

Comments On Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness

By BILL REICH BUSINESS SELF-CONTROL... At an annual cost of over \$7,000,000, a staff of 2,700 former NRA employees is kept to teach business "self-control." Seventy of the staff receive more than \$8,700 per year...

'Militant Socialists' on Trade Union Question

The Old Reformist Line Is Dusted Off; Basic Problems Not Answered

(Continued from Page 1) other hand, has a completely different conception of its relation to the unions. For a revolutionist, his party is not merely a "political party," in the usual sense; his party is the vanguard of the whole working class, its consciousness; the party, as Trotsky once put it, is what the working class should be, while the trade unions are what the working class is today...

correct premise, the false (reformist) conclusion that their party "will therefore support cordial relations," etc. This is hopelessly Philistine stuff. The clue here is in the phrase "cordial relations." With whom? Any party which advances a real class struggle program in the unions will not get "cordial relations" from the present officialdom...

The revolutionary party fights the trade union bureaucracy not only in order to infuse the unions with the spirit and policy of class struggle. Irreconcilable struggle against the reactionary officialdom is also necessary in order to secure democracy in the unions, an end to bureaucracy and racketeering, organization of the unorganized and unskilled, etc. The revolutionist, of course, knows that the fight for these is also the fight for a class struggle policy...

THE 'MILITANTS' PROGRAM

(From the "Militant" Program presented at the "Call Institute") "The Socialist Party recognizes that the trade unions, no matter how conservative, are organs of the class struggle and schools of Socialism. Without trade unions, even the most elementary labor struggles would be impossible. But trade unions without a revolutionary party can achieve only partial and temporary success...

AUTO NOTES

TOLEDO, Ohio.—The "big three" of the automobile industry—Ford, Chrysler and General Motors—employ diverse methods in smashing unionism and keeping their wage slaves divided and unorganized. Ford likes concentration in the manufacture of automobiles. He has centered the greater portion of Ford Motor Car production at the River Rouge plant at Detroit...

Rubber Price War Begins

(Continued from Page 1) many plans which mean added misery and starvation to the rubber workers? The house-to-house canvas for members is not enough for the organizational drive. Program of Struggle Around a platform that meets the workers' desires and needs can be rallied. This must include: (1) No wage reductions; (2) Continuation of the six-hour day and abolition of the eight-hour day where it has been introduced...

the department and forced the bosses to retreat! Test of Leadership This is the first major test of the new leadership of the U.R.W.A. Although the unfolding events in the rubber industry are filled with dangerous situations and can possibly bring further defeat for the workers, the key to success lies in this very danger. For if the leaders can confront this situation calmly, armed with the correct policy and platform, they have created for themselves and the union a formula which, placed into action, can only result in bringing the rubber workers back into the union by the thousands...

3. The Fight Against Government Control. The "Militant" program fails even to mention one of the most significant tendencies of the present regime: its attempt to tie the trade union movement up with the capitalist government, by way of boards, laws, etc., designed in the long run to emasculate the unions, to restrict the right to strike, and thus to undermine the workers' power of resistance...

in some cases may make it even imperative that the workers first be organized in independent industrial unions. Last but not least, are the cases of unions under militant leadership, which have their charters taken away, as was the case with famous Teamsters Local 574 of Minneapolis. What does all this mean? It means that the revolutionary party must firmly declare itself against the claimed right of the A. F. of L. to a monopoly in the field of labor organization...

cialist" labor fakers. The distinction is a credential of irresponsibility to every Socialist to do as he will in the unions—to do as he will except that it rules out a demand that the Socialist Party accept responsibility for the conduct of its members in the unions. If, in contrast to this, the "Militants" were to take seriously their phrase that their party must represent the "historic interests" of the working class, one of the first concrete applications of it would be to demand systematic fraction work in the trade unions...

The Chevrolet strike has revealed a glaring weakness in the armour of General Motors. The Chevrolet plant at Toledo manufactures all Chevrolet transmissions. The company has found itself powerless to break the automobile union or divide the shop committee at the plant. By striking at this Achilles heel, it becomes possible to shut down General Motors assembly plants all over the country. Thus the whole carefully planned and adjusted mechanism of General Motors is thrown out of gear...

PROSPERITY... Cup in hand, eleven blind persons were forced to take to the streets last week in the City of Brotherly Love. Their relief had been shut off. "More people have eaten better food for a longer time under the constitution than under any other form of government," proclaims Frank Knox, millionaire publisher of the Chicago Daily News and prospective Republican candidate for President...

Coal Strike Exposes Keck Leadership in the P.M.A.

By GERMAL (Ed. Note: The following article, written before the settlement of the coal strike, throws a clear light on a significant angle of the coal situation in Illinois.) SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 28.—The national strike of the bituminous coal miners might officially be called off any day now, as Lewis continues his shady maneuvers in Washington to help the coal operators rid themselves of a surplus of 55,000,000 tons of coal that threatened to glut the market. Large coal corporations expressed no alarm over the strike. Demands by the United Mine Workers that the FEERA stand ready to rush relief to the strikers is the only thing that disturbed their conference of "mutual admiration," as Lewis himself called it...

diver rank and file have against the United Mine Workers in this state, the Keck leadership stated that the policy of the organization was against striking with John L. Lewis' union. Keck's policy did not succeed to keep all the miners under his jurisdiction at work, however. In Saline county, Pekin, East Peoria and Belleville, Progressive miners voted to join the strike. Confusion was evident in the Progressive ranks and a bitter factional fight over the question of the strike threatened the very existence of the organization. Constant reports that the strike would be short lived along with the fact that the United Mine Workers are deadlocked over a mere 1 1/2 cent wage increase aided the Progressive leaders in keeping the mass of the rank and file in check. Indications were that the Progressive leaders would not hold the rank and file at work should the strike assume a militant character, carrying forward a fight for the 6-hour day and a basic \$6 wage. Left Wing Leaders in Action For the first time since the inner struggle between the P.M.A. and the U.M.W. in Illinois, rank and file miners of both organizations met at Pekin, Ill., and voted to unite their forces in the strike for higher wages. Jack Battuello, Joe Burrell, Pat Ansbury and Gerry Allard, left wing leaders, were carrying the fight to the Progressive membership over the heads of the union leaders, calling upon the Progressive miners to join the nation-wide walkout. "In the strike the economic welfare of the mine workers is the first and foremost consideration," Allard said, speaking for the left wing. "John L. Lewis and his rotten poli-

cies are of a secondary character. The miners of Illinois should not forsake their militant tradition at this time by supplying coal while thousands of their fellow workers in the U.M.W. of A. remain at work. The Progressives should join the strike, militantly bring forward the demand for six hours a day and for the \$6 basic wage scale. "The policies of Keck in keeping the Progressives at work while a glorious labor struggle is in the making exposes the class collaboration policies of his machine. In this instance they are not any better than the past Lewis policies." "Whether we like it or not," Allard continued, "our failure to join the strike will place us in a reactionary role and place Lewis in the progressive light he is aiming for. There is only one road for the real union men in the P. M. of A. to follow and that is to strike and strike hard." Battuello for Joint Struggle Battuello, fighting president of local 1, P. M. of A., Gillespie, Ill., which consists of 2,300 working members, stated that as far as he was concerned he "would fight to the last ditch to see to it that the Progressives joined the strike." Battuello suggested a strike-wide referendum vote to decide the question of a strike in all Progressive mines. Should the U.M.W. of A. strike be prolonged for another week, indications are that the Progressives would walk out. Conditions, wages and contractual relations are not satisfactory to the rank and file. As this is written the situation in Illinois is uncertain. Acrimonious discussion continues in the ranks of the P. M. of A. as the left wing and right wing of the organization again come to grips over a question that will definitely decide the future of the Progressives. One thing is clear, the very existence of the P. M. of A. now hangs on a thread. EIGHT PAGE NEW MILITANT! RALLY SUPPORT FOR THE

Allentown WPA Workers Win State-wide Victory

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Sept. 28.—After two weeks of militant strike struggle, the WPA project workers of Allentown last night voted to return to work on the basis of the victory conceded by the state WPA administration on Thursday. The Pennsylvania Works Progress Administration in Harrisburg announced a raise of 10 percent in wages for all laborers, the payment of prevailing union scales for all skilled work and a reduction in hours from 140 to 120 per month last Thursday night. Terms of Settlement Before taking the vote, the strikers, meeting at the Silk Workers Hall, listened to reports by Anthony Ramaglia, chairman of the strike committee and Sam Gordon, speaking for the negotiations committee. The negotiations committee had met on Friday afternoon with Assistant WPA administrator Folkeson, who gave the strikers the following assurances: 1) The new schedule of wages and hours is to go into effect as of October 1; 2) There is to be no discrimination against strikers or strike leaders; 3) First men to be requisitioned will be the first to be returned on the projects; 4) The administration will recognize the collective bargaining agency of the project workers (the Joint Labor Council); 5) The administration will order recognition of grievance committees elected by the workers on each project. The speakers stressed the fact that Pennsylvania is the first state to change the federal WPA wage schedule, a fact which serves to emphasize the force of the militant

struggle and solidarity displayed by the project workers in Allentown and throughout Lehigh, Northampton, Berks and Somerset counties. Lester W. Heckman of the Pennsylvania Unemployed Leagues, Bill Kocher of the Joint Labor Council and Simon Levine of the Citizens' Welfare League joined the other speakers in urging the workers to consolidate their victory by strengthening their united front organization, the Joint Labor Council. Stalinist Disrupters Routed A motion was put that all project workers be organized directly into the Joint Labor Council. At this point the Communist party stalwarts came forward with their contribution to the strike. As usual, the Stalinists tried to carry into the workers ranks their typical disruptive and strike-breaking tactics. After the united front organization, the Joint Labor Council, had for two weeks led the strike and demonstrated its effectiveness, the C.P. counter-posed a motion to form a separate project workers' union. The workers recognized this move as an attempt to break their united front and gave the Stalinists the answer they deserved. They voted overwhelmingly to join the Joint Labor Council. The strike leaders had to exert themselves strenuously to prevent workers in the hall from throwing the disrupters out bodily, the strikers were so incensed at this Stalinist provocation. After the vote, strikers filed by the desk to sign up with the Joint Labor Council. The J.L.C., composed of representatives of all the unions, the unemployed leagues, the Citizens Welfare League and the Keystone Workers Association, is meeting this Sunday to consider plans for further action.

Toledo federal local 18884 of the United Automobile Workers is waiting expectantly for word from the International office at Detroit of the new charter which it will receive. It is believed that separate charters will be granted the various shops comprising the Toledo local and that a district committee will be formed on the model of the districts in the U.M.W.A. The present clique dominating the local executive committee belong mostly to the smaller and weaker shops and so fear that such a move would destroy them. If they attempt to fight it, however, they will probably meet with the resistance of the best union members of Chevrolet, Bingham and other shops who have no representation on the present executive board and who have been dominated by this unprincipled clique of union "politicians." The committee of seven elected at the constitutional convention of the United Automobile Workers of America to appeal the decisions of the executive council to the 55th convention of the A. F. of L. in appointing all officers of the newly formed automobile international, are preparing to leave for Atlantic City and are counting on the support of the progressives in rubber, steel, and many of the city centers in their fight at this convention for trade union democracy and industrial unionism. AFL Convention (Continued from Page 1) will not take place at Atlantic City. It is possible that the progressives will gain some apparent victories. The basic consideration is that by means of the amendment to the constitution or in some other form the foundation will be laid for the campaign against the emergence of class-struggle unionism—above all for seeking to prepare the unions for a role of subservience to capitalism and the capitalist government when war breaks. Progressives and revolutionists in view of this development, will have to learn to fight not only with more vigor but also with more subtlety than hitherto.

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