

Convention Date Near; Locals Elect Delegates

After two months of a thorough-going discussion in all locals and branches on the most important questions facing the American and the world working class in this period of storm and stress the Rank and File Convention of the Socialist Party is to convene in Chicago on New Year's Eve. The convention, called by the State Committees of the Socialist Party in Minne-

sota, California, Ohio and Indiana, together with the National Executive Committee of the Young People's Socialist League and the Executive Committee of the Left Wing organizations in Chicago and New York, has since been endorsed by numerous locals and branches all over the country, in such important centers as Rochester, New York; Boston; Kansas City and St. Louis County, Missouri; Philadelphia, Bucks County, and Allentown, Pennsylvania, among others.

Everywhere the revolutionary socialists are determined to throw out from their ranks the LaGuardia traitors and to build solidly the foundations of the Marxist workers party.

Model of Discussion

The internal bulletins issued by the Convention Organizing Committee have given expression to the widest latitude of opinion among revolutionary socialists. All views have been represented. In sharp contrast to the stifling of democracy in the organization controlled by the Thomas-Altman-Clarityite faction, the atmosphere in the Left Wing has been vibrant with live discussion.

The militants in the ranks are now preparing to draw the practical conclusions from the discussion at Chicago and to settle down to the serious work of building the party of the American revolution.

Delegates are being elected from every section of the country. Steel workers from Ohio, automobile workers from Michigan, trade unionists steeled in the stirring organizational progress made in Minnesota and on the waterfront on the West Coast are making ready to depart. A wealth of experiences in the class struggle of America will be concentrated in the delegations.

Agenda is Revealed

The convention agenda, made public this week by the Convention Organizing Committee, has allotted a place high on its list to an exchange of these experiences and to the elaboration of a line of strategy and tactics for mass work based upon them.

The Convention will meet under circumstances which will make it of world historic importance. Under the impress of the startling events in Russia, it will have to hammer out a policy embodying the attitude of revolutionary socialists to the Soviet Union—a policy that will stand up under the test of events to come.

Towards the crucial situation created for the Spanish workers and their fight against Fascism by the disastrous policies of the class collaborationists and the abominable treachery of the Stalinists and their G.P.U.—the convention will likewise have the task of evolving a clear and correct policy.

For 4th International

Finally, the convention will decide the question of affiliation to an international organization. Drawing the balance sheet of the betrayals of the Second and

To Defend Marxism

Conscious of the tremendous tasks facing them and proud to carry aloft the banner of revolution amid Stalinist treachery and the disasters of class collaboration, the delegates will come to Chicago to revive once more the flame of Marxism which once lit up the workers' world in the Paris Commune and in the October Revolution in Russia. The indomitable spirit of proletarian struggle which crushed Czarism along with all other obstacles in the glorious victory of the Bolsheviks twenty years ago will inspire the thoughts and the actions of the convention's participants. Theirs will be the glorious job of laying the basis of a party which, carrying aloft the banner of Marx and of Lenin, will not only lead the American workers to the establishment of a workers' state in the United States, but more than that, is destined to play an important part in building the Fourth International, the international of working class victory all over the world.

Third International, the militants gathered at Chicago will no doubt join with the revolutionists all over the world in the firm determination to set up a new instrument of international revolution in the Fourth International.

The Chicago convention will mark a milestone not only in American, but in world socialism. Revolutionists everywhere, in the Fascist dungeons of Hitler and Mussolini, in the jails of Austria and the Balkans, on the battlefields of Spain and on labor's battle front in France will be cheered by its decisions. In a world overshadowed by the advances of Fascism, the Chicago convention will be a beacon light to workers fighting capitalism in every country.

Convention Agenda

(Proposed by the Convention Organizing Committee)

1. Opening Address by *James P. Cannon*
2. Organization of the Convention
3. Political Resolution
4. Trade Union Resolution. Reporter: *J. P. Cannon*.
Supplementary Reports: *Glen Trimble*
B. J. Widick
V. R. Dunne
5. Unemployed Resolution
6. Russian Resolution. Reporter: *Shachtman*
7. Spanish Resolution. Reporter: *Albert Goldman*
8. International Resolution. Reporter: *Maurice Spector*
9. Youth Resolution
10. Declaration of Principles. Reporter: *James Burnham*
11. Party Organization and Constitution. Reporter: *Martin Abern*
12. Party Press. Reporter: *Martin Abern*
Supplementary Report: *Robert Browne*
13. Election of National Committee.

Steel Workers Meet; Progressives Ready To Fight for Democracy and Autonomy

PITTSBURGH, PA.—Over 1,000 delegates, representing as many Locals of the C.I.O. steel workers unions were gathered here this week to participate in the first rank and file gathering called by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee since it was set up two years ago.

While many delegates were under the impression that the gathering would be a regular union convention to elect officers, adopt a constitution, and create an autonomous international industrial union, authoritative reports beforehand indicated that the C.I.O. top leadership had an entirely different program, in mind.

It was a surprise to the inexperienced delegates to hear that the New York Times published a story by Louis Stark, its expert labor reporter, whose connections with the top C.I.O. leaders is well-known, which said, "the question of electing officers will not be before the delegates

as the meeting is not a constitutional convention."

A struggle by rank and file delegates to establish an international industrial union with the same autonomy as the United Automobile Workers, and other C.I.O. international unions was expected.

It was evident that no effort would be made by the Steel Workers Organizing Committee to draw the real lessons of the "Little Steel" strike fiasco. On the contrary, the mistakes of the past would be covered up with the approval of the Stalinists who control a bloc of the delegates.

A progressive bloc at the convention was preparing to lead the rank and file in its desire to create an international union. Also, the slogans of democracy within the union movement and for independent working class political action were among the rallying points of the progressive platform.

New Jersey C.I.O. Meets Challenge of Boss Hague

By Jack Wilson

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—The wide-spread publicity given to the C.I.O. organizing drive here because of the outrageous actions of "I am the Law" Mayor Frank Hague revealed the shocking extent to which this sweat-shop area is controlled by the Democratic party machine as a brutal dictatorship without any civil

rights for the exploited workers. Labor is terrorized in this city by the cops acting under Hague's orders. He promised the chamber of commerce that he would keep Jersey City open shop and he's doing his best in that direction.

Raid on Organizers

When forty CIO organizers were run out of town recently and thirteen others were arrested for distributing leaflets, the oppressive conditions here were first exposed.

The railroading of the arrested organizers into prison without any pretence of giving them a fair trial (no jury or bond rights) emphasized the nature of the Democratic party regime here.

Not content with "teaching the C.I.O." that lesson, Hague closed all union halls and kept C.I.O. unions already organized from holding meetings.

Hague's influence is not a local affair. Last summer an exposure of Nazi activities in New Jersey brought a demand for a congressional investigation. Hague called Jim Farley, right hand man of President Roosevelt, and told him to get it called off! It was called off.

Tie-Up With Roosevelt

Roosevelt's plurality in New Jersey was due to the Hague machine, and Hague hasn't been a political boss for twenty years without knowing how to extract benefits for votes given!

Not since the late Huey Long smashed every pretence of so-called democratic government and ruled by the might of the National Guard has America seen a more dangerous menace to Organized Labor than "I am the Law" Hague.

The Hague-Democratic party machine in New Jersey is smoothly organized and operates with the power and influence that only Tammany Hall, in its greatest days, could be compared to it. Besides building a party bureaucracy on the basis of government jobs, Hague has devised a new and more effective method of keeping his machine intact and influential.

Basis of Hague Control

Every open shop employer is guaranteed no "labor trouble," if he allows Hague to control part of the jobs in the plants. Any man going to a factory with an OK by Hague is given work. Hague thus builds his political machine among the workers on the basis of his job distribution power.

Is it any wonder that Hague's machine has withstood various attacks for the past twenty years?

The employers know the power of Hague's machine and have been flocking to New Jersey to erect sweatshops because it of-

fers great profit-making possibilities at the expense of the defenseless workers.

Appalling Conditions

The state Department of Labor last week revealed that over 34,000 women and children were employed for less than \$6 a week working over 40 hours.

It also reported that over 292,000 women were employed at less than \$17 a week, which is considered the minimum wage necessary to stave off starvation.

Over 326,000 are employed at starvation wages in New Jersey! Magnificent prospects for profits!

Just as the open shop South threatens the unions in the Northern states because of lower wage levels etc., the Jersey sweatshops not only exploit their own employes but drag down wage scales in nearby areas, especially New York, whose "runaway" factories have settled in Hague's domain.

Even though the deepening of the crisis makes organizing campaigns infinitely more difficult, the C.I.O. is seeking to smash through the dictatorship over the sweatshops.

One of the leading militants in the C.I.O., Bill Carney, veteran of the Goodyear and General Motors strikes, is directing the C.I.O. campaign in New Jersey.

"Underground" Organizing

While the various legal moves of the C.I.O. have been receiving the bulk of the publicity in the drive, the chief work of the C.I.O. organizers remains in carrying out "underground" organizational activity in Jersey City.

Until the workers of Jersey City themselves can be placed in struggles against the Hague machine and the employers whom he represents, the C.I.O. campaign cannot assume major proportions.

Legal battles against Hague have been won, time and again, but he merely ignores the court decisions, with the silent approval of the judges who took office as his men.

The outstanding lesson to date of the Jersey City situation is that the workers who voted Democratic because Roosevelt and his administration pretended to be "friends of labor" were deceived and are beginning to realize it.

The sentiment for a labor party is partly based in Jersey on the fact that the workers see they cannot get anything by tagging along with the capitalist parties, Republican or Democratic.

In fighting to smash the dictatorship of Hague and the Democratic machine, the workers learn that until capitalism itself is destroyed the sweatshops will remain.

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to be had at

The Upper West Side Branch - 916 Ninth Ave. (near 58th St.)

PARTY DANCE — MUSIC AND DRINKS

Saturday, December 18th

DONT MISS THE FUN!