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### Convention Resolutions Stress Fight On War, Mass Work, Defense of Soviet Union by New Party

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nation of American imperialism to take the leadership in the struggle to keep its present most dangerous rival, especially in the Far East, from increasing its ration of the Asiatic market; earlier, in Cordell Hull's efforts to consolidate the dominant position of American imperialism at the Latin American conference in Buenos Aires; and subsequently by the sharp notes to Japan which are only a reflection of America's dogged intention of keeping the 'Open Door' open in China and preventing any other power from shutting off the United States from expansion upon the Asiatic continent."

"It is most unlikely that in the event of an inter-imperialist war, the United States will be one of the original belligerents. At the same time, it is just as unlikely that she will wait, as was the case in the last world war, for 32 months before entering the hostilities in order to emerge as the decisive victor. The comparative poverty of the European imperialist powers, as well as the speedier and more general destruction promised by the coming war, will determine the earlier intervention of American imperialism for the purpose of delivering, as in 1917, the decisive blow in the war and of having the decisive word in the division of the spoils."

"If the working class is unable to prevent the outbreak of war, and the United States enters directly into it, our party stands pledged to the traditional position of revolutionary Marxism. It will utilize the crisis of capitalist rule engendered by the war to prosecute the class struggle with the utmost intransigence, to strengthen the independent labor and revolutionary movement, and to bring the war to a close by the revolutionary overturn of capitalism and the establishment of proletarian rule in the form of the workers' state. Combating the chauvinistic wave, it will not only reject any and every form of class-collaboration, support of the war and of the capitalist government, but will work toward the defeat of the American capitalist class and its war regime by the proletarian revolution. Even if the United States were to be allied with the Soviet Union in a war against another imperialist power, this circumstance would not for a minute alter the imperialist character and aims of the war so far as the United States is concerned; neither, therefore, would there be any alteration in the position of our party with regard to American capitalism and its government and in our irreconcilable hostility towards them. The practical steps which our party would take in the course of its opposition to the war would, however, have to be decided in consideration of the need of facilitating the utmost material aid to the Soviet Union's armed forces in their war against an imperialist power, in conformity with our position of defense of the Soviet Union from imperialist assault."

### The Trade Union Resolution

Among the most important passages of the Trade Union Resolution are the following:

"The outstanding characteristics of the working class movement in the United States in the recent period, are the enormous growth of trade union movements which now embraces millions of workers never organized in the past; the development of the C.I.O. as the movement of the workers in the basic key and mass-production industries, organized in industrial unions, as contrasted with the classic A. F. of L. form of craft unions; the violent conflict between the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O., and the recent trend towards the unification of the two bodies; and the expansion of the powers and role of the federal government as 'mediator' in the conflict between the workers and the employers."

"A whole series of circumstances has now brought prominently to the fore the question of the unification of the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O.

The main responsibility for the split two years ago unquestionably lies on the shoulders of the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. By its reactionary control of the labor movement, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. sought to stifle every attempt to modify the obsolete craft union structure upon which it is based, and actively sabotaged all efforts to organize the unorganized, especially in the mass-production industries, on an industrial, that is, on the only conceivable basis.

"The formation of the C.I.O., its fight against the Green-Woll-Frey machine, its decisive plunge into the work of organizing the masses of the unskilled in the key industries, were progressive steps and more than warranted the active support given by the revolutionists to the C.I.O. as the progressive section of the labor movement. In its fight against the C.I.O., the leadership of the A. F. of L. played a disloyal and reactionary role. Instead of facilitating the work of organizing the big industries of the country, it stood in the way at every turn, joining in the union-breaking chorus of the employers and their apologists. In many cases, the A. F. of L. leadership even resorted to downright strike-breaking in an effort to stem the sensational advances made by the C.I.O.

"However, notwithstanding the wide rift that developed between the two sections of the labor movement, there are now strong forces at work for their unification. The setbacks suffered by the various sectors of the union movement in most recent times has strengthened the feeling that one united organization, instead of two antagonistic ones, would make it easier to win labor's battles against the employers. The defeat registered by the workers in the 'Little Steel' and similar strikes, has only served to emphasize the need of putting an end to the division in labor's camp. On top of this is the ominous deepening of the new crisis, which weakens labor's hold on industry and foreshadows an employers' offensive to reduce the workers' standards of living, annul all the gains made in the past period, and wipe out whatever union control has been established. The dangers of the crisis are reflected in the mounting sentiment among the organized workers throughout the country for a speedy unification of the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O. so that labor may be able to present a sorely needed common front against the capitalist class."

"Our party, together with every revolutionary and class conscious worker, takes a clear-cut position in favor of the earliest and completest possible unification of the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O., and also the hitherto unaffiliated Railroad Brotherhoods. The only condition, practically speaking, under which such a unity would be a step backward would be one binding the former C.I.O. unions to abandon the industrial form of organization and to divide themselves into scores of impotent craft unions. Unification on such a basis is, however, scarcely conceivable."

"The reactionary role which the A. F. of L. leadership has played is clearly established in the minds of the class conscious workers. From this it should not follow that the revolutionary vanguard makes a fetish of the C.I.O. and worships unquestioningly at its shrine. Prior to the establishment of the unity of the two organizations, which the revolutionists must advocate as their general line, they work in either organization, according to specific local circumstances."

"The sit-down strike is not a universal substitute for the classic form of strike action (quitting the plant, mass picket line, etc.) but it is indubitably a proved contribution to proletarian tactics and an effective weapon in their struggle. Its initiation and extension are a tribute to the resourcefulness of the proletariat in finding new and powerful methods of fighting its class oppressors. It has served, moreover, the important end of breaking down an awesome respect for bourgeois private property which the ruling class instills in the proletariat from its childhood onward. It is our duty to defend this weapon against all attempts to suppress, discredit or outlaw it. This does not signify that we advocate the indiscriminate use of the sit-down at all times and in all cases. We judge its feasibility on the same general consideration which determined our tactics in strikes: general objective conditions, the state of the union, mood of the membership, position of the employers and the state, possibilities of achieving the objective, etc., etc.

"The sit-down strike has, however, an even more significant future before it than the ordinary strike. Precisely because it challenges the fundamental tenet of capitalism, the inviolable right of private property in the means of production, the sit-down strike seems to be one of the main indicated means of mass action—by virtue of the seizure of the plants and their temporary control by workers' committees—for realizing the slogan in the coming period of: 'Workers' Control of Production!' The deepening of the present crisis will push this slogan to the foreground and, pro-

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## Left Wing Delegates Found Socialist Workers Party at Convention in Chicago

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"Deeper into the trade unions," was the slogan advocated by Cannon. "We must root ourselves in the mass movement in order to guarantee the proletarian character of our party," he declared.

### To Fight Stalinism

The resolution pointed out that, "the idea that the Communist (Stalinist) party represents a progressive factor in the trade union movement is based upon outworn memories of the past. The C. P. today is a reactionary force in the labor movement and must be dealt with as such. It is a pernicious influence which the vanguard elements and militants must fight tooth and nail to eliminate from the working class movement."

The convention unanimously adopted the trade union resolution.

Special supplementary reports on various industrial fields were given to the convention.

Glen Tumble, California Socialist Party secretary, outlined the situation and the work in the Maritime industry on the West Coast where many comrades are active in building a militant labor movement despite the sabotage of the Stalinist clique headed by Harry Bridges. Work in the rubber-workers unions and a critical analysis of the role of the party during the past three years was discussed

by B. J. Widick, former research director of the United Rubber Workers of America.

### Dunne Reports

V. R. Dunne, outstanding leader of the Minneapolis labor movement, pointed out the lessons of the trade union work accomplished in that area. He described the treacherous role played by the Stalinists in their efforts to smash the union movement since it rejected their policies of betrayal and fame-up.

The auto and steel union problems were described by workers in those fields; union reports from throughout the country in various fields followed.

Specific recommendations on trade union work were drawn up by a committee elected at the convention. They center around the idea of integrating and coordinating the activities of the party on a national scale.

The unemployed situation and the need for revitalizing unemployed organizations like the Workers Alliance through conduct of militant action for relief demands was stressed in that discussion on the agenda. A committee headed by Art Preis of Toledo offered detailed recommendations for work in the unemployed fields.

Discussions were to follow on the Soviet Union, the Spanish revolution, the war in the Far East, party organization and the party press.

## Convention Sidelights

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was Comrade Ted Dostal's first experience at a convention of a revolutionary party. Dostal is a leader in the Warehouse Union in St. Paul. We don't of course have to tell here again the story of Vincent and Grant Dunne, Farrell Dobbs, Carl Skoglund, and their co-workers in that great Band of trade union leaders who head the party in Minneapolis.

Ohio: Toledo sent to the convention leaders in the auto and unemployed fields. Art Preis, active in the first Chevrolet strike, and the General Motors strike in 1935, editor of the official strike bulletin, "Strike Truth" was the delegate. Ted Selander, a leader of the Auto-Lite strike, and now in unemployed work, extricated himself from the WAA tangle long enough to attend the convention.

Akron sent a delegation of members led by Comrade B. J. Widick.

From Cleveland came a leading figure in the United Auto Workers and from Youngstown a member of the Teamsters' Union.

New Jersey: Ruben Plaskett, Negro worker from Newark, and an Appeal member since last year was a delegate. Purged from the TWOC, he is now in WAA work. He characterizes the Newark party members as not "just theoreticians, but practical workers."

Michigan: Active in the UAW, and a worker in the Detroit Ford

plant, Jerry Lamont is keeping his hand on the pulse of the now quiescent union movement in auto. Lamont joined the movement first as an YSLer. Also from Detroit, a former European Socialist who recently joined the party, gave a demonstration not long ago of Bolshevik trade union tactics. He joined the company union which dominated an auto parts factory, and after three weeks work brought the whole plant into the UAW.

Montana: From the desert and mountains of Montana came two revolutionists who have kept alive their convictions and activities since the early wobbly days, Comrades Rodney Salisbury and John Boulds. In the C. P. for years, Salisbury held the elective post of Sheriff in Sheridan County (Billings) for a considerable length of time. This post he abandoned along with his Stalinist connections in 1934 when he joined the Left Opposition. Now he is doing important work as president of the Montana Farm Holiday Association.

North Dakota: With experience in workers' revolutionary organizations since 1896, Comrade William Beallou, of Fargo, who participated in the Debs campaigns, was a delegate. There are good prospects of building the party in Fargo.

Missouri: St. Louis and Joplin sent delegations who brought news that penetration into the mass fields is progressing in Missouri. From Joplin, Comrade H., active in the lead and zinc union was a delegate.