

NEW MILITANT

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Fling Back the Challenge!

The impending gigantic struggle of the A. F. of L. rubber workers' unions at Akron, Ohio, center of the tire industry, for their right to organize and to bargain collectively which is leading them to call an industry-wide strike deserves the support of every class-conscious trade unionist in the country.

Although they are handicapped by certain weaknesses like the passing of the peak production season, the rubber-workers are determined to fight courageously and militantly to overcome these obstacles.

The rubber barons in the impending fight will be the spear-head of a nation-wide employers' drive to break the working class in the basic industries.

This challenge must be flung back to the employers and nation-wide support be given to the rubber workers. The workers must turn this first major battle of 1935 into the opening victory of the working class in forthcoming struggles.

Attempts to smash the strike through terror of national guards and hired thugs must be met by a thunderous country-wide protest which will serve to check the bosses.

The Workers Party in Akron and throughout the country pledges itself to help rally the working class and its allies behind the struggle of the rubber-workers.

New Recruits

From New York City on the Eastern coast and from California in the West, out of the Socialist Party and Y.P.S.L. in the first case and the so-called Communist Party in the second, new recruits for the Workers Party and the Spartacus Youth League are reported in this issue of the New Militant. In both instances the new recruits to the banner of revolutionary Marxism consist not of isolated individuals but of groups of militants who, by conscientious study and the test of diverse experience have convinced themselves of the necessity of such a decisive step.

The drift from the Socialist and Stalinist parties, as well as from the ranks of the disaffiliated radical workers, toward the Workers Party, which began immediately after its formation last December, has continued steadily and grows in scope. The movement thus far is of modest proportions and moderate pace, but it is steady and the general direction is clear. The advance guard is moving already—and that is what is important and significant, for the movement of the advance guard today heralds the mass movement of the militant workers tomorrow.

Utopian short cuts and magic prescriptions to create revolutionary mass movements overnight are no part of our philosophy. We proceed from scientific premises and chart our line of development on the basis of the accumulated experiences of the international labor movement. The movement that will challenge American capitalism—and finally overthrow it—must indeed be a mighty movement of the masses. By this conception we mark ourselves off from all sectarians who worship dogmas in a closed circle. But the road to the masses is through the vanguard. By this conviction we differ with all opportunists and utopians, with all political quacks and their alluring schemes to get a quick.

Only a revolutionary theory, tested in struggle and assimilated into the blood of its adherents, can guide the masses to the revolutionary victory. The carriers of this theory are the class conscious militants, the workers' vanguard. The party which attracts them today by the tens and the hundreds will make its way to the thousands and eventually to the millions. The steady recruitment of the most advanced and experienced revolutionary militants from all camps in the labor movement into the Workers Party is rapidly establishing the new

Scottsboro Boys Get New Trial

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awaiting their second trial, attorneys stated, because they cannot be tried again on the present indictments since all the boys were originally named in the bills handed down by the Grand Jury. The unanimous decision of the court stated that the evidence overwhelmingly proved that it was a regularly established system in the Alabama courts to bar Negroes from jury duty and that there was sufficient evidence to establish the

fact that there were many such Negroes barred who were eligible. It was just about four years ago that nine Negro boys were pulled off a freight train and charged with raping two white girls. Within a few days they were sentenced to death in as breathless a legal lynching spirit as ever the Jim-Crow south had ever witnessed. Victory Not Yet Complete The victory is not yet complete. The Scottsboro boys are still behind bars. Lieut. Governor N. B. Hale says that he will seek new indictments to prosecute the cases "to their conclusion". This kind of reaction must be answered. And the way to answer him is by a renewed campaign of mass protest rising from the mil-

party as the center of revolutionary unity. That is the urgency of its future as the party of the revolutionary masses.

Tom Mooney Appeals

The desperate financial condition of the Mooney Molders Defense Committee, overburdened with expenses and debts by the drawn-out struggle, has prompted Tom Mooney himself to wire appeals to sympathetic labor organizations and publications for immediate aid. The New Militant has received this appeal and gladly transmits it to its readers herewith:

The New Militant, 2 West 15th Street, New York: "Our defense is penniless. Absolutely necessary we raise immediately ten thousand minimum to present case to California courts for financial condition is desperate. Our distinguished counsel volunteering services without fee. Won't the New Militant contribute something new toward actual court expenses. Profound appreciation. Fraternal Greetings. Tom Mooney.

The National Committee of the Workers Party considered this appeal at its meeting last week and decided to obligate itself to raise \$100 as a first contribution to this fund. In addition, it was decided to urge members and sympathizers of the Party to raise the matter in their unions and fraternal organizations and try to secure donations to be sent direct to the Mooney Molders Defense Committee.

The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, requiring Mooney to seek further recourse in the California state courts before appealing to the higher body, imposes another agonizing delay and heavy legal expenses on the defense committee, despite the voluntary services of the distinguished attorneys in the case. Mooney needs financial help, and the fact that he needs it is sufficient reason for every class conscious militant to make a little sacrifice and to bestir himself to an extra effort to see that he gets it. There is no extra dearer to the heart of the rebel worker, and none with a stronger claim, than the cause of Tom Mooney.

Local 22 Elections

The smashing defeat of the "United Dressmakers Committee" in the elections in Local 22, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, was a victory of the labor movement over twin evils which are alien to its historic purposes and hostile to its healthy development.

The so-called "United Committee" was just another name for as crooked a combination as ever set out to cheat and betray the workers under cover of radical slogans. The "United Committee", claiming to represent the "rank and file", was nothing more nor less than a united front of the old "club", a reactionary and racketeering group, and the past masters of the art of union wrecking, disruption and slander, who have made a "racket" of radicalism, the Stalinists. Behind these two unprincipled gangs not a few militant workers, befuddled and confused into thinking that Stalinism represents "Communism", were mobilized.

But, fortunately, not enough to affect the result. The dressmakers have learned something in the bitter experiences of the recent years. They applied that knowledge to their own interests and the interests of the union in the elections of Local 22. 70 percent of the total vote was cast for the administration slate headed by Zimmerman. That vote is the handwriting on the wall for the Stalinist-racketeering combination in the needle trades. Incidentally, it sounds "taps" for Stalinist domination in their last stronghold, the Furriers.

In supporting the Zimmerman administration the members and sympathizers of the Workers Party in Local 22 only chose an alternative dictated to them by concern for the interests of the union. No one having the slightest regard for the needs of the dressmakers could do anything in the circumstances but register the most emphatic condemnation of the unscrupulous C.P. "Club" combination. In doing so they did give an unequivocal endorsement to the Zimmerman administration nor withheld their criticisms of it. Still less should they do so now.

An ugly aspect of the situation is the fact that Local 22 has come to be regarded as a pawn in the Browder-Lovestone wrangling for place in the official Communist Party. All progressive and militant members of the union must oppose, unitedly any attempt to bring the Progressive Group under the domination of official Stalinism when the Lovestone-Browder deal goes through.

WORKERS SCHOOL NOTES

History of Russian Revolution: Those interested in the history of the Russian Revolution are invited to enroll for the class which meets Friday evenings, 8:40 to 10:10 P.M. Henceforth the class will function under the guidance of Joseph Carter. Trade Union Strategy and Tactics: This class has been reorganized and will function under the guidance of Karl Lore. It meets Thursday evenings, 8:40 to 10:10 P.M.

Albert Lea Strikers Duped

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insistent that the arrested men should stand trial on the charge of "inciting to riot" and exonerate themselves from the ridiculous accusation. Fosso, Gallegher and Goldie, however, felt quite otherwise. These three prevailed upon the indicted men to agree to plead guilty to the lesser charge of "illegal entry" rather than to fight the "rioting" charge, Fosso stating that the I.U.A.W. had no money to fight the case. After much arguing, the arrested strikers reluctantly agreed to do this, mainly due to their inexperience.

Olson's Recommendation The case was scheduled to come up before Judge Peterson, a man with a notorious anti-labor bias. Baker, with some other members of the I.U.A.W., drove up to St. Paul and interviewed Olson, telling him of Peterson's prejudices, and asking for another judge. Governor Olson recommended Judge Senn of Waseca, who then set on the case. After agreeing to hear the plea of guilty to the charge of illegal entry, Senn sentenced the men to 60 days in the county jail.

This, then, was what Attorney Gallegher and Attorney Goldie did for the Albert Lea strikers: secured for them 60-day jail sentences, on a charge of which none of them were guilty. And to this day, these two "labor" lawyers believe they did everything possible for the Albert Lea men. Their whole conception of protecting a labor client is to induce the judge and the prosecution to "trade off" for a guilty plea a lesser charge. Of the social and moral implications of the labor case they have not the slightest awareness. "Labor lawyers"—the term is a mockery when applied to such attorneys as these. Gallegher and Goldie do all the "lawyer-ing" while those whom they defend do all the "laboring"—for sixty days in the county jail. These two lawyers closed their whirlwind defense by presenting bills for \$100 a day for their work.

The progressives in the I.U.A.W. were naturally angry at this gross miscarriage of justice to their brothers in Albert Lea. Together with the Northwest Trade Unity Conference, they asked Baker to go back on the case. Attorney Baker, who, incidentally, is a man with a well-developed social outlook, gladly agreed to this. It didn't take him long to discover that the charge of "illegal entry" was not even contained in the indictment. Upon this basis he drew up a writ of habeas corpus. Judge Senn happened to be away at the time. Baker discovered an old law which permitted the court commissioner to issue such a writ. The commissioner then issued the writ and the jailed prisoners were about to be freed when Judge Senn got news of this. The judge immediately issued a restraining order, brought Baker into court and venomously attacked him for his efforts on behalf of the strikers.

Supreme Court Ruling Undaunted, Baker, by an incredible amount of effort, managed to bring the Judge's action before the State Supreme Court, who ruled that the Judge was in error in issuing the restraining order. Baker sought another writ of habeas corpus, which Judge Senn then denied.

This, then, is the status of the case at present. Several of the prisoners will be released on April 6, having served their sixty days in jail on a charge of which they were innocent, and which was not even mentioned in the indictment. It is possible that action may be brought against the court authorities for false imprisonment.

Baker's sincere and capable activities on behalf of the strikers have attracted wide attention in the state, and have opened the minds of large sections of the working class to an entirely different conception of what a labor lawyer is really like in action. "From now on," said one member of the Austin Union a few days ago, "judges in Minnesota will ask a worker twice if he is guilty before they reel off a sentence."

Emme's Dismissal It was for speaking on this case at a sectional conference of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference held in Austin on March 2 that Julius Emme was fired off the job he held as secretary of the Minnesota Industrial Commission. Emme criticized Judge Senn's decision and suggested that heat be put under any judge that would sentence innocent men in such a manner.

This remark of his was expanded and spread over the front pages of the St. Paul newspapers in a lurid manner, the account being written by a newspaperman, a labor spy, who had sneaked into the Austin conference. This was the excuse that Frank Starkey, a notorious labor faker and a member of the Industrial Commission (appointed by Governor Olson, incidentally) was looking for. Starkey works hand in glove with the right wing fakers in the State Federation of Labor. Emme was summarily dismissed from his job without the semblance of a trial. But this is

Conferences Prepare May Day in N. Y. and Chicago

Decision to hold a number of parades on May Day, all converging into a huge demonstration at some central point, likely Union Square, was the most important development of the conference of trades unions, political parties, fraternal bodies, etc., held at the Rand School, Thursday, March 28. The conference was called by the New York Local of the Socialist Party, which is controlled by the right wing, Old Guard. The invitations were carefully restricted. The Workers Party, Communist Party (Opposition), and all other political organizations opposed to the S. P. were not invited. Apparently the Yipsels are now included in that category, as there was not a single Yipsel local represented. Militant Socialists were also conspicuously absent.

Delegates from the Workers Party, S.Y.L., C. P. (O.), etc., who attended without invitations, were seated by the vote of the conference. In addition, the credentials committee reported 350 delegates attending, 78 from the S. P., 139 from the Workmen's Circle, 100 from local trade unions and central bodies, 28 from the Unemployed Union, several delegates from the I.W.W., etc.

August Claessens was elected chairman and ruled that motions whether carried or not would have no more force than suggestions to the arrangements committee. A motion for one united May Day demonstration of all political tendencies was made by a representative of the International Pocketbook Makers Union. Considerable discussion followed. An amendment by Nelson (Lovestoneite), I.L.G.W.U., to invite the Communist Party but not the "dual unions" brought confusion to the session. With many delegates demanding the floor, discussion was ended by Claessens, who made the usual S.P. speech, "the disgrace of Madison Square Garden", "splinter groups", etc. etc. Both amendment and motion were defeated, though the motion did get considerable support.

Representatives of political parties and groups other than the S.P. were excluded from the arrangements committee. A motion to change the name from "Socialist and Labor Committee" to "Labor Committee for May Day" was voted down by a small majority. This and question again at the arrangements committee.

The New York District of the Workers Party will cooperate wholeheartedly to make the parades and demonstration as militant, colorful and large as possible. Plans are being worked out to make the Workers Party and Spartacus Youth sections one of the most lively sections in the entire parade. Floats, banners, music, uniforms for the S.Y.L. etc. are being prepared.

A call for one united May Day demonstration was sent out by the Workers Party in letters to the S.P., C.P., trades unions and other organizations.

CHICAGO.—On Sunday, March 31 at 10 A.M. the Provisional Committee of Chicago Labor May Day, called together a conference to plan for a May Day celebration. Over 106 delegates representing trade unions, fraternal organizations, political parties and youth organizations responded to this call, initiated by the Socialist Party, the I.L.G.W.U., the International Pocketbook Workers Union, the C. G. of the Workmen's Circle, the Jewish Federation of Trade Unions, and others.

The conference opened with an address on May Day by Lederman, the manager of the Pocketbook Workers Union. He was followed by a report of the credentials committee, which marked the first struggle in the conference and belied Lederman's plea for unity on May Day. The credentials committee proposed to unseat the delegates representing the Stalinist "A. F. of L. Committee for Unemployment Insurance", the Lovestoneites and the Workers Party because these were communist organizations.

Unity Wins Out Intervention on the part of the militant socialists led to a motion

another story, and will be presented in next week's New Militant.

Incidentally, the Autin Union has unanimously demanded that Fosso resign from the presidency for his cowardly and stupid advice to the Albert Lea strikers, as well as for his general reactionary policies which he is reacting to impose on the heretofore militant Independent Union of All Workers.

It is possible that the Albert Lea case will be reopened, that the men will stand trial on the original charge and be fully vindicated. The Albert Lea and Fargo cases have driven home shrewdly the need in the Northwest for a broad labor defense movement which can command the services of experienced and intelligent labor lawyers—lawyers who will be backed up in their courtroom work by the power of a well-informed and fighting mass movement. There is a great field for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense in the Northwest.

to take up each organization separately. As a result of the fight made by the militant socialists and the Y.P.S.L.ers, the Workers Party, represented by Albert Glotzer, was seated, through a vote of 49 to 29. The Lovestoneites were also seated, while the "A. F. of L. Committee" was unseated by an overwhelming vote.

The conference then rejected by an almost unanimous vote, a united front with the Stalinists, who came before the conference with a plea of unity.

The greater part of the meeting was taken up with the character of the celebration. Four proposals were placed before the gathering by the open air mass meeting: 1) to hold a provincial mass meeting; 2) to hold a march demonstration to close with an open air meeting; 3) to hold a mass indoor meeting and lastly, 4) a Sunday, May 5, 30-hour week parade and mass meeting. The latter depending upon whether the Chicago Federation of Labor could be induced to participate.

W. P. Proposal Adopted Upon the motion of Glotzer, the second proposal for a mass march demonstration and meeting was adopted by a majority vote, after considerable discussion. The conference also decided to make attempts to involve the I.L.G.U. and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in this march, and to endeavor to get these organizations to call off their separate meetings in order thereby to hold one May Day celebration.

The chief slogan of the conference will be: The national 30-hour week. Other demands include: Union wages on relief projects; complete social insurance; support of the Landeen Bill; against war and fascism, etc. A provision was made that additional slogans and demands could be incorporated by the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Elected The conference closed with the election of an executive committee to put the decisions into practice and to work out the details of the celebration. Among the members of this committee are: Arthur MacDowell, Cook County Secretary of the Socialist Party, Lederman of the Pocketbook Workers Union, Patterson of the Workers Committee on Unemployment, Mordecai Shulman of the S. P.; Giganti of the C. C. of the Workers Committee and Albert Glotzer for the Workers Party.

The prospects are bright for a rousing May Day celebration in Chicago. The Chicago organization of the Workers Party calls upon all its members, sympathizers and friends to watch for the details of the march and prepare to participate under the banners of our Party.

"The Collective Propagandist"

"A paper is not merely a collective propagandist and collective agitator." It is "a part of an enormous part of bellows, blowing every spark of the class struggle and of popular discontent into a general conflagration."

Thus spoke Lenin himself, master of theory and master also in the field of practical achievement. If the symbol of the bellows applied to the organ of a revolutionary party was ever or anywhere appropriate, it is at this moment in the United States. To take the popular discontent stirring everywhere in this country today, still manifest largely in the hearing given to utopians, false prophets and mountebanks and transform it into a revolutionary conflagration! To enable the fighting elements in the unions to take the leadership in steel, automobiles, textiles, rubber, away from the bureaucrats who want to put down the fire of discontent so that the discontent of the workers with rising prices and falling incomes, with sham company unions, with labor hating bosses, may be fanned into a conflagration sweeping the nation like a prairie fire during this spring and summer! That is the task of the Workers Party.

To achieve that task the New Militant must be distributed in increasing thousands. It must become the paper of the American workers. Our field workers, our comrades in the front line trenches in the strike areas, our comrades who have to meet the arguments or the slanders of other parties and groups, the party organizers and members who meet the militant workers in the unions and unemployed leagues, and win them for the party,—all must be armed with the New Militant—their work must be supplemented by the New Militant going in thousands into the factories, mines, stores, offices and workers' homes.

Blow "every spark of the class struggle into a general conflagration." That means, today, support the New Militant subscription campaign. National Committee of W. P., A. J. MUSTE, Secretary

CAPITOL NEWS LETTER

BY JACK ELDER

HUMAN AND DIVINE... WASHINGTON.—Philip Murray, puppet vice-president of the United Mine Workers and plant tool in the hands of Lewis, gets a job with the NRA. Appointed to membership on the National Industrial Recovery Board, he will hereafter sit side by side with Sidney Hillman, of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, as A. F. of L. spokesman in the New Deal's primary scheme for class-collaboration.

Murray gets his job (which involves control over a lot of patronage) and the A. F. of L. at once forgives and forgets.

It forgives and forgets Richberg, chief betrayer of the organized labor movement from the first day of Section 7a to date. Richberg, the A. F. of L. chiefs were saying only a few weeks ago, was a double-crosser, a traitor, a Judas. They were condemning him as the chief saboteur of collective bargaining. Today, once again, Richberg, Green and Lewis are pals, members of a happy little family.

The Executive Council forgives and forgets the President's renewal of the automobile code. Only a few weeks ago, the A. F. of L. leaders were crying to high heaven because the President acted without paying the least attention to the Henderson-Richberg report. They were clamoring for the suppression of the Wolman Automobile Labor Board. Today, once again, the A. F. of L. bureaucrats look toward the President as its firm friend.

They forgive and forget the scandal of the recently-approved tobacco code; the paralysis of the labor relations boards; the overwhelming torrent of non-compliance with wage and hour requirements; the enactment of the Work Relief bill permeated by the philosophy of low wages.

All, in short, is the best in the best of all possible bureaucratic worlds. Wage earners have nothing to complain about any more. The Administration, its heart in the right place, has finally recognized the co-equal status of labor with management. The problems of unemployment, starvation wages and stretch-out have been solved. The economic order of the United States has been revolutionized.

For where Hillman once sat alone as the A. F. of L.'s spokesman on the NLRB, he is now joined by Murray. Two jobs in the place of one. Twice as much opportunity to sell out the unorganized toiling masses.

Unfortunately, there is not as much cause for elation among the workers as there is among Green and Co. The whole Executive Council of the A. F. of L. might be named to the NLRB for all the difference that would make on the matters that really count. What has the NRA done so far to reduce unemployment, increase weekly earnings, and to the real income of workers? The answer—as all official statistics show—is nothing. What can the NRA do in view of its encouragement to production and monopoly? The answer—as a moment's reflection will indicate—is less than nothing.

THE PITFALLS OF LEWISDOM...

The wage conferences between the United Mine Workers and the operators are still dragging on. Outwardly at least the deadlock is complete. The operators propose to continue the wage and hour standards of the present bituminous coal code. The union proposes to raise wages and shorten hours.

Will this mean, if no agreement is reached, a truly militant strike? Not if John Lewis can help it. A safe and peaceful "suspension" until such time as coal inventories are reduced, is possible. But Lewis will work as hard to suppress any vigorous strike as he has worked to suppress all coal strikes from the very outset of Section 7a.

It should not be forgotten that the bituminous coal code is equipped with labor boards in which the U.M.W.A. and the operators have equal membership. The code very definitely limits the right to strike. The code very definitely provides for compulsory arbitration. These provisions were written into the code by Lewis and his cohorts for the specific purpose of preventing the rank and file workers from getting out of hand.

J A M B O R E E Given by the Spartacus Youth League SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 8:30 Dancing, Games, Refreshments 2 West 15th St., N. Y. C. Admission 15c by hat check. Proceeds for National Tour.