

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH

The World Do Move...

A convention of the unemployed, numerous mass meetings (one of women organizing to stop the rapid rise in the cost of living), and a picket line for the cause of academic freedom—these are some of the events that have prevented me this week from collecting the usual silly items from Oshkosh, Timbuctoo and Talabassae. Instead of recounting the insane drive of captains of industry, bank presidents and ward heelers risen to high position, the entire column this week is devoted to episodes from lives of workers.

Two years ago at the convention of the National Unemployed League a riot almost ensued when the organization's loyalty to the American flag was brought into question. Last week at the Pennsylvania U. L. convention the audience cheered such statements: "The National Unemployed League stands for the complete destruction of capitalism and we know this can't be done except by revolutionary action of the workers under the inspiration and leadership of a revolutionary political party!"

The cops ordered 70 year old Mother Kimmel to stop distributing leaflets announcing a workers' meeting. "I've picketed the White House in Washington. Hundreds of police tried to stop me. Why should I be afraid of you?" she remarked as she continued to pass out the bills. She was not arrested. What a movement we would have if the young folks were as active as Mother Kimmel! She never misses a picketline, eviction, demonstration or committee meeting. At the P.U.L. convention an intense quiet fell over the hall as she told in simple but dignified language of her faith in the power of the workers.

Who Respects the Flag?

PREACHER PICKETS — PROFESSOR HEADS PICKET LINE — COPS DESTROY AMERICAN FLAG — WORKERS UNITE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM. I'm referring to events in the case of Dr. Winslow Hallett, recently dismissed from his position at Cedar Crest College because of his activities in behalf of labor.

Labor unions, professional men and the organized unemployed united on the picket line in his defense. Heated by the Stars and Stripes, the flag of the Christian Church, various union insignias and the rattlesnake flag of colonial days (now the banner of the Unemployed League) the picketline began to wind its way in protest to the dictatorial control of education by bank presidents and businessmen.

State troopers, county sheriffs and deputies, and city police were present to defend the status quo. They attempted to stop the procession. "Why can't we walk peacefully on a public highway?" asked the crowd. Angered that their authority should be questioned, the cops charged the line, seized the American flag and tore it partially from its pole. An angry roar arose from the enraged pickets and a general melee resulted for several seconds. "You tell us to respect the flag but you tear it up and toss it aside," cried the workers to the cops.

The flag of the Christian Church is white with a red cross set in a blue field in the upper right hand corner. It was carried by Rev. Paul Cotton, recently ousted from his church because he cast his lot with the working class rather than with the barons of Bethlehem Steel. Rev. Cotton received a new insight into the meaning of academic dignity when he presented a petition for Dr. Hallett's reinstatement to Dr. Wm. F. Curtis, President of the school. Dr. Curtis, thinking Dr. Cotton a commencement guest, greeted him cordially. When he recognized the contents of the petition, however, he raged like a madman, ordered Dr. Cotton from the building and pushed him out when he did not move fast enough.

"Don't Worry Your Little Heads"

A cheer arose as Dr. Hallett came from the commencement exercises and joined the pickets. He carried a large placard: TEACH THE TRUTH TO AMERICAN YOUTH. Workers rallied around him. Earlier in the morning one of his faculty colleagues refused to walk in the commencement procession with him.

Charm School: "You poor little kittens, worrying about problems that bigger minds than yours cannot solve!" remarked Miss Esther Engle, teacher at the college, to girls sympathetic to Dr. Hallett.

At a student meeting called to counteract a petition being circulated among the students for the reinstatement of Dr. Hallett, one of the teachers said: "During the eight years I've been at Cedar Crest, ten teachers have come and gone. All have done so with dignity. Had Dr. Hallett done likewise, new and beautiful pastures would have opened before him."

P. U. L. Convention Marks Great Stride Forward

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get representation from one or two leagues, called for the creation of an "Anti-Capitalist Labor Party." Conferences to establish such a labor party on a state scale were to be held within a month!

Delegate Silinger, 8th Ward, Allentown, speaking for this resolution, stated in effect: "I am a Communist. I am for a Labor Party because such a party will vote us workers into office (1). Against the parties of the bosses the workers need a party of their own, a Labor Party."

Delegate Ed. Moser, speaking against the resolution, said: "I am a member of the Workers Party. My experiences in the Unemployed Leagues have convinced me that against the bosses and their parties the workers can be effective only by revolutionary mass action, not by the false hope of voting capitalism out. I do not at this time call upon the P.U.L. to join with the Workers Party but I wish to take this opportunity to express my views just as members of other political parties have the right to express theirs. The previous speaker is a member of another party which claims to speak for the working class. Now, he proposes that we should form a new party, aside from his own—a labor party. That party is supposed to be for the rest of us, a party for second class citizens, so to speak. What sort of sense does that make? We have seen Labor Parties in action before. In Minneapolis last year, during the truck drivers' strike, the Labor Party governor sent out the troops to shoot down the strikers. That sort of party the workers have no use for. We need a party that will not act as a strike-breaker, a party that will act to overthrow capitalism."

For Revolutionary Action Delegate Spencer, of Easton, also took up the cudgels for the Labor Party. In his opinion, a Labor

Party was needed to "abolish the miseries of capitalism." Ernest R. McKinney, vice-president of the N.U.L., replying to this speaker, pointed out in the course of a brief but pungent address, that the N.U.L. itself, in its constitution rejected the idea of abolishing the "miseries of capitalism."

"The constitution of the National Unemployed League," McKinney stressed, "stands for the complete destruction of capitalism. We know this can't be done except by revolutionary action of the workers under the inspiration and leadership of a revolutionary political party." He urged that the reformist Labor Party resolution of the C. P. be voted down. It was. Instead, the convention went on record reaffirming the stand of the P.U.L. for independent political working class action, based on the experiences of the workers in the course of their struggles.

This bid for support of their reformist venture netted the Stalinists a lesson in revolutionary conduct. The Unemployed Leagues proved themselves too well tempered in the class struggle to fall for the bogus Labor Party campaign of the bankrupt C. P.

New Officers Elected

The convention concluded its sessions with the election of officers and of a state committee. Those elected for the coming year are: Walter Weldon, President; Andrew Budhas, First Vice-President and Organizational Director; Mike Demchak, Second Vice-President; Louis Breier, Third Vice-President; Edwin Zeiser, Fourth Vice-President; Lester Heckman, Secretary; Ralph Weaver, Treasurer; Bill Reich, Educational Director.

A stirring speech of excellent revolutionary and educational value, made by the National President of the Unemployed Leagues, Anthony Ramuglia, brought the program to a close.

NPLD Pushes Drive for Mini

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Warnick, one of the acquitted prisoners who has since been expelled from the Communist Party for defending Mini against C.P. charges that he was a "stool pigeon" should have great force in the appeal. In a statement issued yesterday, Felix Morrow, temporary secretary of the N.P.L.D., said:

"With all the legal ammunition at our disposal, we need only a powder charge of sufficient force to blow down the prison walls and get these innocent workers out of San Quentin. The charge must come in the form of a great protest movement. Such a movement can be built, and the N.P.L.D. is beginning to build it.

"The failure of the I.L.D. to attend the first conference is far from encouraging. They will tend to paralyze the mass movement if they persist in splitting it by branding as a stool-pigeon a worker whose only crimes are that he helped organize a union, and that he disagrees with the C.P. The fact that the C. P. organ, the Western Worker, brazenly drops Mini's name from the list of appellants in this case, indicates the probable attitude of the I.L.D. That organization disgraced itself during the trial and if it persists in its present attitude, it will do so again."

C. P. Opposes Unity

During the trial, the N.P.L.D.'s Sacramento fight had the endorsement and backing of the N.E.C. of the Socialist Party; the California Socialist Party; the Joint Boards of the I.L.G.W.U. in New York, San Francisco and Boston; the United Hebrew Trades of New York and many other labor organizations. It provided Mini with an attorney. It rescued the Sacramento issue from the obscurity to which the I.L.D., annoyed with the anti-bureaucratic tendencies of some of the prisoners, had consigned it. It forced the I.L.D. and C.P. into a united front defense committee. The C.P. smashed this front within a few days, and thereby did untold damage to the defense movement, driving away all elements except those in political agreement with the C. P.

After pretending for some time that the smashing of the united front was the "fault" of the Workers Party and the Socialist Party, the Communist Party has at last let the cat out of the bag. A current issue of the Western Worker contains a long screed denouncing Charles Gordon, San Francisco I.L.D. organizer, for "opportunism."

One of the chief instances of such opportunism cited is that Gordon signed a united front pact for the defense of all the Sacramento prisoners along with the N.P.L.D., the W. P. and what the Western Worker calls "certain other organizations" (S.P., American Civil Liberties Union, Shipyard Workers Industrial Union, etc.). Thus the C. P., which is simultaneously begging the S.P. for a united front, admits a principled objection to such a

Dunne Blasts C.P. in Debate

After Complete Rout Stalinists Apologize For Disruption

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—Representatives from the C. P. and the Workers Party met on the platform of the Labor Lyceum on May 29 and debated the municipal election policy of the two parties. V. R. Dunne of the Workers Party upheld the position of the W.P. and Harry Mayville spoke for the C.P. The debate was sponsored by the District Executive Committee of the Workmen's Circle, with Ruben Latz of that group acting as chairman.

Tiala Ducks Out Alfred Tiala, district organizer for the C.P., was scheduled to speak for the negative, but failed to appear. As a matter of fact the Stalinists arrived in a body, with a noisy clique all organized, and obviously had no intention of going through with the debate, though it had been widely advertised on the North Side for some days in advance. Their plans called for branding the whole affair a fake and then taking over the meeting and disbanding it. But Harry Mayville, a leading Stalinist here, insisted on going through with the debate as scheduled and agreed to speak for the C.P.'s position on the municipal elections.

V. R. Dunne led off by posing the tasks of the revolutionary party, giving the history of the Workers Party of the United States, and then proceeded to evaluate the relative importance of the municipal election. He was careful to point out that the Farmer-Laborites in office are not to be trusted; that such a reformist party could never make any lasting gains for the workers. He showed that by supporting the Farmer-Labor ticket in the coming election, the W. P. was simply showing its readiness to deal with the workers who want to deal a blow to the bloody Citizens Alliance regime which had ordered the shooting of workers in the Truck Drivers Strike last year. With the issue so clearly drawn it would be a mistake for the revolutionary party to risk the defection of enough votes to permit the Citizens Alliance candidates to win. Mayville then took the floor and expounded the Stalinist position, exhibiting all the weaknesses and flaws in their distorted "theory." He urged the workers not to support the Farmer-Laborites as they had voted machine guns, pay for the deputies, etc., in the city council. Yet in the next breath he would insist that "the Farmer-Labor Party can be transformed into a class struggle party." Instead of one Olson, the Stalinists would give us a thousand.

Dunne on Stalinism

In his second speech, V. R. Dunne went into the disasters of Stalinism on an international scale—the British General Strike, and the infamous bloc with Purcell and Hicks; the complete subordination of the Chinese C. P. to the petty bourgeois Kou Min Tang, with the subsequent blood-letting of the revolution; the C.P.'s tragic behavior in Germany; its non-appearance in Austria and Spain; it's milk and water position in France. "The Communist Party today is no more the party of Lenin than is the Republican Party the party of Lincoln," stated Dunne.

Mayville's tongue was covered with hair when it came to answering our charges. Social fascism, the united front from below, the C. P.'s recent stand against a labor party, the participation of Russia in the League of Nations—not a word about this monstrous bouquet from Mayville. "You still read about the bandit armies in China," he said. "I guess that looks like the Chinese revolution is sunk, eh?"

It should be stressed that Mayville's pitiful theoretical armor is certainly no exception among the Stalinists—rather is he better prepared than his other comrades. Yet he either does not know the facts of international politics or he does not know Lenin. For him, for instance, the Chinese revolution can come about without the leadership of the city workers. For him the Chinese revolution can come about even though the revolutionary parties lie crushed and bleeding from a thousand wounds, or as yet weak and impotent. And so on, down through the list.

Old Slanders Answered

All the old charges were brought up against us during the question period. We "Trotskyites" had urged the truck strikers to beat up the Stalinists; we had not gone on the picket lines; six years ago V. R. Dunne had hit this Stalinist and sent him to the hospital; had broken that man's jaw on Bridge Square; Grant Dunne had voted in the Central Labor Union to offer Governor Olson a vote of thanks for his use of the militia in the truck strike; we had called Mayville and the rest of the Stalinist "United Front" candidates "tools of the Citizens Alliance"; we had not exposed Olson in the Organizer, the daily strike bulletin; Trotsky was kicked out of the Soviet Union because he called for production of consumers goods

Mini Rejects I.L.D.

"Our opinion is that an appeal subject to the sole control of the I.L.D. might very well turn out to be worthless. The manner in which the I.L.D. conducted its trial fight, the often disastrous tactics of Leo Gallagher, the I.L.D.'s isolation from the organized labor movement, give no grounds for hope for such an appeal.

"In the interests of all the defendants, we must fight to force the I.L.D. into a joint appeal if that is possible. If not, we must go on independently. This is not simply our view. Norman Mini writes us as follows:

"After my experiences with I. L.D. honor and with their legal and political abilities, I'd have imagined that no one would think me naive enough to turn my fate over to the I.L.D. unconditional."

"In view of the situation, we call on all friends of the labor movement to support the Mini Appeal Dinner and our future activities."

Mini's requests to the N.P.L.D. for literature have been filled in part. He is now receiving the New York Times every day, and the Nation every week. He has been sent "Manhattan Transfer" by John Dos Passos. His request for the New Internationalist was filled also, but the prison authorities confiscated the theoretical organ of Mini's party. A protest against this action is being organized by the N.P.L.D.

Fur Workers Unite In One Organization

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clear. Those already in the International and the Unity Group must merge their forces and carry on the fight to make the Union a democratic, militant one, and to banish from its ranks any recourse to the "splitting squads" and other questionable methods of the Gold leadership as well as the autocratic and class-collaboration policies of the reactionaries.

With the unification of the fur workers, a campaign of organization in preparation for a struggle to bring union conditions into the fur industry of New York is on the order of the day.

COPPER MINERS STRIKE AT PHELPS-DODGE

LOWELL, Ariz. (FP).—Firing of eight copper miners for union activity by the notoriously anti-labor Phelps-Dodge Corp. has led to a strike of the Bisbee Miners Union. The strike was about 75 percent effective at the start.

Letters to the Editor

From Comrade To "Disrupter", C.P. Style

WACO, Texas.—How the Communist Party "protects" class-war prisoners is shown by its final betrayal of Dr. John Greenberg. Dr. Greenberg, who is being deported to Roumania for activities in behalf of the Communist Party, has been denied a visa to the Soviet Union—upon recommendation of the Communist Party.

Three years ago, Greenberg, a local dentist, began to organize the workers and farmers in this vicinity. Although many lynchings have occurred in this plantation area, Greenberg preached inter-racial equality and unity from the public square. To the Communist Party at that time, the Jewish dentist was "Comrade Greenberg." But when he was seized by the Immigration Department, he immediately became a "disrupter."

This was a most convenient method to free the organization from its elementary obligation of defending a man who had risked his life for its principles. Greenberg was arrested three years ago. The International Labor Defense has never issued a mass appeal for a struggle in his behalf. The Daily Worker has barely mentioned the incident. Instead of arousing sup-

port for a man whose theoretical knowledge is very valuable, the members of the Communist Party in this state engaged in a whispering campaign.

While the charges were still pending against Greenberg, the International Labor Defense and Communist Party withdrew entirely from the case. The district organization of the C.P. served notice that Greenberg was no longer to be recognized as a comrade. The dentist had offended the Party by criticizing the inadequacy of his defense. Greenberg was in no danger, anyhow, so the district organization said.

Suddenly and without warning, the Department of Labor issued a warrant of deportation for the dentist. In desperation, Greenberg applied for a passport to the Soviet Union. The district organizer of the Communist Party came here several weeks ago, made inquiries, looked wise, and said nothing. That his report upon the matter was unfavorable is obvious. John Greenberg goes to Roumania and the gallows. The fascist government of King Carol may congratulate itself upon possessing such sincere and uncompromising revolutionary allies.

—Worker Correspondent.

Rubber Barons Begin Offensive

New Line Is Pretext for Firing Active Progressives

By GEORGE PAPCUN

AKRON, Ohio.—The NRA Suppression Court had its immediate repercussions in Akron rubber plants. The rubber barons wasted but little time in calling the meeting of the board of directors of the rubber manufacturers association, which started its meeting in New York City on June 4.

The unions in their weakened position have not been combated openly by the rubber manufacturers, but rather through soft-soaping which disarmed them in the matter of grievances since their betrayal in April. And there is no doubt in any of the rubber workers' minds today in Akron that under the pretense of seasonal lay-offs in the rubber industry that the manufacturers, especially in tire, are taking steps to rid the plants of the militant trade union members within.

Second Offensive

This will be the second offensive of the rubber barons against the rubber workers since the betrayal. The first was when the India Rubber Co. was forced to lock out its workers until they agreed to an open shop in the only closed shop tire plant in the entire country. This is no secret, as everyone in and around Akron was well aware of it. And after being out several weeks, picketing the plant 24 hours of the day, the open shop was put over with the help of Colman C. Claherty who shadow-boxed against the India Rubber Co. but took no measures to put up a real stand against the drive of the rubber manufacturers.

The dirtiest part of the whole fake fight of Claherty was that he refused to declare a strike, and got the workers to believing that they merely should try to show the public that it was the India Rubber Co.'s fault, without any real fighting measures to combat the company. This company, which is a small tire building concern, could have been combated even through the weak sabotage methods of asking the members of unions not to buy union made tires. In the main this is the way that the company's trade has been built up throughout the entire country. And once a bankrupt concern, it was able to build a big business and begin to show a profit on the basis of its trade among union members and the strength of its union label.

Lay-Off Begins

The same thing is happening in this present attack on the rubber workers, which the officers of the rubber manufacturers call a seasonal lay-off. It will be merely a means to get rid of the fighting trade union members, to starve them into submission, or to completely eliminate them. In this of course, the rubber barons are helped by the fact that they have huge stocks on hand remaining from the preparation for the strike last April. The leadership of the unions in public statements are refusing to attach any significance to the meeting in N. Y. where all of the leading officials of the Big Four Tire Companies will be present. This despite the fact that the Supreme Court decision on the NRA is expected to be discussed, and the semi-secrecy in which the meeting was called. It was only accidentally that it leaked out in the local press. In spite of the deals of the rubber company it is agreed by most people that the meeting will take up the question of hours and wages. This is especially important because even in view of the price war that has broken out among the tire companies.

Progressives Active

The NRA was used to prevent strikes in the rubber industry during the last 18 months when rubber workers could have gained something through a struggle which was prevented by the cooperation of the officials of the rubber workers' unions and the government. And now the weakened condition of the unions no doubt encourages the rubber barons to get rid of the last vestige of unionism in the rubber plants.

The rubber barons, however, are not taking into account the reaction of the workers, who have had a lot of experience, and this may be the beginning of another attempt on the part of the workers to establish a real union in Akron. Workers are already talking about an International. Attempts are being made to mobilize a progressive group to combat Coleman C. Claherty and other enemies inside the organization. This is a slow and tedious process.

What to Attend

CHICAGO PICNIC SUNDAY, JUNE 23 at Forest Glen (Forest Preserves)

Directions: Elston Car to end of line—transfer to bus and get off at Forest Glen Avenue. Sunday, Jun 16—Hike to Hunters Island. Starting 10:30 A.M. Take Lexington Ave. Subway to Pelham Park and hike the rest of way. Aspicues: Spartacus Youth League. Sunday, June 16.—Harlem Branch hike-picnic to Palisades, across Dyckman's St. ferry. Meet at 23 West 120th St. no later than 9:30 sharp. Drawing of 3-prize raffle, games, eats. Saturday, June 22, 8:30 p.m.—Dance & entertainment given by Branch 1 at branch headquarters, 420 E. 19th St.

Complete Rout of C. P.

Unquestionably, many of their representatives were astonished to hear from a Workers Party spokesman what the Workers Party really stands for, what our stand is towards the Soviet Union, etc. When the debate was clearly turning into a complete rout for them, the C. P. leaders and their sympathizers resorted to disruptive tactics. They took the floor for speeches instead of questions, they refused to sit down. They refused to permit our questioners to get at Mayville. Several times the meeting threatened to end up in a free-for-all. At the hint of violence the more timid Farmer-Laborites quickly left the hall. The chairman finally established order and the meeting came to a close.

It is interesting to note that a couple of days later, a committee from the Stalinists called on Latz, the chairman, and apologized for their behavior during the debate. "But after all, how did you expect us to sit there and hear our Party criticized so?" A Baptist deacon hearing a few facts about God feels much the same way.

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