

Roosevelt Confers With Big Business To Save Capitalism

Prepares Drive on Labor As Sham Fight Against Bosses Nears End

In a headline-making move harking back to the old Hoover days, Roosevelt last week issued summons to scores of the Best Citizens to drop in at the White House for a series of confidential Fireside Chats. The personnel of the first get-together must have been a stiff dose for our New Deal socialists to swallow. Three of the five present were leading directors of the Liberty League: Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., chairman of General Motors; Ernest T. Weir, the great champion of the right of labor to remain for ever free from unionism; and Colby M. Chester, president of General Foods and chairman of the National Manufacturers Association. The remaining two were M. W. Clement, president of Pennsylvania Railroad, and Lewis H. Brown, head of Johns-Manville Corporation, one of the biggest companies in the building supply industry.

A few days later, a new set arrived, this time including Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan & Co., Ower D. Young of General Electric, and others. But on this occasion our Best Citizens were found to include also none other than John L. Lewis and Philip Murray. And, lo and behold, the spokesman for the group at the end of the interview turned out to be the same John L. Lewis. The newspapers reported how Lamont, Young and the rest agreeably nodded their heads as Lewis completed his generally non-committal statement.

Stages Sham Fight

While carrying out this move on one salient, the President was equally active on another and seemingly widely separated front. In his best rhetoric he was backing up Jackson and Ickes in their denunciation of monopolies; and in thunderous periods he was calling once more for death to the Utilities Holding Companies. For the twentieth time, the double-dealing of New Dealism was upsetting the political prophets.

However, Roosevelt cannot possibly afford to dispense with such oratorical ventures as the current series against monopolies and the Holding Companies. He won the confidence of the masses in this country and holds them in line through his elaborate front of progressivism and "social-mindedness." To drop this now would gravely undermine mass support not merely of himself but even of capitalism. Roosevelt must continue to appear in the public eye as the champion of the people against the "predatory minority." The day he abandons that role his political doom is sealed. The idea, widely discussed during the past six months, that Roosevelt might give up New Dealism and become an orthodox conservative politician along Liberty League lines, is, therefore, excluded for the present.

The anti-monopoly and anti-Holding Company emphasis is particularly appropriate and even necessary for Roosevelt at the present moment. It is chiefly his middle-class popular support which has lately been sliding away under the impact of the slump and the Tory attacks. Anti-monopoly propaganda—that is, propaganda against the biggest of big business—is above all an appeal to the fears and prejudices of the middle classes.

To Shift Blame

At the same time, this propaganda, together with these conferences with the big industrialists, prepares the ground for Roosevelt to shift the blame for the slump, if it continues and deepens, on to the shoulders of the Tories who, he will claim, refused to cooperate when cooperation was offered and urged. In this way, he avoids taking responsibility himself in the public eye, and hinders the people from tracing responsibility to its true source in the very nature of capitalism.

Roosevelt has, however, more concrete aims in these White House Conferences. There is no doubt that he would like to arrange certain "compromises" with business, which would con-

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W. Coast Unions Score Victories Over Stalinists

Sailors, Firemen Deal Heavy Blows To Bridges-C. P. Fakers

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Progressive and militant unionism won two smashing victories here over the Harry Bridges-Stalinist bureaucratic clique when the Sailor's Union in a land slide election endorsed the policies of Harry Lundeborg and the West Coast Marine Firemen's union ousted the Stalinist fakers who had been running their union and replaced them by a full opposition slate.

In the annual election, Lundeborg was re-elected as secretary-treasurer of the Sailor's union by a majority of nearly six to one. He got 2,496 votes against 453 for another candidate.

The policy of remaining independent during the next period from both the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. which Lundeborg and the entire progressive forces of the union advocated was overwhelmingly approved.

Endorse Amalgamation

The proposal to have an amalgamation of the West Coast Firemen's union with the Sailor's union to serve as a genuine base for real industrial unionism was also endorsed.

In the Firemen's union, R. F. Fitzgerald was defeated in his campaign for re-election as secretary by a vote of 1,472 to 1,052. Fitzgerald stood for Bridges and the other Stalinist fakers who cover themselves with the banner of the C. I. O. He was defeated by V. J. Malone, the candidate of the progressive forces in the union.

In all other contested posts in both the Sailor's and the Firemen's union, the progressives swept into office much to the dismay of the Stalinist bureaucrats.

All the howls of the Stalinist press and the pompous claims of Bridges as "beloved leader" of the West Coast labor movement were drowned in the thunderous chorus of the rank and file of the sea-going unions for real progressive unionism.

Bridges' plan to split the Firemen away from their support of the Sailor's union through his

BOSTON GREET'S NEW PARTY 1/2 WEEK-END MEET

BOSTON, Mass.—An enthusiastic audience of more than 135 greeted the launching of the Socialist Workers Party here at a Lenin memorial meeting last Sunday.

"Our Party is founded on the basic principles that Lenin taught the working class movement of the world," B. J. Widick, labor secretary of the S. W. P., who was the speaker, told the workers.

The previous night a Lenin memorial meeting was held in Lynn, with the same speaker.

2 CIO Leaders Urge Lewis To Talk With AFL

New Peace Move Will Give Impetus To Unity Urge

New York City.—Dissatisfaction with the break-up of unity negotiations between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. was voiced last week when two prominent C. I. O. top leaders attempted to place the responsibility of the break-up on John L. Lewis and urged resumption of the peace conferences.

Dave Dubinsky, president of the Int'l. Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Max Zaritsky, president of the Hatters Union, made the pleas for peace.

Although Dubinsky's statement is being used by A. F. of L. spokesmen like Mathew Woll and William Green in an attempt to whitewash the executive council bureaucrats of the A. F. of L. and to weaken the C. I. O., his public appeal for unity will have powerful repercussions in both sections of the labor movement.

The public criticism of John L. Lewis by Dubinsky brought into the open a long-smouldering dispute that has existed within the top leadership of the C. I. O. The militant tactics of the auto and rubber workers, especially their use of sit-downs, were tolerated by the C. I. O. but always frowned upon by Dubinsky.

Will Not Withdraw

"I want to state here that, although we are in disagreement on several fundamental points of policy and strategy we will not withdraw from the C. I. O.," Dubinsky declared, when criticizing Lewis for "breaking off negotiations."

Zaritsky, "We have assurance from those who participated in the last peace conference that the spokesmen for the A. F. of L. conceded the main points at issue advocated by the founders of the C. I. O. They specifically accepted the principle of the industrial form of organization; the mass production industries; the reinstatement of all the C. I. O. unions in the A. F. of L. after adjusting their proper jurisdictions; the removal of the power from the executive council to suspend international unions without a convention mandate."

Other C. I. O. leaders answered that the A. F. of L. committee which attended the peace conferences was without authority to negotiate a settlement. The attitudes of Woll and other A. F. of L. officials subsequently offers proof that the A. F. of L. executive council is more responsible for the break-off than Lewis. The A. F. of L. executive council, after all, forced the split in the labor movement, and sabotaged the industrial union drive wherever possible.



MAX ZARITSKY

Sentiment For Unity

The recent action of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor which refused to obey Green's orders to split the ranks of Pennsylvania labor by expelling the C. I. O. unions from the federation is an indication of the sentiment for unity in the ranks of labor. It symbolized the attitude of militant A. F. of L. unionists towards the reactionary executive council.

The increase in resolutions and telegrams sent to Washington by Local Unions of both the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. demanding unity with full recognition of the principles of industrial unionism is forcing the top officials towards unification.

New French Crisis Stirred By Break In The Popular Front

Sharper Clashes Loom In Class War As Workers' Burdens Increase

The breathing space offered French capitalism by the People's Front has come to an end.

The fall of the Chautemps government last Friday ushered in a new period of instability which, unless war intervenes, will not be terminated until the workers either take power or are beaten into submission by a frontal attack on their organizations.

Moscow Admits 'Robinsons' Held For 'Espionage'

Stalin's Latest Frame-Up Gets Under Way After Long Preparation

BY JUNIUS

The Soviet authorities have finally made formal admission that the couple variously known as "Robinson" and "Rubens" are in custody and under arrest.

The admission was made after many weeks of evasion, and two weeks of downright silence in the face of a cable of inquiry from the State Department at Washington.

Despite its fears that the "Robinson-Rubens" case is a botch the G. P. U. has found itself too deeply involved to withdraw.

With the acknowledgement of the fact that the "Robinsons" had been in a Soviet prison since early December—that is, some six weeks ago—came the announcement that the prisoners were being charged with espionage in behalf of a foreign power. A trial is expected shortly.

The trial—as we have predicted from the beginning of this case—will be another in the series of infamous frame-ups concocted by the Stalin regime and its G. P. U.

During the past weeks, of course, while hesitating as to whether to go through with the affair or scuttle it with an announcement that the missing couple had never been found, the G. P. U. has been preparing and rehearsing its instruments for a trial.

NOT A DOUBT

All circumstances of the "Robinson-Rubens" case point with deadly accuracy not only to frame-up in general, but to its particular nature and to the purpose it pursues.

The fact that the Moscow statement declares that Rubens was apprehended in the industrial region of the Urals, is additional emphasis.

From the very beginning, the Stalinist press has cautiously sought to connect the "Robinsons" with Leon Trotsky, the American Trotskyists and... a Japanese spy plot in the United States and the Soviet Union. No doubt the G. P. U. will now attempt, by means of the customary "confessions," to realize this despicable scheme in the open.

INSPIRED RUMORS BEGIN

They started their newspaper campaign with inspired rumors (including a phony dispatch from Moscow via Warsaw, that the "Robinsons" had been to Mexico to

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All Out At Lenin Memorial Meeting Sunday Cannon to Speak on Great Leader's Teaching

James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will speak at the Lenin Memorial Meeting, this Sunday evening, January 23, 8:15 P. M., at Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th Street.

The speaker will summarize the teachings of the great leader of the working class who died fourteen years ago. As a representative of the American Communist Party in its early days, Comrade Cannon visited the Soviet Union on several occasions. In 1922 he attended the Fourth Congress of the Comintern—the last under Lenin's leadership—and had the opportunity to discuss many problems with Lenin.

Particular attention will be given to the specific meaning of Lenin's theory and practice for the tasks of the American work-

ing class today. The meeting, will be the first public presentation of the decisions and plans of the founding convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

There is no more suitable occasion for such a beginning than the anniversary meeting of Lenin's death—which fourteen years ago cleared the road for the Stalinist reaction.

DETROIT, Mich.—Although motor company production schedules for the 1938 season are expected to be higher than in any year except 1929, 100,000 less workers are employed in the auto industry, according to a survey made by a Scripps-Howard reporter. Technological improvements caused the unemployment.

After 19 months of the People's Front the workers face the same bald alternative which has been before them ever since the Fascist rising in February, 1934.

Workers Headed Off

The power that was in their grasp during the great strikes of June, 1936, was saved for the bourgeoisie by the People's Front.

The workers were headed off by the joint and strenuous efforts of the Socialist and Stalinist parties. Through them, the bourgeoisie dispersed the titanic energies of the aroused masses far more efficiently than it ever could have done by using the weapon of Fascism. In this consists the real substance of the claim that People's Frontism saved France from a Fascist coup. The bourgeoisie preferred the services of Blum-Thorez to de la Rocque-Doriot, especially after it found itself helpless in the face of the paralyzing June strike wave. That is why the "social legislation" of Blum was rushed through parliament with scarcely a dissenting vote.

But Blum's social legislation could not solve the fundamental crisis of French capitalism any more than it could provide any permanent satisfaction to the workers. Unimproved trade balances and the increased burdens of national defense, cheerfully supported by Blum-Thorez & Co., coupled to the determination of the employers to make the workers bear the charges of the shortened hours and increased wages, soon led to a new impasse.

Gains Wiped Out

Prices and the cost of living rose steeply, wiping out the meager gains of the June strikes. The price index for all commodities rose from 400 in September, 1935, to 608 on January 8, 1938. Foodstuffs rocketed in the same period from an index of 438 to 622.

The flight of capital, the steady depletion of the gold reserves, and the weakening of the franc, led to the introduction of Blum's famous "pause" followed by his removal in favor of Chautemps in June, 1937. Drastic retrenchments followed. The franc was devalued and the cost of living rose to prohibitive heights. The workers soon made their answer.

Strikes began to break out and assumed the proportions of a new major wave of struggle when at the end of the year the employers unitedly resisted renewal of the collective contracts, concluded in June, 1936, contracts, incidentally, they had consistently sabotaged and vitiated from the very date they were signed.

Chautemps Fails

Chautemps tried to stem the tide of strikes by calling another capital-labor conference and although Jouhaux and the Socialist-Stalinist leadership were ready to collaborate, the employers demanded more drastic methods. They boycotted Chautemps' conference. What they wanted became clear last Friday when Chautemps told the Communists in the Chamber to quit the government majority if they chose. The Socialists, fearful of leaving the Stalinists a clear field with the discontented masses, pulled their nine ministers out of the government and forced its fall.

Georges Bonnet, the finance minister whose policies have been synonymous for the workers with new privations, taxes, and high prices, was repudiated by the Socialists. Leon Blum, however, came forward with an open proposal for the creation of a government of national union, and

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Leninism Can't Be Embalmed



LENINISM

Carlo