

AMERICAN LABOR AT A GLANCE

Ferrero-Sallito Denied Writ By Federal Court Judge

(From Northwest Organizer) By FARRELL DOBBS

574 Leader Gives His Impressions of Industrial Union Movement in the East

The most pleasant surprise experienced by the Local 574 committee was sent east to visit the national leaders of the industrial union movement...

In every big industrial center we found the workers and the progressive union leaders in very good spirits. All are highly enthused over the new possibilities of effective union organization...

Craft Unionism Disastrous

A union is created in a steel plant, an automobile factory, a rubber plant—it matters not where, for the story is the same. All the workers band together in one embracing unit...

The bosses seize the chance and intensify their anti-union campaign. Active unionists are fired. No organization remains to defend them. The cloak of a special "labor board," which the government has obligingly provided...

Workers Want Action

And these are not mere words. Beginning with a series of sit-down strikes, the workers in the Good-year plant at Akron have shattered the fetters which restrained them...

Southern Illinois Unions Back Kroger Strike

BELLEVILLE, Ill. Southern Illinois and Missouri union men, assembled in conference, were aflame with anger at the treatment accorded St. Louis warehouse workers, whose strike against the Kroger Grocery and Baking Co. extends over an unbroken period of five months...

45 delegates from 24 unions, unemployed and fraternal organizations and over a hundred fraternal delegates and visitors heard a report from Oscar T. Wiles, secretary of Warehouse Union 667 and unanimously decided to broaden the anti-Kroger boycott movement...

Wiles' Report

In a stirring speech, punctuated by vigorous applause, Wiles reviewed the long, hard-fought struggle of local 667. He reviewed the rise of the union under NRA, the attack made on it by the employers, the resistance of the workers and the outbreak of the strike on Nov. 6, 1935...

One union for all and all on the picket line. The craft union leaders would have liked very much to pluck this union, but they did not dare. All eyes were on this strike. The lessons to be drawn from such action would have been too obvious...

The craft unionists do not like these manifestations; they do not like the zest with which the workers take to the ideas of industrial unionism; they do not like the manner in which the workers apply the power which is theirs when they are organized industrially...

Role or Ruin?

The craft union controlled Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has ordered the Committee for Industrial Organization to dissolve. The C.I.O. has refused. What action will the Executive Council take at its next session? Will it expel the International Unions affiliated with the C.I.O.? This is very doubtful...

Daniel J. Tobin came into the Miami session of the Council with his usual self-centered, narrow-minded, hard-boiled attitude. He demanded the immediate expulsion from the A. F. of L. of the affiliates of the C.I.O. (Tobin, the charter revoker, who probably still thinks that 574 is smashed because he revoked its charter...)

Amalgamated Progress

When the Amalgamated entered Philadelphia again about eight months ago, with a big staff of organizers and plenty of money, it was a member of the A. F. of L. This A. F. of L. affiliation is important because the U. G., the United Garment Workers, which had original jurisdiction in the A. F. of L. over the shirt workers, had signed an agreement with the Amalgamated to avoid such a jurisdictional quarrel...

Polson Finishes His Work

Polson then went around to several other shops and put the fear of the Amalgamated in the hearts of the bosses and by showing the agreements of the other shops to the cutters, made them feel it was useless to fight the U. G. and the boss alone...

Organizing with Bosses Aid

Whether this rumor is true or not, the effect was the same. Despite the promise from the Amalgamated that it could organize the

great exponent of the sanctity of per capita tax, has followed this practice. Voting strength in the A. F. of L. convention is based on the paid-up membership of the International Unions. Hence the campaign to pay in for every possible member. There is a vital issue at stake; the jobs of the craft union office holders vs. the welfare of the workers of America. Every vote counts.

Role of the C.I.O.

To properly understand the role of the Committee for Industrial Organization, we must first recognize the background of the committee members. None of these men can boast of a clear record of progressivism. Some of their past actions are downright reactionary, and to say the least, undemocratic. This is a matter of record. True, they are now supporting a progressive cause: the movement for industrial unionism. But their prime motive is one of personal ambition...

The members of the C.I.O. have one distinct advantage over their fellow officeholders, the craft unionists: they have been able to correctly estimate the mood of the working masses. They realize that the workers are determined to have industrial unionism, that they will sooner or later unseat every leader who stands in the way of this objective. Understanding this, the members of the C.I.O. have declared themselves for the industrial form of organization. They are assuming the leadership of this movement in a cautious and hesitant manner. They stand with one foot firmly planted on the old; with the other foot they feel gingerly about for a safe place to implant themselves in the new.

Many workers look upon the C. I.O. as a messiah. There is a strong tendency to render it blind allegiance. This is a dangerous attitude which can very well detract in a large measure from the ultimate gains to be made through industrial unionism. We need something more than industrial unions. We need a democratic freedom of action to apply the power which this form of organization creates.

Craft Union Blocks Shirt Workers' Organization

By ALBERT DANE

PHILA., Pa.—The men's shirt industry is the most swayed industry in the country. It is in these factories in the coal mining sections of Pennsylvania and in the South, in particular, that pay envelopes were as low as \$4, and less, a week, before the N.R.A. Since the N.R.A.'s demise these low wages naturally have retreated.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers in 1933, then not affiliated to the A. F. of L., started a campaign to organize the shirt workers on a national scale. The workers eagerly responded to the Amalgamated wherever it went and by 1935 it had entered practically every shirt factory district and organized most of the shops. The one area it left for last was the Philadelphia district, which is the biggest shirt factory production center with the possible exception of Troy, New York.

The Amalgamated had entered Philadelphia at the start of the campaign but selected the strongest factory as the first for organization and lost a drawn-out, violent strike. This probably made it change its tactics to organizing the small town factories first.

When the Amalgamated entered Philadelphia again about eight months ago, with a big staff of organizers and plenty of money, it was a member of the A. F. of L. This A. F. of L. affiliation is important because the U. G., the United Garment Workers, which had original jurisdiction in the A. F. of L. over the shirt workers, had signed an agreement with the Amalgamated to avoid such a jurisdictional quarrel, one part of which said that the Amalgamated could organize any dress shirt area (the Amalgamated had first right in organizing the work-shirt factories) which the U. G., for whatever reason it had, would not try organizing.

The U. G., a disintegrating organization, made no attempt to organize any area and so the Amalgamated had the shirt industry for itself. From the very start of the campaign in Philadelphia the response was gratifying and it looked as though all the bosses would capitulate without much of a fight.

When the A. F. of L. convention ended, as rumor has it, a Mr. Polson, organizer for the U. G. in Philadelphia, received a telegram from his President to "shoot the works,"—in other words to smash the Amalgamated campaign and, if possible, get the workers in the U. G.

With the Amalgamated definitely gone and the U. G. rejected by the workers, the only perspective of the cutters, who should enlist the support of the operators, pressers, etc. in their shops, should be one of individual shop organization, and of striking when strong enough. In that way the Amalgamated help can be demanded, as it could not claim then that the workers are not assuredly behind it.

The workers should support the C.I.O. in its stand for industrial unionism, but, at the same time, they must constantly put forward demands for the elimination of the machine control which now exists in the A. F. of L. and the restoration of true democracy in the local unions.

Our long conversation with John Brophy, director of the C.I.O., gave us a very comprehensive picture of the present activities of this group. The principal work of the committee is confined to the educational field. Books, pamphlets, news releases and editorials sent to labor editors, speeches, and other mediums of expression are being used to clarify the issues throughout the national labor movement. The C. I.O. has not, however, taken the initiative in solidifying the industrial union groups in the various industrial centers and co-ordinating the movement on a national basis. As yet the strong feeling of the workers is only a seething ferment, evidencing itself in sporadic heat lightning, which give warning of the impending storm. Organized action to rid the movement of the evils of craft unionism is yet to come.

Through the medium of its participating International Unions, the C. I. O. has lent aid and direction to the local unions in important strikes; a notable example is the Akron rubber strike. The proposals to organize the steel industry put forward by the C.I.O. proved a great embarrassment to the craft unionists. On the other hand, the craft unionist Executive Council has set about a deliberate campaign to eliminate the Federal Unions. This attempt of local was created in an attempt to forestall industrial unionism. It has since become a staunch supporter of and a potential springboard for the industrial union movement. Federal Union charters are no longer issued. The Federal Unions are being dissolved into the craft Internationals wherever this can be done. These charters are being revoked on a wholesale basis on the slightest pretext.

At every step of Azana against the masses, Caballero delivers himself of such "left" oratory, but takes no action toward breaking with the bourgeois-republicans. So far, this has enabled him to ride the wave of undoubtedly genuine revolutionary feeling which animates the Socialist ranks, especially the youth. But other leaders, with a more consistently militant position, like Javier Bueno, Socialist leader of the Asturian rebellion, are being heard more and more by the Socialist masses.

Threats of a split by the Right Wing Socialists, led by Indalecio Prieto, are reported by the conservative republican organ, "Ya," which states that Prieto and twenty other deputies plan to unite with the left Republicans. The split, it states, will take place before the Socialist convention, which takes place in June in Asturias. "Ya" says that Prieto considers himself "virtually expelled from the party" because Spanish socialism is transforming itself into revolutionary communism. Since the Right Wing Socialists actually have a majority at present on the National Executive Committee, and control the daily "El Socialista," Prieto's threats are undoubtedly merely a maneuver to scare into line wavering elements who are impressed by the growing strength of Left wing sentiment in the ranks.

Stalinists, Right Wing Socialists and the bourgeois republicans joined together to peddle to the masses as an extraordinary and significant victory the ousting of President Zamora, which had been a foregone conclusion after the February elections. Under the Spanish constitution, the President has no power comparable to that of the American, or the German under the Weimar republic. He is similar to the French president. Zamora has been succeeded by Martinez-Barrios, who was elected Speaker of the Cortes by almost unanimous vote, including the rightist deputies.

The American Daily Worker, which receives the United Press service, suppressed the full U.P. dispatches describing Azana's speech and its friendly reception by the rightists and Stalinists. Their only story this week on Spain was one hailing the ousting of Zamora.

The very air is charged with a feeling of impending change. Events are moving at a rapid pace. The next period will see many significant happenings. Labor is preparing, in its gigantic, lumbering way, for a tremendous stride forward. Local 574 can look ahead with complete confidence. We are on the side of progress.

Azana Speech Conservative

(Continued from Page 1) firm intention of carrying out the People's Front pact, and the Communists will loyally support him throughout (en todo momento).

This is true enough: the Stalinist "Mundo Obrero" has been more lavish with praise of Azana than even the government's own papers dare to be.

Largo Caballero, whose strength in the Socialist Party rests on the growing Left Wing, was wiser than the Stalinists. Asked to comment on Azana's speech, he reserved decision: "It's much too soon to give an opinion on the speech." When Azana, twenty-four hours later, called off the municipal elections, Caballero, speaking the next day to the Young Socialist meeting in Madrid, in a speech bristling with revolutionary phraseology, served notice on Azana that if his government does not solve the political and economic problems, "the road will remain open" for the dictatorship of the proletariat. Caballero declared that the Azana government will not solve the problems "easily." Azana was right, said Caballero, in terming his government the last bulwark for the defense of the right of the bourgeoisie, and that the government could not rule by cannons and soldiers.

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WORKERS

Protect Yourself Against the Hazards of Life. Join the WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE U.S. 1884-1935

Organized, managed by and for workers with only one purpose: to render protection to members and their families, and to support all endeavors and struggles for the improvement of toilers. About 50,000 members organized in 350 branches. Reserves \$3,400,000.

After two months of procrastination, Judge Francis G. Caffey of the Federal District Court of the Southern District of New York finally handed down his reactionary decision in denying an application for a writ of habeas corpus by Vincent Ferrero and Dominick Sallito. The hearing was held on Feb. 4, 1936, and the decision was not rendered until March 26, 1936. In the meantime the two defendants have been imprisoned in Ellis Island. Immediate steps have now been taken by the Ferrero-Sallito Defense Conference for an appeal, and for obtaining the release of the two innocent men on bail pending action on their appeal.

The case has aroused widespread protest in labor and liberal circles, partly because of the openly antagonistic attitude taken by the U. S. Department of Labor in this case. The men were first arrested in San Francisco in April, 1934, on trumped-up charges, and taken before a minor functionary of the District Office of the Department of Labor. This official, acting as prosecutor, judge and jury all in one, after a perfunctory "hearing" on practically no evidence, ordered the defendants deported. The action caused immediate protest by labor elements who formed the Ferrero-Sallito Defense Conference in various sections of the country.

Nation-wide Protest

Thousands of protest letters, telephone calls and personal communications from all over the country have swept in to the Immigration and labor authorities from such outstanding organizations and individuals as the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign-Born, the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the I. W. W., the International Labor Defense, the League for Industrial Democracy, The Non-Partisan Labor Defense, the Workers' Alliance, the Workmen's Circle, many central trades and labor bodies in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Toledo and elsewhere, labor unions representing musicians, bakers, railroad trainmen, painters, teachers, cement workers, cooks and waiters, textile workers, furriers, jewelry workers, pocket-book workers, carpenters, etc., and Norman Thomas, John L. Lewis, Tom Mooney, A. F. Whitney, David Dubinsky, Joseph Schlossberg, Heywood Brown, Kirby Page, Upton Sinclair, Albert Sprague Coolidge, Robert Lovett, Roger Baldwin, and hundreds of others.

The attitude of the Department of Labor authorities is clearly shown in the following excerpts from a letter by Edward W. Cahill, District Commissioner of Immigration in San Francisco, referring to the Ferrero-Sallito case, addressed to Commissioner D. W. McCormack in October 1935:

Peoples Front John Bull Model

In its sharp turn toward collaboration with the Labour Party, the British C. P. finds it necessary to concentrate a sharp fire against the I.L.P., particularly because of the latter's position on sanctions and the imperialist war. Lacking for arguments, the Stalinists have resorted to invective. Thus, at a meeting at City Hall at Glasgow on January 26, William Gallagher flung an "annihilating" charge against the I.L.P. It appears that Maxton and Buchanan are continually in the company of Tory M. P.'s and refuse to associate with Labour M.P.'s. Gallagher further charged that on the day of the Hoare-Laval debate, Maxton "had his hands on the shoulders of two Tory members." No more, no less!

John McGovern, M.P., retorted with "a hard hitting reply" in the February 14 issue of the New Leader. Says he, "Such an attack demands a forthright reply. Gallagher has asked for it, and he shall have it." And McGovern proceeds to list the following facts:

1) Harry Pollitt appeared on the platform at Edinburgh with the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Mr. Guy, M.P. (Tory K. C.) and Sir Archibald Sinclair, M.P., the Liberal leader and landowner of 23,000 acres.

2) Mr. Maisky, the Soviet ambassador, was chatting with the Prince of Wales on his right side, and Signor Grandi (Fascist ambassador of Italy on his left side—in the gallery of the House of Commons on the day of the Hoare-Laval debate, the same day on which Maxton was observed in a compromising embrace with two Tories. Adds McGovern, "They (the trio in the gallery) appeared to be enjoying themselves immensely."

3) McGovern reveals another state secret in telling that Gallagher himself had asked Maxton "to speak to Tories and Liberals to get a requisition signed for the purpose of having the Daily Worker in the library of the House of Commons; and even secured the signature of Mr. Marcus Samuel, M.P., secretary of the anti-Socialist Anti-Communist Union."

"Some of the newspapers out here are calling frequently inquiring as to whether or not there has been a final decision on these cases. There are also a number of civic organizations showing unusual interest in the two cases. . . Should they succeed in overcoming the order of deportation, we shall have to be prepared to take it on the chin, as the publicity will be very much against our department."

Sec'y Perkins "Has No Authority"

In reply to the demand of a delegation from the Conference that she review the cases of Ferrero and Sallito and intervene in their behalf, Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, wrote the Conference as follows on February, 1936:

"In reply, you are advised that the two aliens named have been ordered deported under the provision of law which requires such action where it is found that an alien belongs to any one of certain specified groups believing in the overthrow of organized government or advocating measures having that end in view. Where charges of this nature are found to be sustained by the evidence, the Secretary of Labor has no authority under existing law to avert deportations."

So flimsy was the so-called "evidence" submitted in Sallito's case, that after the hearing had been closed, the record was sent back from Washington with a request for more convincing evidence. Whereupon these stool-pigeon inspectors of the Labor Department called another hearing and calmly introduced into Sallito's record excerpts taken from the record of another case.

Such is the "evidence" which Madame Perkins is willing to accept as a basis for deporting workers to Mussolini's Fascist dungeons.

The Italian Fascist government has asked to be notified when Ferrero and Sallito are to be deported. Every worker who knows what is going on in Italy today will realize what this means.

Help Defend Ferrero and Sallito!

The Ferrero and Sallito case involves the freedom of expression and association which is a life and death necessity for all workers in their struggles. Every worker and every labor organization should rally solidly behind the Defense Conference. Get your organization, your union, your cooperative, your club, to send delegates to the meetings of the Ferrero-Sallito Defense Conference in your vicinity. In New York, at the offices of the Joint Board of the I.L.G.W.U., 218 West 40th Street, every Monday night at 8:30; in Philadelphia at 415 South 19th Street. Communicate with the Secretary at P. O. Box 181, Station D, New York, N. Y., for information concerning the Defense Conference meetings and activities in Cleveland, Chicago and San Francisco.

During the Scottish Hunger March Gallagher who was sent to Edinburgh, remained hidden in his room.

5) Next, in Gallagher's election address, the latter also preferred to remain inconspicuous. He never mentioned that he was a Communist candidate nor did he even mention the word Socialism. Comments the irate McGovern, "It was the poorest document I have ever seen and could have been issued by any Liberal."

McGovern then asks Gallagher some very embarrassing questions: 1) Why have you to say about all that, comrade Gallagher?

2) Why did you, Gallagher refuse to vote for the right of the unemployed agricultural worker to receive the ordinary unemployed benefit, when the bill was presented to the House? 3) "What do Gallagher and Pollitt have to say about Maisky and Látvinov's part in the late King's funeral and their presence at dinner with the new King at Buckingham Palace?"

Adds McGovern, "The truth is that they dare not criticize these Russian representatives, because they are their bosses and paymasters."

In short, Gallagher asked for it, and he got it!

GUILD STRIKE SOLID

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Apr. 7.—Striking editorial workers of the Wisconsin News and hundreds of their supporters from the ranks of labor will stage a mass demonstration at 8 P.M. Friday in front of the News building. It will be the first night demonstration at the News building during the strike, which is now in its eighth week.

The Milwaukee Newspaper Guild will be host to all Milwaukee newspapers at a party at 10 P.M. Saturday at the Hotel Schroeder. There will be a midnight supper. Heywood Brown, national president of the guild, will be speaker. Brown will appear in the district court here Monday with five other persons arrested during a mass demonstration a few weeks ago. Brown is charged with resisting an officer.

J. Nash McCrea, strike chairman, and Jonathan Eddy, national secretary, returned from the Twin Cities where the guild pledged \$400 more for the strike fund. The Twin Cities guild has already given \$500.

4) He furthermore charges that