## 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 Island for Sunday, Feb. 17, and apwhich would not be handed over for settlement to any Government board. The second conference was not held but instead was suddenly postponed for a week. Thus the entire activity of the Allentown conference remains on paper.

In the meantime the situation in the silk industry has altered considerably, and not in the workers'

During recent years silk has become perhaps the most seasonal industry in this country, with the of our union, the American Federaperiods of slack and inactivity be- tion of Silk Workers, by immedicoming longer and longer, while the "busy" seasons grow shorter and shorter. Three weeks ago our industry was at the peak of one of its busy periods. Had a strike been called at that time, it would have been in all probability of short duration. In any case, the chances for a successful conclusion would have been all in favor of the workers because the bosses needed the workers and the workers could have commanded their own terms.

### Slack Season Is Near

But today, after the passage of of intense activity is on the de- of general manager. cline. By the time the complex machinery of a strike can be set in motion a few more weeks would with a none-too-clean record. Sarkis ing? have to go by, and then the silk Phillian, left wing candidate for workers will be at the beginning of general manager, was defeated by

Obviously, a strike call would mean a long drawn out was the candidate of the largest cess uncertain. Moreover, the very popular in his own department as in the fight against Keller, who existence of the union would be put in grave jeopardy. A long struggle under the best of conditions, with the most militant and trustworthy leadership, puts a terrific burden on the workers. When the possibility of demoralization not be denied in view of the last workers. Yet the right wing in this short-sighted policy, whose goal exists—and such a possibility cannot be denied in view of the last workers. Yet the right wing in this short-sighted policy, which was to get immediate results, could textile strike—a defeat might well election was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was to get immediate results, could was victorious and rolled was victorious and victorious a

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 dy. This can be achieved only right wing.

tion of the machine load. To achieve a decent level of have elapsed since the Allentown wages on a graduated scale and to Conference of Silk Workers. This enjoy any amount of security on conference went on record calling the job the silk workers must win for a second conference in Rhode the 80-hour week and the closed shop. Every worker understands proved a national strike in silk the seriousness of such a struggle. In the face of such a serious struggle-how are we to estimate the course pursued since the Allentown conference? It is a maneuver of the leadersrip to cover up its unmilitant and unrealistic policles which play directly into the hands of the bosses. Such maneuvers will continue so long as a strong and militant left wing is not consolidated in the silk industry nationally. We must guarantee a successful strike, and the existence

> ately crystallizing such a left wing. The Paterson Election Last Saturday the silk workers in Paterson elected a general manprogressive" who was forced to on catching votes rather than on resolutions. It does nothing in the save his face by resigning three crystallizing a genuine left wing way of positive action. But that is lous strike breaking agency from weeks ago; they also elected four movement. As a consequence the

organizers in the Plain Goods Dept. The left wingers in the union succeeded in electing a slate of serve as a screen but who in realthree organizers (the fourth one, ity played with the Stalinists for being conspicuously absent. It is breakers and professional gunmen Sam Sheber, deserted the ranks be- their own personal advantage, as even rumored that Green and To- threw tear gas bombs at school fore the election and went over to for example Sam Sheber, who was bin may try to act against the children in a "playful" mood, not the right wingers), but failed to pushed to the fore as a "militant" strike. three invaluable weeks, the period elect their candidates to the office and who at the last moment came

In Keller's place today there is Williams, an outright right winger whom the Stalinists are maneuver-84 votes in an election in which those militants who proved themnow some 1,800 votes were cast. He department in the union, and very matter of fact did yeoman's service well as in the joint board. His were expelled by Keller, and who record as a left winger and a mili- were kept out of the union at the tant is clear cut. Yet he was de- time when the Stalinists were acfeated. Just a short time ago Kel- cepted. ler the "fake" was elected and the right wingers did not even dare C. P. members were concentrated run against him because of the ob-vious left tendency among the Plain Goods Department. This Stalininsts Attack up an impressive vote. Why?

Why Militants Failed

The Daily Worker, which broadcast in its headlines the victory of electing three organizers out of the four for a department, slurs over the enormous vote and the defeat The industry, we repeat, has be- of the election for the key post in come extremely seasonal. The the union by claiming fraud in the principal objective of the silk work- victory, and by blaming Keller for ers must be to make it more stea- the enormous vote received by the

through the establishment of the 30 How does it happen that a strong hour week, and the definite limita- left wing could have fallen victim

### cumstances? But more important still, how well based is the claim of the Stalinists that the strength of the reactionaries is due to Kel-

ler's underhand tricks?

Every silk worker in Peterson

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. Keller's

strength in the union does not

amount to the proverbial row of

pins, certainly not among the mili-

tant workers who are in the pre-

dominance as proven by the elec-

tions and the victories of the mili-

tants in the Plain Goods Depart-

ment. The reasons for the defeat

in the union as a whole are not

quite so simple as the C. P. pre-

The reason for the victory of the

reactionaries lies in certain poli-

cies, or rather lack of policies pur-

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

out for Williams. How many other

selves in the activities of the Unit-

ed Silk Workers Club-who as a

Secondly, the activities led by th

inists primarily cultivated was a

negative one: against the Keller

clique, as if the entire problem

lustrated in the fact that the work-

and tend to weaken it.

one-third.

Shebers are there among those with

group among the militants.

sued by the present dominating

(Continued from Page 1) 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 Secretary Austin Swalde, and Hugh dues aren't coming in. J. Hughes, another union official. of this same Local 173 last fall. Jules Emme, Secretary of the rubber barons. State Industrial Commission, and Bob Cramer, editor of the Labor Review, also will speak this Sun-

Meanwhile the Fergo Central Council of Trade Unions passes more than the American Federa- Cleveland, the Associated Industion of Labor, of which Local 173 tries. Stalinists pushed to the fore many elements whose function was to is a member, is doing, for the A. F.

It is perhaps noteworthy that until last year Fargo had no unions of any strength except the printers, and during the present strike the leaders of these printers' At the same time, the C. P. spares unions tried to turn down the job neither wind nor effort to discredit of printing a strike leaflet because it would "antagonize the police". Now the Drivers' union alone has 400 members.

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

## not fail to isolate the left wing To Union Policy Thirdly, the sentiment the Stal-

Joseph Fox, member of the New York Food Workers Industrial tatorship, some for "workers' decould be settled on the single issue Union, was slugged and beaten up mocracy", without defining. how of Keller. The lack of a positive by an organized mob of Stalinists alignment of militant forces is ilafter inciting speeches made by ers in the Plain Goods Department gave the Stalinists bloc as high as

900 votes in the elections for the department executive board, while the elections for organizer the some 650 votes—a drop of almost which met him downstairs coming a reformist party. out of the hall and slugged him on Thus on top of the cleavage bethe head and the neck. One C. P. tween the Old Guard in the S.P. ened worse violence to Fox if he attended another meeting.

The officials are using every desmembership into accepting the dissolution policy of the T.U.U.L. The basis for unity, comrade Fox pointed out, must always rest on our 574 BOYS SUPPORT fight for the adoption of a class struggle policy as against classcollaboration and unity of action of Schultz" controlled local 302, comrade Fox moved in favor of negotiating directly with the "International" on the basis of local autonomy and separate charter, thus reorganization of the unorganized.

Revolutionists and sincere work- lund, Hank Klose, and Glassen. ers can only look at such manifestations of hoodlumism with disgust, as aid to the enemies of the working class, the bosses.

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## to such petty fraud as might have been perpetrated under the circumstances? But more important Fargo Rallies AFL Starts Drive in Akron To Aid Strike With Anti-Strike Ballyhoo

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 17', of Fargo, was singled out as rubber industry, have lost over half the quicker you realize it the betone of the first sixteen. So was of their 15,000 membership, and ter you'll be." He shouted to the

The Willoughby Strike

Rubber Co. union at Willoughby, into the picture with the approval is having an effect here. There 400 workers are facing 450 scabs and away.) 200 gunmen directed by the notor-

the meeting, a misguided but sincere A. F. of L. field organizer, strike at Willoughby spoke briefly and aroused the rubber workers

## Thomas Quits New Leader; S.P. May Split

(Continued from Page 1)

the Right wingers hold the offensive. This tendency to play a fce. weak, defensive role has in turn cleaf consistent position. This has floor) Jazz band, again been evident in recent discussions among the militants on the question of the "road to power", some standing for proletarian dicever, what this means.

At present the majority seem to Kramberg, Beal and other officials favor "a mass labor party organof the union at a membership meet-, ized on a federated basis", some on ing held on Monday night, Feb .18. the ground that "the alternative to Because comrade Fox's speech a labor party is either armed insurwas enthusiastically received by rection or fascism!" Some favor highest C. P. candidate received the great majority of the rank and a labor party with a "minimum pro file when he pointed out his posi- gram of socialization of basic intion in favor of trade union unity dustries". Others assert that it is and against arbitrary dissolution of the business of revolutionists to the union, a mob was organized build the revolutionary party-not

> member, Lieberman by name, a and its opponents, fresh cleavages member of the trade board, threat- develop immediately among the latter. The most crucial question for the future is whether out of these developments a substantial element picable means of terrorizing the standing on an uncompromising Marxist and Leninist program will crystallize.

ALBERT LEA PICKETS Several of the men who helped make labor history in Local 574's all the workers in the industry. Truck Drivers and Teamsters in-Against the proposal of dumping ternational, far-reaching strikes of the membership into the "Dutch last summer, were in Albert Less last week to add their strength to the picket lines which surrounded the Potter foundry.

The Minneapolis picketers were Carl Skogland, Hiney Strand, Harmaining the bona-fide basis for the ry Wilson, Frank Hall, George Brethren, Lee Glynn, Clifford West-

"They certainly were a lot of help to us," declared Frank Elis. "There wasn't the slightest bit of doubt about our picket lines wherever these strike veterans were on duty. They knew what they were

(Continued from Page 1)

Most important of all, all three Cruden will be one of the speakers of the big locals planned a strike experienced, and doesn't mix well in Minneapolis Sunday. The other vote. Claherty hopes to divert the strikers on trial consist of printers, energy of the workers into a fucarpenters, bricklayers and unem- tile campaign. He completely igployed, as well as truck drivers, in- nores the fact that Akron labor cluding the victorious milk strike dropped out of the A. F. of L. bedrivers who won their demands of cause of its inaction and that it higher wages under the leadership would flock back if strike action was taken against the arrogant

Ohio, about 45 miles from Akron,

The brutal beatings of 12 strlkof L. is in reality sabotaging by ers, the terror caused when strike oughby, which is backing the strikers, but caused resentment in Ak-

After Claherty and Shepler left George Roberts, who is leading the into a fever pitch when he told

New York City

March 3, Sunday, 8 P.M .- "The

March 25, Monday evening-The-

been due in large degree to the and Dance under auspices& of Cenfact that they themselves have no tral Branch, 2 West 15th St. (Third every week following mass meet-

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structor: Sam Mevers. Thursdays, 8 P.M.-Marxian Economics. Instructor: El Everett. At 9 P.M.—Imperialism. S. Feebis. Fridays, 8 P.M. - Fundamental Party Principles for the Youth. instructor: Rae Ruskin.

Tolodo, Ohio

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them that "You have to tell all labor boards to go to hell. While we were trying to arbitrate the company was hiring in thugs."

"Rubber workers in Akron and throughout the world can only obtain their demands by striking and wild applause of the audience. Of course, he is rather young and inwith Claherty.

The Willoughby strike is the beginning of the open battle in rubber by workers for their most elemental demands. The company was about to give in to demands for abolition of the company union and the granting of seniority rights. ing and adjusting individual griev-However the Associated Industries, ances. founded 25 years ago and "guaran-The militant strike of the Ohio teed to break any strike", stepped of the Cleveland chamber of commerce. (Cleveland is nineteen miles

Since then, the citizens of Willswarm with armed thugs, many of by the experience of Local 1 of the them with criminal records. They saw the strikers get clubbed and gassed unmercifully. The strike, which is now in the second week appears to be entering its most serious stage. The scabs (most of them were workers who didn't walk out when the strike was called) want to leave the plant where they have been imprisoned for a week, but can't because of the thugs.

## WHAT TO ATTEND

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tor: E. Everett. THURSDAYS, 9:00-10:00 P.M.-IMPERIALISM-Instructor: S.

THURSDAYS, 8:00-9:00 P.M .- MARXIAN ECONOMICS. Instruc-

FRIDAYS, 8:00 P.M.—FUNDAMENTAL PARTY PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUTH. (A Class in Public Speaking Especially for the Spartacus Youth League). Instructor: Rae Ruskin.

## Contest Note

N SPITE of a bad start due to moving the offices the New Milkant 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. Davenport, Iowa stands highest in percentage of fulfillment of quota, having already reached the 30 percent mark. Philadelphia is also making noticeable progress toward the achievement of its goal. There are a number of branches from which we have not heard as yet. Akron, Buffalo, Charleston W. Va., Cleveland, Detroit, Fort Wayne Mineola, Oukland, Plentywood, Salt Lake City, Springfield, Staunton, Washington and Waukegan are on this list. Let's have some word from you in the next week!

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. All other branches should make immediate arrangements to settle on bundle accounts at once. This is vital and your bundle will not be counted in the circulation drive unless paid in full.

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 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. 2. How are points counted?

Subs taken on combination offers will be counted unless otherwise specified. 3. What are the dates of the

drive? The drive started February 1 and will end on May 31.

4. What are the prizes? (a) Each month during the drive a prize of \$2.00 in books will be in the greatest number of subs during that month. A minimum of 10 subs will be required in this

category. (b) To the individual sending in the largest number of subs for the For your convenience-this coupon period of the entire drive will be

awarded a prize of \$5.00 in books. (c) To the branch getting the largest percentage score in indivi- New York, N. Y. dual subs and bundle orders will Comrades: be awarded a prize of \$10.00 in

place for the entire drive in the points outlined in (c) above, a prize of \$5.00 in books.

the lists of the Pioneer Bookshop, Workers Party of the U. S. [ ] rested.

(d) To the branch making second

96 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. \*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. In order to be muddleheads among the figureheads counted they must be received on in the Stalinist bloc. or before 5 P.M. of the last day of Counting will be on the basis of each month (for category 4a) or and must be built. yearly subs, each of which will on or before 5 P.M. the last day of

subs will also count as one point. gories). They must also contain (a) name of subscriber

(b) name of contestant (c) name of branch (if to be

thus 'credited') Friends! Comrades! The goal has been set and the rules given. Remember, each sub you send in will make the position of the Party press the more secure-will help awarded to the individual sending build the advance guard of the

> sending them now! 1 year \$1.00;-6 months 65c. Special combinations are listed elsewhere in this issue.

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TURISM! American working class. Start

Add 15c to above for sample copy strikers have spread through the \*All books are to be selected from I am interested in joining the Thirty strikers have been ar-

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

Results of C. P. Policy

to a very few months ago. Williams received a great many "negative" votes: many votes cast for him were votes against the Communist Party, and cannot be interpreted otherwise. 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 Depart-

ment, who have long preached the hopelessness of achieving any progress within the union as a whole, and who aim to establish more firmly the craft divisions in the local—And there is no lack of such

A genuine left wing is needed

We repeat what we have said count as one point. Two half year the drive (for the remaining cate- 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 ADVEN-

NBC RUSE FAILS

NEWARK, N. J .-- A barrage of nissles 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, a maneuver to break the morale of the strike, now in its seventh week. The man-

euver failed. "Gorillas" ere paid \$8 a day by the company to take care of scabs and trail NBC trucks in high-powered cars. Picketing continues night and day, both at the factory and in the markets. Many local merchants have discontinued selling NBC products, due to the pressure of the boycott which the 250

city.

First Year-Winter 1935. Beginning Feb. 18, 1935 MONDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.-Workers Party Fundamentals-B. Borkeson MONDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.-Organizational Principles-M. Abern. MONDAY, 8:40-10:00 P.M .- Elementary English - F. Becker. MONDAY, 8:40-1010 P.M.-American History-Felix Morrow. WEDNESDAY, 7-8:30 P.M.—Marxian Economics vol. 1)—H. Oehler WEDNESDAY, 7-80 P.M.—American Labor History—A. J. Muste. WEDNESDAY, 8:40-10:10 P.M.—History of the Three Internation-

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.

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### doing and how to do it."-From the SUBSCRIBE TO THE MILITANT. Austin (Minn.) American.

als-M. Shachtman.

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-

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, al Administrator at & West 15th Street, New York City.

## League Wins Relief Fight

(Continued from Page 1)

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 demosstration. 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 im-

mediately began distributing cloth-

Today, as a result of this first success, more Leagues are forming in the county. Bill Groff, special organizer of the OUL, is in charge.

PITTSBURGH, Pa.-Mass meetings . . . and new Leagues. This oughby have seen their streets is the formula for success, to judge Pennsylvania Unemployed League. Mass meetings everywhere, including school buildings. But-

They Got Suspicions 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"

Meeting in the same schools where the PUL meets, the Community Councils operate on the theory that movies lectures and popular songs will aid all classes in dissolving their differences, and cause the workers to forget that their children ere half-starved and will continue to starve. Local 1 is fighting to retain its

in hand, but by militant action. March 2, Saturday night, Supper The old locals of the PUL are growing and new locals are formed

school-meeting permits . . . not hat

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