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Minneapolis Labor Hits F-L Mayor

Two Workers Dead, Many Wounded, By 'Farm-Labor' Cops

BULLETIN

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 14.—A tense situation here. Red scare planned. Indictments possible. Grand Jury absolves police and calls for additional police forces. Farmer-Labor mass meeting condemns police and Mayor Latimer. F-L speakers weak and vacillating with exception of Scott and Bellman. Wm. Brown, president of Local 574 demands expulsion of Latimer from party. Latimer hooded and jeered by crowd.

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 13.—Two workers are dead, thirty wounded, and hundreds gassed as a result of a murderous police attack on strike pickets and supporters at the Flour City Ornamental Company's plant here. Five thousand pickets, strike sympathizers and spectators gathered in front of the plant late Wednesday night. Without warning the police opened fire with tear gas on a group of strikers holding a meeting in a vacant lot across the street from the plant. Following the gas barrage which was fired from armored cars, the police fired volley after volley into the crowd. When the meeting was broken up, guns and clubs were turned on the spectators.

Two Dead

Eugene Casper, 18 years old, shot through the chest by a police bullet, died on the way to the hospital. Melvin Bjorkland, 21, riddled with buckshot in the chest, died on the street. Young Casper was crossing the street followed by a friend, when a policeman drew a pistol and deliberately shot him down. He was not a striker. Among the wounded in the hospital are men who were smashed down by police clubs while walking home with their wives.

Since the brutal police attack on Wednesday, mass meetings and demonstrations of protest have been held. Farmer-Labor Party Mayor Latimer, who attempted to defend his actions at a mass meeting of 2,000 Farmer-Laborites, was hooded and jeered. On leaving the hall he engaged in an argument with an iron worker and as a result is nursing a cracked mouth. The Mayor, who pledged himself in the election to remove Bloody Johannes and his kind from the police force, is being bitterly denounced by the workers. William Brown, president of Local 574 was enthusiastically supported at the Farmer-Labor meeting when he demanded the expulsion of the Mayor. After the meeting was hurriedly adjourned by the Farmer-Laborites, Harry Menville of the Iron Workers and Micky Dunne of 574 addressed the crowd.

'Farmer-Labor' Police

Following Wednesday's battle Mayor Latimer issued a weasel-worded statement in which he attempted to place the blame for the butchery on the strike leaders and on Tetzloff, manager of the plant, at the same time covering up the police by stating that "all police guns were locked up in the squad cars, but some of the officers must have found themselves in a tight spot and gone and got their guns." The Hennepin County Grand Jury, after "investigating" the murderous attack of the police, and following reports by Mayor Latimer, the Chief of Police and the Mayor's "Labor Board," made up of three tame labor leaders, three union hating bosses, and presided over by Doctor Prosser, author of the "Prosser Plan," for blacklisting union members, brought in a report calling for additional police and completely exonerating the police force for the murder of Eugene Casper and Melvin Bjorkman, and the wounding of thirty others.

The police gangster attack on the workers of Minneapolis is but another part of the campaign of labor fakers, Mayor Latimer and the Citizens Alliance to break down the militant spirit of organized labor and is particularly directed against Local 574. The spirit of the workers is high, and they are determined that the murderous police attack directed by Mayor Latimer shall have no more success in 1935 than it had when directed by Mayor Bainbridge in 1934.

RALLY SUPPORT FOR THE EIGHT PAGE NEW MILITANT!

Conflict Continues In Teachers Union

Prior to the opening of the convention the Executive Council of the A.F.T. met in executive session to consider the report of the investigation committee concerning Local 5. Members of the Council stressed the fact that the body had not been formed and had not authorized the investigation and that the committee

Teachers Meeting

A. J. Muste, former vice president of the American Federation of Teachers, and T. Stamm will speak on the present situation in the New York Local of the A. F. of T. at a meeting to be held at Irving Plaza, Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 8 P.M.

All teachers and other workers interested are invited to be present. There will be questions and discussions from the floor.

tee's report had therefore no official standing. Thus it was established that the investigation was the result of a private arrangement between the administration of Local 5 and the national office over the heads of the Council without their knowledge and authorization. Here we have an example of the "ethics" of an administration that holds up its hands in horror at the ethics of the opposition.

The Executive Council had before it a majority report, presented by President Lowry and Executive Secretary Hanson, which referred the matter back to Local 5 for settlement and called for the appointment of a mixed committee of teachers and labor leaders to be authorized to step in and straighten out the difficulties. The minority report, presented by Selma Borchardt of Washington, called for the revocation of the charter. The Council was thus presented with three propositions: first, a motion

to revoke the charter, which was lost by a tie vote of six to six; second, a motion to refer the matter to Local 5, without any action, which was also lost by a tie vote of six to six; and third, a motion to appoint the committee as recommended by the majority report mentioned above, which was carried by a vote of eight to four.

The representatives of the opposition in the local were given a limited opportunity, in the form of ten minutes each, to present their case before the vote was taken. The majority in the Executive Council was anxious to arrive at a compromise agreement with both factions in the local in order to avoid the necessity of bringing the matter before the convention. The administration of Local 5 turned down all offers of conciliation. Dr. Lefkowitz declared that the motion passed by the Council had no legal standing and that he would refuse to recognize it. He presented the Council with an ultimatum in the form of an application or a new charter signed by twenty-five members of Local 5, and threatened that if the charter was not revoked and a new charter granted to his group, he would bring the matter before Green who would see to it that the charter of the American Federation of Teachers was revoked. Later, Bernice Rogers, delegate from Cambridge, Mass., and member of the Council, told the story to the convention on Friday, adding that this threat was like a machine gun pointed at the body to put them "on the spot."

The Executive Council which consisted of a majority of liberal and conservative teachers were flabbergasted. One member, unwilling to believe his own ears, said in a dramatic tone, "Will you repeat that again, Dr. Lefkowitz?" The representatives of the opposition expressed their willingness to a policy

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Burning Problems Face 55th A.F.L. Convention

By ARNE SWABECK

Problems of unusual importance face the fifty-fifth annual A. F. of L. convention, scheduled for October 7, at Atlantic City. Some of them cause new conflicts in the movement. Bill Green and his cronies at Washington may watch with dismay the several indications of a rank and file challenge to their present position and policy. They do not yet anticipate a direct threat to their leadership; but the fear of progressive tendencies is beginning to haunt them like a nightmare.

Fundamentally this is the outstanding issue before the coming convention. A living movement is compelled to respond to the pressure of conditions under which it exists; and the lower strata of the officialdom as well as the state federations and city central bodies, that are closer to the rank and file membership, begin to reflect this pressure. In several respects they come into conflict with the top bureaucracy and so, while the progressive tendencies are still very much undeveloped and confused, their existence begins to worry the leadership.

This official hierarchy has received some serious blows to its bureaucratic method of domination and control of the movement. Its

"red scare" campaign has been given a setback. Its policy of organization is being challenged and its time-honored political policy is subjected to a severe scrutiny.

In turn this despicable officialdom becomes more perfidious and moves closer toward a more outspoken reactionary position. This is the inevitable logic of antagonistic tendencies and it can only become more pronounced the more the conflict intensifies. Finally the struggle must result in the victory of the one or the other. The question of leadership and policy is completely interlocked with the very life of the movement. With the increasing pressure exerted upon the workers by the weight of capitalist exploitation progressive tendencies are bound to make their way in the trade union movement no matter how much the top leaders fulminate against them. But the latter know no other recourse than to lean more directly on their alliance with the enemies of the movement, by more complete collaboration with the bosses and in more outspoken support of the capitalist parties.

Some Growth to Reaction

Both the blows of progressive tendencies in the movement and the increased reaction of its leadership (Continued on Page 3)

Form Unholy Alliance at Geneva For New Imperialist World War

FDR Tells Bosses To Drop Fear

'Breathing Spell' Note To Howard Shows Masses Bear Load

In an exchange of letters with Roy O. Howard, owner of the powerful Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, Roosevelt last week gave the middle class another reassuring pat on the back. The letters were a follow-up to the Soviet protest notes of the week before, and were designed to blast the growing anti-Roosevelt mists now coming from the Hearst papers, the New York Herald Tribune, the Chicago Tribune, and the rest of what Roosevelt likes to call the "Tory" press.

Howard wrote, in his letter to Roosevelt, as a "friend of the Administration." He stated that many business men had been following along with the President as sympathetically as they could, but that they were becoming disturbed over Roosevelt's continued championing of "radical" legislation. He mentioned the Utilities Bill and Roosevelt's Tax Program as two particularly troublesome items. What, he wanted to know, were Roosevelt's plans for the coming period?

The "Breathing Spell"

Roosevelt's answer was divided into two principal parts. The first, and longest, was a defense of the measures he has taken, especially a defense of the Tax Program. The second, and the one that the newspaper headlines have been playing up, was the statement that his program had been "substantially completed," and that he was now able to promise business a "breathing spell."

The defense of the Tax Program, if read carefully, was perhaps more revealing than Roosevelt intended it to be. He showed by means of Treasury Department statistics how the percentage of the Federal income derived from "consumers' taxes"—taxes falling primarily on the masses—had risen during the past seven years from around one-third to nearly two-thirds. This meant a corresponding decrease in the percentage derived from Income Taxes, Inheritance Taxes, etc. How, in the face of this, asked the President, can anyone object to the reasonableness of increasing the Income and Inheritance Taxes in the higher brackets? This question was accomplished by long paragraphs about "sharing the burden," "a juster distribution of the nation's wealth," and the usual Roosevelt demagoguery which has been familiar since his campaign days.

It is in this way that Roosevelt aims to keep his liberal and reformist standing with his middle class followers. He is the champion of all against the "inordinate" claims of any group or class. And in this way he continues to draw the teeth from the sporadic efforts to start a liberal or progressive Third Party movement for the 1936 campaign. If you want to share the wealth or

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"Militant" Confab Proves A Failure

The Socialist Call "Institute," held at Bound Brook, New Jersey, September 7-8, which the "Militants" had privately boasted would produce a Left wing bond together by a revolutionary program, was instead an inconclusive and muddy gathering which took no definite steps.

Two months after the last meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, which declared war on the Left wing through the so-called "peace pact" with the Right wing, and only a few months before elections will take place for the biennial national convention, the leaders of the "Militant" Socialists still persist in taking no decisive steps to build a fighting Left wing.

The failure of the "Militant" leaders' arrangements for the two-day "Institute" is characterized by the fact that one of the most important of the four sessions held

was turned over to Norman Thomas, whose capitulation to the Right wing at the last N.E.C. proved to the hilt the hopelessness of the "Militants" leaning on Thomas for support. Despite his abject capitulation, the "Militants" invited Thomas to what was supposed to be a Left wing caucus meeting, and gave Thomas a five minute ovation when he rose to speak.

Ever fearful of what the Right wing will say if they attempt to organize a real caucus, the "Militant" leaders invited all members of the S.P. and the Y.P.S.L. to come to the Bound Brook "Institute," with the result that the 200 present were a heterogeneous group who could not possibly agree on a program.

Following the typical social democratic methods of organizing a conference or convention, the "Militant" leaders cluttered up the four

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Stalinists Hail Laval Argument

'Sanctions' Pleas Conceal Jockeying for War Positions

Laval's speech in support of England's position against Italy in the Ethiopian dispute marks a new stage in the unholy alliance of Franco-British imperialisms, the Popular Front in France and the Second and Third Internationals. The pacifist gestures of Roosevelt both in regard to "neutrality" and the invocation of the Kellogg Pact are on a par with similar acts of his worthy predecessor, the peace-loving President Wilson.

The French minister, who on January 7, 1935 had struck a bargain with Mussolini understood to give the latter a free hand in Ethiopia, astounded the diplomatic world by proclaiming the League of Nations Council meeting:

"France is faithful to the League covenant. She cannot fall in her obligations. . . I rejoice in my country [over Sir Samuel Hoare's speech], which understands the full necessity of close collaboration with Great Britain for defense of peace and safeguarding Europe."

This cementing of the Franco-British alliance recently, seriously threatened because of the Anglo-German naval agreement which officially recognized and sanctioned German rearmament, is hailed on all sides as a victory for peace.

"Sanctions" against Italy—economic and military measures—are implied in the speech of Laval. The Second International, the Third International and the International Federation of Trade Unions have urged sanctions against Italy. The president of the British Trade Union Congress recently declared:

"There are formidable powers of coercion to be applied in the economic sanctions of the League. They are clearly stated in Article XVI of the Covenant. They constitute a compound group of economic, financial, and military measures. . ."

"It is a grave responsibility to counsel measures which may cause war. But what is the alternative, from the trade union standpoint, to this policy? War is a certainty, anyway, unless Italy is restrained." (British New Leader, September 6, 1935)

In a word, the British trade union leaders are ready to support the British imperialists to declare war.

The French Socialist and Communist parties add their voices to this imperialist front by calling upon the British Labour party for common international action in agreement with the program of Franco-British imperialisms. Among the demands of these social-imperialists is: "The closing of the Suez Canal to all Italian military transport."

By whom? Obviously by the anti-Italian imperialist powers. And the war among the imperialists which will follow will be loyally supported by these hysterical and treacherous "friends of peace."

Confidence in Pierre Laval and Sir Samuel Hoare to prevent war in Ethiopia or a world war, is preparation for a new world betrayal of the working class. The immediate interests of each imperialist power are constantly changing, leading to new alignments. France, which wants "peace" in Europe—since for the time being it is satisfied with its conquests on the continent after the last war—fears that the recent Italo-German mutual recognition of one another's "needs" means a threat to France; and that therefore a more solid alliance with Great Britain is imperative. At the same time she fears that regardless of Mussolini's promises last January, Italian aggression in Ethiopia will be extended, in view of the renewed Italo-German alliance, into French colonial possessions in Africa.

British imperialism is similarly afraid of Mussolini's encroachments on its colonies in Africa.

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Confidential Report by Oneal to 2nd International Reveals Situation in the Socialist Party of U.S.

For the Session of the Executive Committee of the Socialist and Labor International.

Brussels, August 16-18, 1935.

Point 3 on the Agenda SITUATION IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A. Memorandum Presented by James O'Neal.

(Received by the Secretariat of the L.S.I. August 9, 1935.)

To the Secretariat of the L.S.I., Brussels, Belgium.

Comrades:

The members of the Socialist Party greatly appreciate the interest shown by the L.S.I. in the conflict in the American movement, and it is in reply to the request of Secretary Adler that I present the following report concerning the

The following document, which throws such a revealing light on the situation in the Socialist Party in this country, is the report submitted to the session of the Executive Committee of the Second International, which met last month in Brussels, by the American member of the Executive, and leading spokesman of the Old Guard in the S.P.—James Oneal. This confidential report was received by the NEW MILITANT from an entirely authoritative source in Czechoslovakia. We obtained the report in a German translation, from which the memorandum printed below is re-translated into English.

origins of this conflict. However, before beginning the report itself, I am happy to be able to communicate that at the session of the National Executive Committee of the Party, which took place in New York City on July 13 and 15, an agreement was arrived at which put an end to the open conflict and promises to restore the unity of the Party. Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the agreement reached between the National Executive

Committee and the New York State Committee. While the conflict extended to a whole series of cities and states, it is in New York that it was most violent and it is deemed that peace having been concluded in the state of New York, the entire Party will eventually be able to unite.

Obviously, the differences on what Socialist principles and tactics should be, are not completely eliminated by the adoption of this

agreement, but the agreement is a source of hope inasmuch as it regulates some of the most irritating organizational, tactical, and jurisdictional questions which rose out of the conflict regarding Socialist principles. After this promising introduction, I shall now briefly review the origins of the dispute.

The Labor Movement

One of the principal problems that has always confronted the American Socialist movement has been to establish fraternal relations of collaboration with the trade unions. As a result of certain historical factors which cannot be enumerated here, the American trade unions have, with very few exceptions, isolated from the Socialist movement. Many errors committed by the Socialist movement in the past have contributed

to this isolation. The American Socialists have understood that in spite of the local successes gained in many towns or states, the Socialist Party would remain fundamentally a propaganda society so long as it had not won over the organized working class to a policy of independence from the bourgeois parties.

Adopting this policy of winning over the trade unions for independent political action, the Socialist Party succeeded in 1917 in winning to this policy almost a dozen national trade unions and a large number of local and central labor organizations in the big cities. In addition to a general collaboration, there was also an intimate collaboration between the Party and the trade unions in the course of the

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