Aborn
MONDAY, 8:40-10:00 P.M.—Elementary English—F. Becker
MONDAY, 8:40-10:10 P.M.—American History—Felix Morrow
WEDNESDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Marxian Economics vol. 1—H. Oehler
WEDNESDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—American Labor History—A. J. Munde
WEDNESDAY, 8:40-10:10 P.M.—History of the Three Internationals—M. Shachtman
THURSDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Trade Union Strategy and Tactics—A. Swabeck
THURSDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Philosophy of Marxism—Grote
FRIDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—History and Problems of the Youth Movement—N. Gould
FRIDAY, 8:40-10:10 P.M.—A B C of Marxism—Jack Weber
FRIDAY, 8:40-10:10 P.M.—History of the Russian Revolution—Wm. Dunoon
Ten sessions for each course; no evening a week. Fees: \$20.00 per course, payable in three installments: \$1 at time of registration, and two 50c installments within 3 weeks. The International Workers School is ready to give any additional classes if a minimum of fifteen workers request it. For further information regarding the school, get in touch with Joseph Carter, School Administrator, at 2 West 15th Street, New York City.

League Wins Relief Fight

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five children. The work to organize the jobless over a period of months was almost heartbreaking, but the reward came on Feb. 15. Sam Pollack, vice-president of the Ohio Unemployed League, was sent into Anglaise county, at the request of the League in Waynesfield, to help organize the demonstration. When the unemployed flowed into the town of Wapak, the county seat, and elected spokesmen to call on the relief officials, nobody wanted to stay behind, everybody went with the committee to the court house. The relief officials were caught with their pants down. Not knowing what to do, they immediately began distributing clothing and adjusting individual grievances.

Today, as a result of this first success, more Leagues are forming in the county. Bill Grotz, special organizer of the O.U.L., is in charge.

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Mass meetings . . . and new Leagues. This is the formula for success, to judge by the experience of Local 1 of the Pennsylvania Unemployed League. Mass meetings everywhere, including school buildings. But—

They Got Suspicious
Ben Graham, superintendent of schools, got suspicious. Suspicious of radicals. The School Board got suspicious. Also of radicals. The politicians, with the aid of "substantial" people, suddenly started an organization called the Community Councils' and the school board decided to close all school buildings to "radical organizations"—if it could.

Meeting in the same schools where the P.U.L. meets, the Community Councils operate on the theory that movie lectures and popular songs will aid all classes in dissolving their differences, and cause the workers to forget that their children are half-starved and will continue to starve. Local 1 is fighting to retain its school-meeting permits . . . not hat in hand, but by militant action. The old locals of the P.U.L. are growing and new locals are formed every week following mass meetings.

WHAT TO ATTEND

New York City
March 3, Sunday, 8 P.M.—"The Truth About Sacramento" A. J. Munde. Germania Hall, cor. 16th Street and Third Avenue.
March 25, Monday evening—Theatre Party, "The Black Pil" at the Civic Repertory Theatre. Tickets from Lillian Bord, at District Office.
March 2, Saturday night, Supper and Dance under auspices of Central Branch, 2 West 15th St. (Third floor) Jazz band.
Los Angeles
International Workers School classes commencing. At 1789 First Street, corner Boyle:
Mondays, 8 P.M.—Trade Union and Organization Principles. Instructor: Sam Meyers.
Thursdays, 8 P.M.—Marxian Economics. Instructor: E. Everett. At 9 P.M.—Imperialism. S. Feebis.
Fridays, 8 P.M.—Fundamental Party Principles for the Youth. Instructor: Rae Ruskin.
Toledo, Ohio
March 3, Sunday, 8 P.M.—Toledo Workers School Hall, 322 Ontario St. Short addresses on "The Trade Union and the Progressive Movement", "The Youth Movement and the Workers Party" and "Fascism and War". Questions and discussions.

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