

Calif. Aviation Strike Firm

LOS ANGELES. — Striking members of Local 229, United Auto Workers, have now, for the fourth week completely shut down the Northrup division of the Douglas Aircraft Corp. in El Segundo, Calif. The union is now preparing to prevent a back-to-work movement sponsored by the Company Aircraft Workers union. Several days ago Donald Douglas published a statement that he was permanently closing the Northrup plant. Charlie Rogers, International Representative of the U.A.W.A. in charge of the strike, answered this by declaring this threat was propaganda issued to demoralize the union men and that in several days the Douglas Corp. would attempt to effect a back-to-work movement.

The prophecy of Rogers has already been proved correct. The union has obtained a copy of a form contract whereby strike-breakers promise to put up a \$15 bond to guarantee their promise not to sit down, strike, or damage company property for a period of one year. In consideration of this agreement, the Douglas Co. promises to make a strong effort to resume operation of the plant and to do all in its power to provide employment for the men for one year.

the N.L.R.B. will assist them. The government is just as interested as is Douglas in crushing trade union organization within such a basic war industry.

Strike in Danger

The greatest danger facing the strike is the weakness of local 214 of the U.A.W. at the Douglas plant in Santa Monica. At this plant, employing 6500 men, the union has not recovered from the set back suffered at the sit-down strike in February. In the period of reaction after the above strike the Union suffered from the attempt of the Communist Party fraction to obtain control of the union.

Attacking Socialist party members from the floor of the union meeting, slandering them in a whispering campaign, calling them Trotskyist-Fascists in an effort to bring the Moscow frame-up into the union affairs, attacking any rank and file member who opposes their policy and control, has discouraged many members from participating in union affairs. However, the number of C. P. members in the union is comparatively very small and opposition to their tactics is growing in the rank-and-file.

Because of the present weakness of the Douglas local there is a danger that company union men will be used as strike breakers in the Northrup strike. There is the further danger that the Douglas plant will be able to absorb enough of the work that was done at the Northrup plant to lock-out the Northrup men long enough to break the strike.

The aircraft industry is again the spearhead of the movement to organize Southern California and the defeat of the C.I.O. in this strike will set back the entire movement started in the February strike. The Merchants and Manufacturers Association is aware of this, and more has to be done to make the trade-unionists of this area aware of it also.

Company Fights Union

The Northrup strike was called August 26th, 1937, in order to enforce an agreement secured by the union after the sit-down strike in February of this year. The contract recognized the union, protected rights of seniority, and provided for a plan of negotiation to settle labor disputes. Every provision of the contract has been broken by the Douglas Co.

In August an N.L.R.B. election was held at the plant employing 1500 men. The U.A.W.A. received a majority of the vote over its opponent, the company controlled Aircraft Workers Union. Prior to this election the Company and the Company union had attempted to obtain a Federal injunction to prevent the election and were defeated in this attempt. Immediately after the election the Northrup Company, then controlled by the Douglas Company through ownership of a majority of the stock, was dissolved and made a branch of the parent corporation. The Douglas Company then refused to negotiate with the union committees, and began its campaign against the union by discharging union men. The strike vote was held after 150 men had been fired.

Profits from Government Contracts

The Douglas Company with over \$6 million dollars of contracts with the U. S. army and navy, and large contracts with foreign governments for the production of planes is determined to destroy trade union organization within its factories. Anticipating expansion of the plants as a result of the war developments, the Company will proceed with its policy of utilizing the most ruthless methods to crush the U.A.W. of A. locals.

At the beginning of the strike many of the union men believed that Lewis through Roosevelt would bring pressure on Douglas to settle the strike. Most of the men have now discarded this illusion and now recognize that neither Roosevelt nor the agencies of the government such as

The United Front from Below

By Carlo



Times Change in the S.P.!

By John Hall

It has been remarked before that history has a tendency to repeat itself. Today, in the Socialist Party this is taking place, to an extent perhaps not realized by many comrades. Two years ago, the Old Guard, with their New Leader, were greatly agitated over the appearance of the Socialist Call, which was invading the field of Socialist journalism, monopolized for years by Oneal and Cahan. They demanded that the NEC do something, and do it quick.

In the August 3, 1935 issue of the Call appeared an editorial which has a very timely sound today. "Whether or not some

papers continue their factional policy is not the chief issue. What is important is that revolutionary socialism must have its own organ!"

"The Call is operated in accordance with present procedure in the Party. The NEC has neither the desire nor the authority to suspend the Call."

It was a swell editorial. On the editorial board were, among others, Murray Baron, Robert Delson, David Felix, Aaron Levenstein, August Tyler, and Herbert Zam. And Jack Altman was business manager! To them, any claim that starting a new Socialist paper was "a gross breach of discipline" was plainly ridiculous. But that was in 1935!

Today, thousands of revolutionary Socialists face expulsion from the Party on the technical ground of supporting the Socialist Appeal. And the very ones who supported the position quoted above are among those demanding the expulsions. Obviously, something has changed. Just as obviously, it must be these former militants, for the Party rules have not changed. I think that the reason can be found expressed in the lucid style of August Tyler, writing in the lone issue of Socialist Clarity. "They (the Stalinists) have merely consigned theory to the realm of theory. Their principles are like the ritual of some dead religion; something to which one pays homage on high days, holidays and conventions. But which, as all practical people know, has nothing at all to do with their daily practices".

The rise of the militant movement in the Socialist Party was a necessary response to the clear indication, by world events, that the working class lacked one prerequisite to a successful struggle for Socialism—a clear revolutionary party on the international scene. Only the ossified (like the Old Guard) could deny that. A thousands varieties of radicals and semi-radicals pro-

claimed it. It was the best way to assure one's self of a hearing. As a result, it was comparatively easy for the Militants to win control of the Party away from the aged, time-serving Old Guard, though the so-called leadership of the Militants showed a touching reluctance to be rough with the Old Guard in taking over the Party. Then, faced with the necessity of building the revolutionary party, many of the Militants began to show a curious shyness. Such a task is not for playboys, lovers of large words, or sentimental pacifistic parsons.

The challenge to apply Marxist principles in action faced the party almost immediately. The hardships of carrying on our independent Socialist campaign last year slowed the bright young men right down to a walk. And today those who talk radical and do whatever is easiest can see an easy way out. The People's Front appears to be taking shape here in America (and kicking its god-mother, the C. P., in the face at every turn) in the form of "progressive" and "labor" Parties. Best of all, LaFollette and La Guardia and such have a habit of winning elections, such a change from the dismal business of running campaigns which do not get you an office, but simply serve to build a revolutionary party. And in the rush to climb on the bandwagon, the peanut politicians and muddleheads, are not going to let Party legality, Socialist ethics and principles, or even common honesty stand in their way.

BULLETIN

There will be a protest demonstration against the Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden, this Sunday, Oct. 3.

We must reply! Every comrade out.

Mobilize at headquarters, 116 University Place at 5:30 P. M.

All others should report as soon as possible at the Garden, 50th St. and 8th Ave. Down with Fascism!

Compare The "Appeal"

with the Socialist Call. The Appeal is doing a job that the Call might have done had the expulsions of the revolutionary socialists not left it in the slough of reformism and class collaboration. With centrists and right wingers controlling the policy of the Call, there is only one paper left that presents the revolutionary Marxian point of view, editorially and in reporting the news—THE APPEAL.

With the APPEAL to back us in our activities, we will go

places and do things, BUT WE MUST BACK THE APPEAL.

The response to last week's appeal for subscriptions and contributions was encouraging but far from adequate.

Every effort is being made to bring the APPEAL out on time. So far we have been able to do this—and we refuse to let ourselves be handicapped by late publication.

Double your efforts—subscriptions and contributions WE MUST HAVE. Here's another blank. Use it without delay.

Socialist Appeal

100 Fifth Ave.
Room 1609
New York City

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I enclose \$..... for which please send me the Socialist Appeal. One year—(\$2.00); Six Months—(\$1.00).

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