

Midwest Conference Prepares T. U. Work of Party Convention

By Blake Lear

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—A mid-west active workers' conference was held at Cleveland, December 12th. Nearly fifty comrades, active in eleven different unions, were present.

The conference, which was an outgrowth of the Ohio active workers' conferences, was characterized by a high enthusiasm and intensity of discussion among the comrades, who arrived direct from the front lines of the class struggle—from the steel mills of Youngstown, the production lines in Detroit, the rubber shops of Akron, and from other industries of this industrial heart of America.

Prepare for Party Convention

Meeting on the eve of the convention of the revolutionary socialist party, this conference not only drew the balance of our trade union work during the past period, and provided for the closer organization of the comrades in this sector, but formulated recommendations to the convention arrangements committee upon the trade union and unemployed questions.

Comrade E. R. McKinney, the representative of the convention arrangements committee, opened the discussion with greetings from the Center, and outlined the points of the draft resolution of the Center upon the trade union question. This was followed by reports on rubber, auto, steel, and the unemployed. After discussion upon each report, resolutions were drawn up and recommendations formulated for the convention arrangements committee.

The resolution on the trade union question listed the following points as the absolutely necessary and immediate steps which must be taken to implement the work of the comrades in the field:

Proposed Steps

(1) The immediate establishment of a trade union committee, with a full-time trade union secretary, which will collect data, receive reports, and provide regular national tours of inspection.

(2) The establishment of national trade union fractions in all unions, with a corresponding secretary to keep all comrades in touch with one another.

(3) The formulation of a concrete program of cheap publications on trade union questions for the broadest distribution. Assignments for the writing of these pamphlets must be made at the convention and their date of issuance set also.

(4) A change in the treatment of articles in the *Socialist Appeal*. More articles in the worker's language must be written on subjects which are of immediate concern to him—the C.I.O.-A.F. of L. struggle, Roosevelt, Congress, national and state legislation, trade union problems, etc.

(5) The compilation of bulletins by comrades in each industry on production, decentralization, labor policies, business trends, etc.

(6) The formation of progressive groups, who will project the issuance of papers in the name of progressive groups.

(7) The sending out of comrades to industrial cities to get into industry.

(8) The aid of all unemployed comrades in the field of industrial unemployed organizations.

(9) The establishment of joint A.F. of L. and C.I.O. relief committees.

(10) The holding of regular national and sectional trade union conferences.

Organized Unemployed Work

Two resolutions on the unemployed question were presented to the conference, the Minneapolis resolution and the Toledo resolution. The Toledo resolution, embodying the following analysis and proposals was adopted:

"The rank and file in the unions are pressing for relief help and for relief legislation. The unions are not giving effective leadership through present methods and control; Stalinists and other class-collaborationists too often giving leadership. The Workers' Alliance is completely Stalinized, and is becoming attached to the C.I.O. apparatus.

"The influx of young workers into the Workers' Alliance offers a fertile field for revolutionary socialists, especially as disgust with the Stalinized leadership is channeled into militant action.

"We must advance upon the basis of the following proposals:

(1) We must continue and intensify our work in the Workers' Alliance. (2) We must press for relief committees in the unions and work for unification of trade union and W.A.A. committees. (3) The convention arrangements committee must initiate discussion on the unemployed question. (4) In connection with the national convention on De-

ember 30th, an unemployed conference must be held."

The following urgent recommendations were also made to the convention arrangements committee:

(1) That the conference urges the committee to give a major part of the convention to the trade union, unemployment, labor party, Labor's Non-Partisan League, and party organization questions.

(2) That the conference urges the committee to draw up a special resolution on the question of the labor party and Labor's Non-Partisan League.

Reports by individual comrades, which preceded the drawing up of the resolutions and provided the basis upon which the resolutions were elaborated, gave a sharply defined picture of the status of the basic industries in the mid-west area.

The comrades active in the following unions were present: The Workers' Alliance, The Amalgamated Clothing Workers, The United Automobile Workers, The United Rubber Workers, The American Federation of Teachers, The Teamsters, The Retail Clerks (A.F. of L.), The United Retail Clerks (C.I.O.), The Painters' Union, The SWOC, and The Office Workers.

Through every report, through every discussion, through every recommendation to the center pounded one theme: Face to the factories!

Every comrade realized that now, because of the business "recession," because of the wave of unionization which has suddenly replaced trade union problems with political problems in the theatre of the class struggle, because of the onrushing war crisis, because of the decadent and vicious C. P., and because of the cadres of young militants which the unionization wave has thrown into class action, that now if ever we must entrench ourselves in the masses.

With The Party

AKRON, Ohio.—Speaking on "The Crisis in France," before a crowd which packed the headquarters, Robert Stiler, organizer of the Akron local, last week concluded a two weeks' round of speeches which brought the message of revolutionary socialism before many groups in north-eastern Ohio.

Stiler also spoke before the Yipsels in Cleveland on "The Beginning of the Bolshevik Party"; before the Parlance Club, a large liberal discussion group at Kent state university, on "Spain"; at the Akron Jewish Center on "The Coming Imperialist War"; at Youngstown before a meeting of Yipsels and steel workers on "Trade Unions and War"; in Akron for the socialist party (left wing) on "The Present Relief Crisis"; and at the Young Circle League on "The Political Situation in Europe."

At their meetings last week the two Akron branches selected their delegates and alternates to the national convention. The delegates are B. J. Widick and Blake Lear; the alternates, Ed

Davis and Richard Ferguson.

Despite the opposition of an administration owned body and soul by the rubber barons, a Socialist Club has been established upon the campus of the University of Akron. An uncompromising fight by the youth comrades stretching over a period of months finally forced the hand of the india-rubber man, Hezleton Simmons, president of the university, and his faithful hound, Dean Donfred H. Gardner.

CLEVELAND.—Left wing Socialists of Cleveland have arranged a mass meeting and dinner with Max Shachtman as main speaker for both events to initiate the new Revolutionary Socialist Party in Cleveland following the national convention.

The mass meeting will be held at Cleveland Public Auditorium on Friday, January 7th at 8 P. M. and the dinner will be at Schenley Restaurant, Saturday, January 8th at 7 P. M. All indications point to record attendance at both events.

New G. P. U. Frame-ups Exposed; Purge Continues

(Continued from page 1)

Case of Juliet Stuart Poyntz

Moscow Izvestia printed a story announcing that I had declared the Robinsons to be "innocent American citizens," and implying that the "American Trotskyists" must therefore have had early and conspiratorial contact with the "suspicious" Robinsons.

The Izvestia story is a typical Stalinist lie, woven out of the whole cloth! We challenge the C.P. gutter-press to produce a single quotation from any newspaper interview with Shachtman or any of his comrades in which the phrase "innocent American citizens" appears. We did not say this because, like the Stalinist prostitutes, we believe the "Robinsons" to be guilty, on faith and in advance, but because we do not know who they are, where they come from, what they are charged with and whether or not they are guilty of the charge at least, not yet.

Lie No. 2: the report that the "Robinsons" visited comrade Trotsky in Mexico before leaving for Moscow. We challenge the Stalinists to present an iota of evidence to prove their charge. We state categorically that this story, appearing first in the capitalist press, was deliberately disseminated among Moscow newspapermen by the Soviet officials at the very time when these same officials were denying that they had the slightest knowledge of the whereabouts of the "Robinsons" or that they had any charges against them. Let the Stalinist penmen dare deny that the story of the "visit to Trotsky" was deliberately and lyingly inspired by the Moscow authorities!

And a word of advice to the Stalinist liars when they prepare their "denials": For your own sake, let them be a little better than your statement on the disappearance of Juliet Stuart Poyntz.

We do not know what happened to Juliet Poyntz, where she is and how she came to be there—if she is still alive. But we do know enough about the unscrupulousness of the G.P.U. and its record in the Soviet Union, in Spain and in France, to be fortified against any "surprises" that may yet develop in this case. For the time being, we need only say that the first statement issued by the C.P. was not only false, but suspiciously false—for it declared that Poyntz had severed her relations with the C.P. in 1928, which was promptly disproved in the press by facts and photographs demonstrating her party membership for years after that date. The second statement of the C. P.—that Poyntz was not a party member after 1934—is also a lie, for we know that she spoke in public as a C. P. representative as late as 1935.

There is no perfect murder, it is said. However, that may be, the Stalinists are certainly incapable of a perfect frame-up. These clumsy, police-minded bureaucrats trip up at every other step. Their most recent attempts are no exception. The brand of "Frame-Up" is still engraved, ineradicably, on their brazen foreheads.

Expulsion of W.A.A. Militants Meets With Strong Opposition

NEW YORK.—The drive by the Workers Alliance leadership against the rank and file continues.

With the membership rallying more and more around the program of the Progressive Group in the Alliance, the top bureaucrats are getting really frantic.

Over one hundred members of the Alliance jammed the city office demanding an open hearing for Ida Lipp, militant member from Brooklyn, who was bureaucratically expelled from her local for daring to criticize the so-called Washington March which arrived in the Capital—after Congress had adjourned.

The trumped-up charges against Neil Harrison, chairman of local 15, show to what degrading depths the Stalinist leadership of the Alliance has fallen. The charges being made up of a pack of lies and slanders, the local to a man has asked for an open hearing on this case, too.

An open hearing on all expulsion cases against the militant rank and file is what the leadership fears most. Their interests are best served in the dark. They fear open hearings—the accused and the membership at large do not fear them, but welcome them; what's more, will fight for them. The open hearing before the eyes and ears of the membership—that is the best method of exposing the slanderous, disrupting, framed-up charges of the Stalinist bureaucrats at the head of the Alliance.

Militants are being persecuted.

Members, afraid of losing the miserable pittance they are allotted on relief, are blackmailed to support Communist party "drives" for this, that or the other money-grubbing purpose of the Stalinists. Stamps issued by the Communist party are pasted into Workers Alliance books—and woe to the poor unfortunate member who refuses to shell out.

With such disgusting and cheap tricks to milk the unemployed of their sorely needed nickels and dimes, it is no wonder that the Alliance is rapidly declining in membership, and that those stalwart enough to remain are coming into greater and greater conflict with the leadership.

In the meantime the conditions of the unemployed are truly appalling. Even if one is starving and freezing to death, it still takes from three to six weeks to get on relief. Thousands are being worn down and driven away by the red tape at the bureaus of the "little Flower."

And what is the solution offered by the Stalinist leadership? A march on Wall Street—to embarrass the bankers! Combined, of course, with the usual conferences with the mayor behind closed doors.

It is only the Progressive Group, organized by rank and file militants of the Alliance, that has offered any serious plans to combat the drive against the unemployed by the Federal and city administrations.