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Left Groupings Confer in N. Y. Needle Trades

Lovestonites Dampen and Dominate Conference

Decisions to set up a "Council of Needle Trades Progressive Groups," publish a paper and engage in a drive to set up and strengthen progressive groups in all locals was made at a conference called by the "Progressive Group" of Local 22 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and held at Manhattan Opera House, last Saturday afternoon.

Representatives from eight progressive groups in the I.L.G.W.U. and one group in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers were seated as delegates. Representatives from a number of groups were not seated on the grounds that they were not known to the sponsors of the conference. They were however allowed to remain as fraternal delegates. A large number of individual members from locals of the A.C.W., I.L.G.W. and Millinery Workers Union were present as progressive groups exist where no progressive groups exist were present as observers taking no part in the proceedings. Two local unions were represented by two sets of delegates each. In local 11 the group controlling the administration as well as a smaller opposition group had delegates seated. Cutters Welfare League, a progressive group of local 10 were seated. Delegates from a Socialist group in the same local were present as observers.

Max Bluestein, a business agent of local 22 and representative of the progressive group of that local was elected chairman. Chas. Zimmerman, manager of the same local, made the keynote speech. He strongly condemned the class collaboration policies of the Hillman administration of the A.C.W., contrasting with it the "record" of the I.L.G.W.

J. Brandon of the Progressive Unionists, present by invitation, told of the great need of a city and nation-wide organization of progressives. He congratulated the delegates for the step they were taking and pledged the support of himself and his organization for progressive action. His speech was well received.

The report of the Credentials Committee caused a bit of debate, a number of delegates protesting against their non-seating. In reply Zimmerman and others argued that since these representatives were not known to them they could not be seated as regular delegates. It was stated, however, that if the groups represented by these delegates were properly introduced to the officials and found kosher they will be accepted as part of the center.

A complete program was presented to the conference by Murray Gross, office manager of local 22, in the name of the progressive group of that local. This report which had not previously been presented to any of the groups, not even that of local 22, was accepted in total with only one slight addition. One amendment was proposed and ruled out of order by the chairman on the grounds that he knew that Zimmerman also supported the view expressed in the amendment and therefore there was no need to accept it in the constitution. One addition was made. Will Herberg, of the Lovestone group, who is educational director

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Green Acts to Stall New Rubber Union

AKRON, Ohio.—Despite requests from major local rubber workers unions, William Green, A. F. of L. president, has delayed calling a convention to organize an international until July.

His rubber organizer, Coleman C. Claherty, explained that Green was sending questionnaires to all locals to determine their attitude. Then a convention will be called. Since all the unions have voted for the international, the A. F. of L. bureaucracy is simply trying to postpone the progressive move.

The question of whether the international will actually be an industrial union, including all employees, or whether the craft workers will maintain their seven international is the focal point of dispute in arguments on forming the international.

Last year when the United Rubber Workers Council was formed Claherty, aided by the crafts, obtained control. Of course, he will fight to keep them separate and continue the struggle, if possible.

Progressives Unite to Fight Expulsion in Teachers Union

Split Threatens as Right Wing Socialist Administration Moves to Comply with Green's Demand for Red Hunt

The Teachers Union of New York City, Local 5 of the American Federation of Teachers, is now facing the most serious crisis in its history, with the panic-stricken right wing Socialist leadership driving full speed ahead for the expulsion of a large, growing left wing movement.

Two weeks ago, by a vote of 14 to 9 in the Executive Board the Administration put through a motion calling upon the Executive Council of the national organization to investigate the local. The investigating committee, consisting of the president, the secretary-treasurer and the legislative representative of the national body, conducted its hearings in New York on June 8 and 9.

Second Expulsion Attempt
This is the second attempt in recent years on the part of the Administration to answer the challenge of the left wing, which for years has been fighting its backward policies and bureaucratic practices, by expulsion. In 1932 it appointed a Grievance Committee headed by Professor John Dewey to consider expulsion charges against five left wing leaders. The proposal of the Committee to expel was defeated; so was a subsequent proposal to suspend. The Administration then "compromised." It pushed through a constitutional amendment abolishing membership amendment with the power to decide policy! A Delegate Assembly, roughly corresponding to a shop chairmen's body, was instituted to replace the membership meetings.

The opposition forces, adapting themselves to the new situation, made steady progress. At recent Delegate Assembly meetings it defeated the Administration on a number of crucial questions. In the elections just held for members of the Executive Board and for officers, it gained over 40 percent of the total vote.

New Frame-up
The investigation is a clear

frame-up of the left wing. The administration is climaxing a series of flagrant abuses of democratic practice by attempting to pin a red label on the opposition and kicking it out. Rallying against this policy of split, the left wing groups formed a united front, the first since the 1932 expulsion drive. A mass meeting to protest the investigation, attended by nearly one thousand union members, was held on June 7. At the last Delegate Assembly meeting on June 12, the vote on the question of the investigation was announced as 80 for to 77 against. The demand for a recount was ignored by the chairman, and the meeting was hastily adjourned.

The situation at this writing is extremely tense. The investigating committee, having completed its hearings, will make its recommendations in August, after the national convention. In the meanwhile, the united front is continuing its fight, the success of which depends upon its ability to solidify a program extending further than the mere plank against expulsion.

SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS UNION EXPANDS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (FP)—Reaching out into Texas and Oklahoma, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which has been the target of the lawless violence of Arkansas and Louisiana, is increasing its influence. The executive council at its June 3 meeting in Memphis received charter applications for locals with over 11,000 members.

Most of these are already organized locally but want the benefit of the strength and experience of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. In southeastern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas the American Farmers and Farm Laborers Union with headquarters in Madell, Okla., 9,000 strong, applied for membership. The American Agricultural Workers Union with headquarters in Bonham, Tex., 2,000 strong, also applied.

Furriers Unite In One Union

'Red' Union Dissolved Joins A. F. of L. International

After years of fighting, of mutual scabbery, the two unions in the New York fur market, the Joint Council of the International and the Fur Workers Industrial Union have merged, the latter joining the International on terms which made possible a genuine unity.

This unification on the basis of reinstatement of all members without discrimination, elections without forty days, with all members eligible for office, etc. is a victory for those who fought for unity on a progressive basis. Progressive forces within the International, particularly in Toronto, plus the about turn in Stalinist trade union policy made the merger possible. The rise of a progressive group in the Fur Workers Industrial Union, fighting against the bureaucratic excesses of its leadership, helped to push the latter to accept, after a lot of bluff and blustering, the terms offered by the International.

The final terms of settlement are virtually identical with those voted at the International Convention held in Toronto last May. The entry of the industrial members of the International, the affairs of the International previous to the election and the election itself, will be under the jurisdiction of the committee of seven elected by the International Convention. So far this committee has fulfilled its tasks with admirable skill.

A meeting of about 2,500 furriers called by the F.W.I.U., recently renamed the Independent International Fur Workers Industrial Union, held in Cooper Union last Wednesday, voted unanimously to accept the terms offered by the International Convention through the Committee of Seven. Already at this meeting the line to be followed by the Stalinists after entry into the International, was indicated. An attack was launched against the progressives, the Fur Workers Unity Group while right wing members of the International were praised and applauded.

The tasks of the progressives are

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NPLD Pushes Campaign for Mini Freedom

Opening Will Be Banquet in N. Y. On June 26

NEW YORK CITY.—The Non-Partisan Labor Defense, leader of the fight for Norman Mini against the labor-haters of California who are now keeping him in San Quentin Prison, will open a campaign for his liberation with a cold-plate dinner in this city on June 26. As in the trial, the N.P.L.D. will make its fight for Mini a fight on behalf of the eight Sacramento and criminal syndicalism defendants and against the criminal syndicalism law used to railroad them to prison.

Among the speakers at the dinner will be A. J. Muste, National Secretary of the Workers Party; Herbert Solow, who spent four months in Sacramento directing the N.P.L.D.'s work during the trial; Murray Baron, leading Socialist and trade-unionist of New York; Carlo Tresca, well-known anti-Fascist; and Louis Berg of the Executive of the N.P.L.D. Sidney Hook, Professor of Philosophy at New York University, will preside.

The dinner will be held at Irving Plaza, 15th Street and Irving Place, at 7 P.M. Tickets costing 50 cents each are being sold by members of the N.P.L.D. They are also available at the following places: New Militant office, 55 East 11th St.; Socialist Call office, 21 East 17th St.; II Martello office, 94 Fifth Ave.; League for Industrial Democracy, 112 East 19th St. Admission at the door will be 75 cents. Proceeds will be used for the Mini defense fund.

N.P.L.D. for Unified Defense

In response to the call of the N.P.L.D., delegates from the National Labor Committee of the Socialist Party, defense arm of the S. P., and the N.P.L.D. held a preliminary conference Monday at which the possibility of building an aggressive unified defense was discussed. It was decided to postpone activities a week, in view of the absence of delegates from the I.L.D., which represents Mini's seven co-defendants, and from the General Defense Committee (I.W.W.). Since the meeting, the N.P.L.D. has announced, the G.D.C. has appointed an observer. An observer attended from the A.C.L.U. also.

A new invitation has been sent to the I.L.D. and the conference will be a few days to take practical steps toward expanding itself, and beginning the appeal fight, both through an attorney for Mini and a mass protest campaign against all the Sacramento convictions.

Opinions of a number of lawyers consulted recently by the N.P.L.D. are that the affidavit given by a juror to Herbert Solow and Jack

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Bakers Strike Ends After Fierce Battle

After three weeks of militant picketing, marked by violent clashes with company thugs and arrests of pickets, the Gottfried Baking Company strike is over. An increase carrying a substantial increase in wages and partial recognition of the union has been reached.

On Wednesday, the strikers voted by a majority in favor of the terms and later in the day the agreement was signed by Jack Chick, president, Herman Gund, Secretary, and Theodore Wharton, organizer, for local 50 of the Bakery and Confectionary Workers International Union, and by B. Gottfried, vice-president for the company.

The agreement provides for the firing of strike breakers hired during the strike; immediate reinstatement of strikers; sharing of work during slack seasons and arbitration of disputes during the life of the agreement. Though full union rates were not secured, wage increases of from 20 to 50 percent were gained. Wages will now range from 41 cents and hour for women helpers to 90 cents an hour for oven men.

Interviewed in his office, Herman Gund, secretary of local 50, declared that he did not consider the settlement a victory as it did not provide for full union wages and a closed shop. Considering the situation in which a good section of the inside workers remained at work, and the lack of finances, they were the best must," said Gund, "be considered as the first step in our fight for complete unionization, not only of the Gottfried plants, but for all baker factories in the city.

Unemployed Leagues Hold Mass Conventions

Shoulders to the Wheel—Everybody Behind the Eight Page New Militant

We all want it!
The Workers Party needs it!
We're going to get it—The eight-page NEW MILITANT.
On August 1 the first enlarged paper is due to appear.
The increase in size will mean far more than a 100 percent increase in the efficiency of our party organ and organizer. The big job we have to do demands a bigger and a better paper.

Are we going to get it? Will we be able to forge a really effective weapon against war and fascism? It depends on every party member, every sympathizer, every worker who realizes the need for reaching the American masses with the clear voice of the Workers Party.

We have plans.

We have a print shop, comrades to work, comrades to write news and articles.

WE NEED CASH!!! And we need it right away.

The Workers Party is due for another big step ahead. The establishment on a firm basis of the eight-page NEW MILITANT will be such an advance.

Send in your contribution. Begin sub-gathering. Put your shoulders to the wheel. The enlarged NEW MILITANT is the most important job before the party at the present time.

131 Delegates Participate in W. Va. Jobless Convention

Class Struggle Measures Accepted; Fighting Executive Electea

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., June 8.—In an inspiring two day session the state convention of the West Virginia Unemployed League marshaled the lessons of the recent past before it and cast an eye on its prospects for the future.

131 delegates were in attendance, taking an active part in all the proceedings and viewing with a critical eye all measures proposed for the development of the organization.

A real organization patriotism was manifested throughout all the sessions. The unemployed workers, having many sad experiences with their officials, were clearly resolved to see to it that only those of the highest integrity and representing the rank and file should be their new leaders.

The principal speaker at the convention was Arnold Johnson, secretary of the N.U.L. In his address he pointed out that the workers must cease relying on Greek gifts such as they had been presented by Hoover and Roosevelt, and begin applying their own power as the only effective means to rescue them from the slave conditions imposed by capitalism. Such a struggle alone, he declared, could bring freedom and victory.

"War Only for Freedom"
The high point of his address dealt with the approaching war in which, "workers in one country are called on to kill their fellow workers of another capitalist country for the profit of the bankers and profiteers. Now is the time to take a firm stand against imperialist war and to use the weapons of war only for the freedom of workers."

Then followed the regular business of the convention, with President Bidle the leading reporter. Reviewing the progress of the Leagues during his short tenure of office, he reported that nine old branches had been revived and 11 new ones organized. In one case he had trekked twenty-six miles through snow and mud to get to a League meeting.

Brant Scott, chairman of the Executive Board, followed with a brief history of the West Virginia Unemployed League since its foundation on May 7, 1933. He took the Leagues through the various presidents who have come and gone. "But the League is still on the march," he declared. "It has gone through many tough disappointments, but nobody can sell out the League. The W. Va. U.L. will keep going when all other organizations fold up. And the thing that will keep us going is the militant action of the rank and file."

Other officers supplemented his report with graphic descriptions of the actions of the Leagues in strikes, demonstrations and action at relief offices.

Resolutions Adopted
Resolutions were passed calling for a regular rank and file conference every three months, demonstrations against the Roosevelt relief scale, against Fascism, against imperialist war, for the Workers

P.U.L. MEETS

Militant Stand Is Adopted on Burning Issues

Labor Party Rejected; Favor Revolutionary Action

ALLENTOWN, Pa., June 10.—Three hundred and fifty delegates, representing more than 25,000 organized unemployed, met here Saturday and Sunday, June 7 and 8, at the convention of the Pennsylvania Unemployed League.

The delegates, representatives of unemployed organizations in more than a dozen counties of the state, heard reports of increased activities and continual growth in the course of the last year. Their unmistakable seriousness and their business-like procedure gave evidence to the fact that the majority of them were organized labor spokesmen, trained organization men with wide trade union experience.

Plan Against Relief Rates

After the opening address by President Larry Heimlich and the report of Secretary Lester Heckman, the convention settled down to the task of laying plans for organized action against the scandalous \$19-\$34-a-month work relief program of the Roosevelt government; for prevailing wage rates on relief jobs; for an increase of 50 percent in present direct relief allowances; for the representation of the unemployed on project complaint boards as well as other urgent needs of the jobless.

Organizationally, the convention marked progress in deciding on the establishment of district offices in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, to extend the scope of the P.U.L., and in setting up an Organizational Department, whose task it will be to penetrate into every corner of the state with regular organizers working according to a systematic plan, under centralized direction. The convention also set up an Educational Department, instructing it to form a series of circuit schools by means of which to train active league workers for the maximum effective action in the struggle of the unemployed.

Reports from the county organizations indicated a steady growth in membership since the last convention as well as tremendous opportunities for advancement in new fields. A large sum was pledged by the delegates present, to carry on organizational work.

Reject Phony Unity

The convention went on record in favor of the Workers Security Bill introduced in Congress by the National Unemployed League calling for a 30-hour \$30 week on relief work; for cooperation with the trades unions on the work relief projects; for the active support of Mass Action, the official organ of the National Unemployed League.

A resolution presented by Communist Party delegates for "united front action" with the sectarian Unemployed Councils was emphatically rejected by an overwhelming majority. Speaker after speaker pointed to the sad experiences made by the Leagues with the Unemployed Councils in the past. They recalled that the C. P. controlled Unemployed Councils had time and again broken faith in the course of united front action, that they had continually striven to disrupt the Unemployed Leagues, that they had thereby proven themselves unworthy of confidence. It was further pointed out that the Councils had dwindled down to an insignificance number while the Pennsylvania Unemployed League had established itself as the bona fide organization of the unemployed in the state, in spite of their disruptive tactics.

The convention, while voting down the fake unity proposal of the Stalinists, went on record endorsing the unity negotiations of the National Committee of the N.U.L. carried on with bona fide unemployed organizations on a national scale, calling for a rank and file merger convention based on a militant, class struggle program.

Labor Party Resolution

Another resolution introduced by the C. P., which had managed to

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