

Rubber Workers Ride Over Green's Plans

Already rubber workers began to rejoin the unions from which they had fled after the A. F. of L. bureaucracy's treacherous betrayal this spring during the strike threat.

The only serious threat on the horizon which faced the delegates was the perplexing question of selection of officers. There is a possibility of a split between Akron and out-of-town progressives over which man should become president.

Defeat Green 44 to 9

Smashing through every treacherous move, every ruse and false argument, the rubber workers brought to a brilliant climax their terrific fight for democracy by overwhelmingly voting 44 to 9 against a resolution which would sanction Green's appointment of president.

The blunt repudiation of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy and its disastrous policies in the rubber industry was so decisive that Green, to save his neck, declared, "I accept your judgment as final. No one can ignore the preponderance of your vote."

The defeated resolution would have given him the approval of the convention to appoint Coleman C. Claherty, his rubber organizer, as president of the new international. But, as predicted in the NEW MILITANT, the rubber workers were so incensed at Claherty and his policies that his defeat was a foregone conclusion.

To show how strong the anti-bureaucracy feeling was, it is only necessary to realize that the resolution defeated was a compromise by the bureaucracy to the delegates. It specified that all other officers be elected. All Green asked was "let me appoint Claherty."

Green Threatens Delegate

When Green spoke for the resolution he threatened Thomas Burns, of Chlocope Falls, Mass., a leader for democracy, because of an alleged association with a dual union movement in the rubber industry.

Burns took the floor in his defense and flung back into Green's teeth every argument used against him. In fact, he proved that Green had appointed Phillips, a dual unionist, to a high post where Burns first met him. Burns proved that Green, not he, had associated with the dual unionist.

The progressive bloc began its fight for democracy by presenting Green, when he arrived at the convention, with a petition signed by 40 out of 47 delegates asking for democratic procedure and election of all officers. From then, Green and Claherty were on the defensive.

The bureaucracy went so far as to threaten reporters time and again, newspapers said, for printing accounts of the inner-struggles and thereby, indirectly, exposing each move of Claherty and Green. Mention of the "auto workers' convention by anyone brought panic to the bureaucrats.

Green Bars Industrial Unionism

Although delegates were prepared to fight for industrial unionism, Green effectively stopped that by reading a mandate from the executive council which declared that those who accepted the International charter must obey the following provision: "To organize all rubber workers in mass production of rubber products, same not to include building and construction employees; making and installing machinery, and employees engaged in maintenance work or in work outside the factories."

In other words, the seven craft unions in the rubber industry will keep their independent existence and the rubber workers are left facing the possibility of disastrous jurisdictional disputes.

Green told the delegates, "You can neither accept, reject, or change this charter. It is conferred on you." A move to fight the provision at the next convention of the A. F. of L. has begun.

"Surprise Move" of Bureaucrats

The bureaucracy tried a "surprise move" the second day. A resolution, introduced out of order, was presented for appointment of Claherty. Only two out of seven of the resolutions committee had signed it. It was supposed to be 21st. Nothing was said of the majority resolution which asks for election of officers, through "non-concurrence" with the majority.

An illegal clause was attached to the resolution. It requested financial aid of the A. F. of L. The two-fold clause was thus introduced so that the delegates would vote themselves out of financial support from the A. F. of L. if they didn't vote to accept Claherty. Everybody saw through the move.

Green took the floor, urging the passage of the resolution. His stooges followed but to no avail. The central theme of his false arguments was, "If we don't let Green appoint Claherty, we'll have no money to support the new international."

Progressive's Reply

A progressive neatly shattered Green's argument that the international needed money, should accept money and therefore pass the resolution. He answered, "We need your money, we'll take your money and support, but that has nothing

to do with the question of election of officers."

"We can have our own president and officers and still take your money. In fact, we hope to!" he added as Green blustered. "We aren't voting down the support of the A. F. of L. by defeating the resolution. That part doesn't belong in the resolution and we'll change it later."

Another delegate scored the A. F. of L. leadership as antiquated. "We need an industrial base for the A. F. of L. if it is to survive."

Powerful and blunt argument by S. H. Dalrymple, president of the Goodrich local for the right to elect officers added much weight to the cause of the progressives as Dalrymple is recognized as one of the leaders in the rubber unions.

"We've been promised for two years our own international. The rubber workers will join us if we keep our pledges. I would rather go down defeated after fighting my best for democracy than face the charges of the workers who would say we betrayed them," Dalrymple pointed out.

Thunder of Protest

When the roll call vote began on the resolution of appointment of Claherty, a tense silence reigned, shattered only by increasing "Noes" which continued until they sounded like a thunder of protest against Green's machinations and trickery.

Enraged beyond control, Claherty charged Burns and others of "distorting and lying about their part." A heated argument followed with delegates lambasting both Green

and Claherty for lying. Burns even arose and called Claherty a "g—d—liar."

A constitution was adopted after clauses barring "communists, I. W. W.'s and members of other dual union organizations" was changed to exclude naming of political parties.

"We'd do better to exclude all republicans than communists," a delegate argued.

Another clause preventing caucusing on union questions outside the local hall also met with defeat as progressives continued to establish democracy in the new international.

Both clauses had been placed in the draft of the constitution on the bequest of Claherty who saw in them powerful weapons against the progressives if he became president.

Progressives Prepare Slate

The progressive bloc which has been able to rally most of the delegates with it on every vital question is preparing a slate of candidates for officers and also watching for further moves by Green to attempt to regain control of the international.

Resolutions asking A. F. of L. help to aid financially the new international were expected to be introduced and passed. This will again place Green on the spot. He pledged support of the convention even though defeated.

Pay for officers was picked as: president, \$3,200; vice-president, \$2,700; secretary-treasurer, \$3,000. Union dues are \$1 per month and initiation fee, \$2.

The preamble of the constitution has a clause recognizing the class struggle and declaring that the international will do all necessary to further the economic and social advance of the rubber workers. It recognizes the failure of capitalism and the necessity for its abolition.

Rubber Workers Took Big Step Forward at Akron Convention

By JACK WILSON

A tremendous step forward in the direction of organizing workers in basic industries was taken by rubber worker delegates at their convention which formed an international union through the far-reaching consequences of their actions.

The rubber workers repudiated by an overwhelming majority the antiquated craft union, class collaboration policies of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy as represented by Wm. Green and the executive council.

They broke the stranglehold of the officialdom over the rubber workers' unions which had virtually ruined the trade union movement in the rubber industry and reduced once powerful unions into mere skeletons.

The rubber workers did what the auto workers and other unionists had not succeeded in doing—cleaning their ranks of the Clahertys and other misleaders who only lead them from one defeat to another.

Adopt Militant Program

The rubber workers adopted a militant program for organizing through drives the rubber industry—one of America's leading open shop industries.

The rubber workers, through fighting successfully for the election of their own officers, smashed Green's avowed intention of appointing their officers and gave him a blow which will have even greater repercussions at the coming national convention of the A. F. of L. for the rubber workers are prepared to fight with other progressives for industrial unions and thus wipe out the craft base for the present bureaucracy.

Officers were picked whose personal honesty is beyond question, who have the confidence of the rubber workers, who are earnest, sincere and continually learning the meaning and significance of the class struggle. The president is a man who already is rallying the ranks of the deserted rubber workers around the banner of the autonomous international with immediate increases in membership.

Learning Through Struggle

This much they have done. In addition the rubber workers learned much through fighting. They tore away the illusions from their own eyes of the "greatness" of Green and his cohorts.

Workers in all unions who have been fighting desperately against efforts of the bureaucrats to curb them can and should take heart from this notable victory against reaction in the labor movement.

There are many reasons why the rubber workers have been able to win, so far, in their struggle for self-control with its consequent favorable possibilities.

The lessons of the auto workers' convention aroused the Akron delegates to a boiling point of indignation which made them sensitive to every move the bureaucrats attempted at the convention.

The crime of the auto workers' international brought home sharply the truth of the ideas constantly pointed out to them by a small group of progressives that the bureaucracy would do anything to keep in power and they must organize to fight against such reaction with its fatal effects on the unions.

Behind this immediate cause lies the long and hard work of forces like the Workers Party to point out the correct road to the rubber workers in their search for paths which would lead to a strong union movement.

Efforts of progressives who arose from the working class itself without stimulation but through bitter experience with Claherty and Green, came to a climax at the convention.

The result of the convention attests once more to the fact that only through careful education and work along class struggle lines can the working class prepare itself to march forward to increasing victories.

Build a progressive bloc with correct policies based on the experiences of Minneapolis, Toledo, Detroit and the other scenes of class struggle!

Rally forces around the slogan of democracy in the trade union movement. Protect the rights of militants who lead in every fight against the betrayals of the officialdom of the top!

The rubber workers have won a victory, but that is only a start.

Every local must have its progressive bloc carrying on a daily struggle for the ideas accepted by the convention so that those delegates who stood by the bureaucracy go down defeated and exposed to their fellow-workers.

Organization Plans

The resolutions on organization call for special efforts to bring the workers back within the fold of the union. Sentiment for rejoining the unions is strong in Akron and throughout the country since the hated bureaucrats went down in defeat. No time should be lost to take advantage of this fact.

Special plans must be made to unite completely with progressives throughout the country so that a solid bloc will confront the A. F. of L. executive council and its antiquated ideas at the forthcoming national convention so more workers in basic industries and elsewhere can be made free from the stranglehold of the present leadership.

No Compromise with Misleaders

An uncompromising struggle must be waged against the misleaders in the future. The seven craft unions in the rubber industry must become amalgamated in the new international. Demand that the next national A. F. of L. convention grant that right. The clause in the new charter confining membership only to rubber workers engaged in production of rubber products must be eliminated so all employees in the rubber shops can join in one great union.

The Workers Party has continually served in the past as the beacon light for leadership in the struggle to build a powerful labor movement in the rubber industry. It first warned the workers of the coming spring betrayal. It first called for building a progressive bloc to rally all forces at this convention against the hold of the bureaucracy. It pledges itself in the future to do everything in its power to aid the workers in their fundamental battles for uniting themselves into a powerful movement.

We will do everything possible to make the United Rubberworkers of America a stronghold of the working class against any onslaughts of capitalism or any of its agents.

Sales Tax Big Issue at S. P. Convention

By New Haven Correspondent

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Sept. 16.—Just before midnight tonight the two-day Socialist state convention succeeded, after a bitter seven-hour fight, in putting itself on record against . . . a sales tax! A resolution introduced to the resolutions committee on the Italo-Ethiopian situation, the only sign of awareness of the outside world during the whole convention, was referred to the State Executive Committee as being a national matter. The debate on the sales tax waged fast and furious for seven hours; the war question was dismissed as being "outside the jurisdiction of the state body."

On the sales tax issue Mayor McLevy and the three state legislators from Bridgeport, Taft, Secor and Eccles, held their machine firm to the end in favor of voting for the sales tax in the next session of the state legislature as the only remaining method of "raising relief for the starving unemployed." Even on the final ballot, faced with a substitute resolution more conciliatory in tone than the original, they rallied 49 votes against 75. All but three of the 28 Bridgeport votes remained loyal to the very end.

McLevy Arguments

McLevy in the debate shouted that he and his legislators had vindicated themselves as Socialists by fighting for an income tax, and then for a dividends and interest tax, but they had been defeated and relief was still needed. Where does all your theory and principles get you, the McLevy supporters maintained, when you have the practical problem of feeding the desperate unemployed? Besides, they argued, it is not true that we are introducing something new with the sales tax, which our opponents claim would merely soak the poor to support the poor; in Waterbury today the employed workers are forced to contribute a sum out of their weekly wages to care for their less fortunate brethren.

Later, in answer to this, a Waterbury worker, Philip Brainard, vice-chairman of the convention, made the best fighting speech in defiance of the Bridgeport machine. In his own factory he had organized the men, and they didn't pay the levy on wages. Waterbury Socialists were trying to do the same for the whole city. Outside of Brainard's speech there was no mention whatsoever of the possibilities of fighting for higher relief standards by militant organization from below, rather than by political maneuvering and compromising by the Socialist parliamentarians.

We set forth below a few of the choice thoughts of the chief cogs in the McLevy machine:

State Senator Taft: "I don't subscribe to a sales tax, but under certain conditions to save fellow workers from starving, I am willing to reach in my pocket and give a half dollar." (This last offer of generosity was repeated twice, indicating that the senator was willing to contribute at least a dollar and a half on his own hook.)

State Senator Secor: "We know you can't instruct us to be against the sales tax. You haven't the guts. You know you'd be subject to the corrupt practices act." (The majesty of the law seemed to impress the opposing delegates somewhat; the question of disciplining McLevy and the Socialist legislators was carefully avoided in this discussion.)

Secretary of the Party Freese: "If there is any advocate of the sales tax in this hall, he had better get out now. But there's nobody here like that. . . . You want to break up all our plans with this damn fool resolution."

State Chairman Plunkett: "If you pass this resolution you'll have to expel all those favoring a sales tax if you're honest. Expel the Socialist Party then!"

"Function of Socialist Legislators"

In the ranks of the opposition, Perstein as well as Brainard made a good showing. "What is the function of a Socialist minority in any government?" he asked. "It's not our problem to run the capitalist government. It's our duty to make our own position clear and to educate." A worker whose ardor was somewhat dampened arose in this discussion and said: "I was once in the Republican Party, and that was the wrong place, so I went to the Democrats, and that was the wrong place. Then I joined the Socialist Party. I thought the Socialists would work for the workers every day in the year. But after this how can we speak before the workers any more? Is this the wrong place too?"

At last, after an adjournment, a substitute resolution was brought in. As Allen pointed out, it restated the party's stand against the sales tax, but was careful not to aim itself at the Socialist legislators. But McLevy remained unappeased, with something of a martyr-like attitude. "Do you want to put your Socialist legislators in a straitjacket," he demanded, "so they can't use their influence? . . . I still think the important issue is relief. I don't want to climb into political office on the backs of starving

workers." The substitute resolution was then quickly passed, but the McLevy machine was powerful enough to roll up two-fifths of the votes. All in all, the victory was a hollow one.

Every Socialist worker must draw lessons from this experience. It must be obvious to the leftward-moving workers in the S.P. that a party which permits such a level of discussion, such suggestions of unprincipled maneuvering for purposes of prestige, such ignoring of the crucial issues of the day, has something fundamentally wrong with it.

Mooney in Court In Legal Struggle To Gain Freedom

Tom Mooney's appeal for a writ of habeas corpus in the California courts opened last week. The overwhelming proofs of his innocence, the perjury of the state's witnesses, the flimsiness of the state's evidence, and his own alibi have long ago convinced the jurors and even the judge of the original trial.

But capitalist courts are in no hurry to free class war prisoners. After nineteen years in prison Tom Mooney's appeal was heard by the U. S. Supreme Court last year and he was sent back to try the courts of the state that originally framed him. He was condemned to many more months, perhaps years in prison, to all the tortures of a new trial, to the exorbitant expenses of a new trial. No matter if he is innocent, the cruel game of capitalist justice must be played to the end.

The defense is now trying the case before a referee in the California courts. So far they have suffered two setbacks, in failing to obtain a judge instead of a referee, and in the refusal of the court to bring Billings, who was convicted with Mooney into the court.

The outcome of the case cannot be predicted—California law is hostile, and fresh from the triumph of framing the eight Sacramento criminal syndicalism defendants. Whether the labor-hating capitalists who first sent Mooney to prison for his activities as a labor organizer are more afraid of him in prison or out will determine the outcome. For nineteen years the case has been kept alive by Mooney's own heroic battle and by the organized support and pressure of labor all over the country. And only that pressure can free him.

Spartacan Slugged in Picket Of Hearst News Reel

Some time ago a group of organizations including Spartacan Youth League branch of Boro Park, Yipsels of Bensonhurst, and the League against War and Fascism branch of Bensonhurst as well as several other organizations, organized a campaign in Brooklyn to remove Hearst's Metrotone news from the theatres in which they are shown.

The campaign revolves around the anti-labor attitude of Hearst and the previously mentioned organizations have been concentrating in removing Hearst's film from Loew's Oriental theatre.

Open air protest meetings when held were invariably broken up by "our" honorable defenders of private property, the police, and members of participating organizations were thrown into the hoosegove.

Last Sunday two Spartacans, comrades Bert Kane and Jack Lee while picketing were attacked by a group of thugs. Fortunately, neither were hurt seriously. When interviewed the following was the story obtained from the attacked comrades:

"They had been picketing for over an hour when the manager of the theatre motioned to the cops standing near the corner. The discussion that took place between these two gentry was very evident from the incident that took place at the conclusion of their 'negotiations'."

Workers of Brooklyn, Boycott Hearst's anti-labor propaganda machinery. Don't attend theaters at which his Metrotone News is shown.

Philadelphia Mass Meeting "HANDS OFF ETHIOPIA!"

Speaker: HUGO OEHLE FRIDAY, SEPT 27, 8 P.M. 431 Pine Street Admission 10 cents Aus: South Philadelphia Br. W.P.

Mass Uprising Against Traitor 'Labor' Mayor

(Continued from Page 1)

the mouth by a tear gas bomb fired at her just as she was descending from a street car. The Minneapolis Journal writes that "the receiving room at General Hospital took on the appearance of a wartime behind the-lines hospital as the stream of wounded started coming in. The hospital corridors were literally running with blood."

Fighting continued until 2 o'clock in the morning, with the armored cars patrolling for blocks around, continually pouring tear gas into small grouplets wherever they gathered. Finally the pickets and the crowd left, vowing to come back the next night.

Mass Pressure Closes Down Plant

The reaction to the wanton police savagery was so great that the next morning the mayor was forced to clear out all scabs and gunmen from the plant. These people were escorted to St. Paul. The grand jury immediately prepared a whitewash investigation, as Tetzlaff hid himself in the bosom of the Citizens Alliance. In the meantime, the rank and file of the Farmer-Labor party were boiling at the actions of their strike-breaking mayor and city council. A special meeting was hurriedly arranged for Thursday night at the large Eagles Hall, called by the Farmer-Labor Women's Federation and the F.-L. Veterans Association.

Mayor Boomed Down

The hall was packed with rank and-file Farmer-Laborites as Mayor Latimer, the first speaker, was introduced from the platform. The mayor turned pale as he was booed by the enraged crowd. Finally he managed to make himself heard and made a lame statement, crying that the Hennepin County grand jury bound him hand and foot, promising that a "thorough investigation would be made of all that occurred" and begging for three more months, at the expiration of which it was understood he would have fully proved himself. Alderman Ed Hudson, another Farmer-Labor member, was jeered when he started to say that what was done by police at the riot was done "by men who in the skirmish lost their minds."

"You're trying to whitewash the mayor. Don't play politics!" yelled the audience.

State Representative Bellman (F.-L.) drew cheers from the audience as he placed direct responsibility for the situation upon Latimer, and demanded the dismissal of the policemen participating in the riot.

Alderman Scott earned the cheers of the crowded hall by taking a clear-cut position on the whole affair, and exposing the excuses of Latimer and the police. He called for the expulsion of Latimer from the Farmer-Labor party, and asked that he resign as mayor.

It remained for Bill Brown, president of Local 574, to say what had to be said. Brown completely exposed the gutlessness of Mayor Latimer, told the crowd how a true working class mayor would have acted even though it led to his impeachment, and called for immediate removal of the police butchers.

Brown also completely exposed the mayor's latest "employer-employee" arbitration board, which is a 1935 pocket edition of the Citizens Alliance. He was cheered for several minutes, as Latimer, sitting at the back of the stage, looked like a whipped dog. As other Farmer-Laborites rose and tried to ease the pressure on the mayor, the meeting almost broke up through indignation. Order finally was restored and the meeting was officially adjourned. It fell to Harry Mayville, local Stalinist, to demonstrate the Communist Party's bankruptcy by telling the Farmer-Laborites that "your party is not rotten. I and my party want to see a mass Farmer-Labor party in the state and city."

Now we of the Workers Party know better than Mayville that the Farmer-Labor rank and files are certainly not "rotten"; but we also know that if ever the workers have had a chance to see the complete impotence of reformism, it has been in this state and city during the past few years. To claim otherwise is to cry for a Stalinist moon.

The meeting ended with representatives of the next day's relief demonstration appealing to the

crowd for support. As Latimer left the hall with his bodyguard through the rear door, he was accosted by an angry iron worker and struck in the mouth. Friends hurried him away to his limousine.

Latimer Gets In Deeper and Deeper

As was to be expected, the Citizens Alliance-dominated grand jury completely exonerated the police from Wednesday's murderous onslaught, saying "we believe the police department did the best they could with the number of men they had." The report concluded with the observation that "the unemployment being so great, so many people with nothing to do but follow disturbances for excitement, the spirit of unrest existing in Minneapolis will undoubtedly be responsible for additional outbreaks." (As though the unemployed demonstrated "for excitement," instead of for increased relief, for jobs, and in a spirit of solidarity with employed workers.) The grand jury also asked for an addition of 200 to the police force.

The Farmer-Labor mayor fell in with this report and meekly asked for 200 more police. This was too much for the Farmer-Labor councilmen even, one of whom, Alderman Pearson, said: "I am opposed to the proposal to add more policemen for the explicit purpose of clubbing laboring men." The anger of the city rose even higher.

On Saturday afternoon, hundreds of workers participated in the funeral processions of the two bystanders shot down Wednesday night.

Investigations Continue

Latimer intends to continue his phony riot investigation this afternoon at 4:30, calling in some "impartial observers." When representatives of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense called on the mayor's secretary yesterday and offered scores of witnesses, including many people who live in the neighborhood of the scene of the riot, they were told that no more witnesses are needed.

The Central Labor Union, the Hennepin County F.-L. Association and the Non-Partisan Labor Defense plan to hold separate public hearings during the next few days, so that the true story of what took place can be brought to light for all to see and understand.

Workers Party Plans Meeting

On Friday night, Sept. 20, a meeting at the Pythian Hall is called by the Minneapolis branch, Workers Party of the U. S., where V. R. Dunne, prominent Minneapolis trade unionist and member of the National Committee of the Workers Party, will speak on "Three Months of Farmer-Labor Rule in Minneapolis: What They PROMISED and What They GAVE!"

Among the questions to be discussed by comrade Dunne are: the Mayor's employer-employee board and the meaning of the phrase, "industrial peace"; can the Farmer-Labor Party be reformed? what is the meaning of the present attacks upon progressive trade unionists in Minneapolis and throughout the nation? what is the attitude of a real workers' political party toward the trade unions? etc.

In the meantime, resentment among all the workers continues to seethe and grow. And what a working class there is in Minneapolis! For dauntless, inspiring courage against all odds, for solidarity against the bosses and the labor fakers, Minneapolis workers need not bow to working class fighters anywhere in the world.

Hundreds of relief workers in Local 574's Federal Workers Section have already demanded that the united front with the Stalinists be immediately broken off. They can no longer stomach the quackery of these charlatans.

Governor Olson, eager to place his heel on Latimer's neck as a maneuver to get back in the good graces of the Minneapolis workers, has mobilized 150 national guardsmen in St. Paul and is keeping them in readiness for any further outbreaks.

Today a movement was making headway to read Latimer out of the Farmer-Labor party, and petitions for his impeachment began to circulate all over town.

At this writing, word comes that the Non-Partisan Labor Defense will open its public trial tonight at the General Drivers Auditorium. The trial of the people vs. Mayor Latimer, Police Chief Forestal and the city administration will get under way with the hearing of dozens of witnesses to the Wednesday massacre—witnesses that were refused a hearing by Latimer's star chamber proceedings.

BANQUET

To Greet

THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING

of the National Committee of the Workers Party

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, at 7:30 P.M.

Speakers to include:

VINCENT DUNNE, of Minneapolis, Minn.
 JERRY ALLARD, from Illinois coal fields.
 MAURICE SPECTOR, Chairman Workers Party of Canada.
 ARNOLD JOHNSON, National Secretary, N. U. L.
 JAMES P. CANNON, Editor of the New Militant.
 A. J. MUSTE, National Secretary of Workers Party.
 MAX SHACHITMAN, Toastmaster.

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