

## Stalinists Try Frame-Up In Canada

### Furriers' Union Aroused To Fight Charges Made Against Federman

Bulletin

TORONTO.—Appearing before a large general membership meeting of Locals 40 and 100 of the Toronto Furriers, a workers' jury, which had been selected to hear charges brought against Max Federman, Vice-President of the International Fur Workers Union and Manager of the Toronto Locals, brought in a verdict of acquittal.

The committee unanimously exonerated Federman and declared that in their opinion all the charges were a frame-up.

TORONTO, Canada.—The Stalinists in the Furriers International with Ben Gold as the spearhead, are preparing to conduct a local version of the Moscow trials. The victim is Max Federman, a Vice-President of the International Fur Workers Union and Manager of Toronto Locals 40 and 100.

The charges that were brought against Federman alleged that he had mishandled union funds. In the meantime the whole of the Toronto labor movement boils over the development, especially the local furriers.

For the past few months, two of the Stalinist-selected vice-presidents of the International were busy in Toronto cooking the plot. These unfortunate agents were assigned to their unenviable jobs by the recommendation of a sub-committee of the General Executive Board of the International.

Gold Tactics Repudiated

Since their arrival in Canada, it is reported, the agents of Gold have occupied themselves exclusively with the work of discrediting Federman. They have terrorized, blackmailed, bribed and threatened to withdraw the union charter. Nevertheless, the overwhelming belief of the furriers is that the charges against Max Federman are patently framed. The workers in Canada quickly established their disgust with the antics of the two vice-presidents and with Ben Gold, who came to Toronto personally.

At a general meeting conducted by Locals 40 and 100; Federman received a clear vote of confidence. The recommendation to suspend him was defeated by a carefully counted vote of 268 to 71. A Trial Committee of seven was elected, with the sanction of both vice-presidents.

The Trial Committee had a number of sessions. Witnesses were questioned and it prepared to present the results of its investigation. With the knowledge that the findings of the Committee would uncover the whole rotten frame-up, the Stalinist vice-presidents rushed a call to Ben Gold. Gold's first step in Toronto was to get to work on the members of the committee.

With an arbitrary sweep, in violation of all the principles of the workers movement, Gold discharged three of the regularly elected members of the Committee. He then appeared at a general membership meeting and demanded the dissolution of the Trial Committee, proposing a new one.

Maneuver Defeated

The Toronto furriers were not in the least intimidated. By a huge majority, they decided that the remaining four members of the Committee should bring in their verdict in the name of the whole committee of seven. The Committee will report at the next general membership meeting.

Max Federman is a Left Paole Zionist, well liked by the workers, who was largely responsible for the amalgamation of all fur unions into one International. He has stated repeatedly his willingness to submit to any decision of an impartial workers' tribunal. During the last election in Canada, Federman supported the CCF, Canadian social democratic party, against the Stalinists. This is undoubtedly one of the causes for the CP campaign to drive him from the union.

## Stolberg CIO Articles Faulty In Analysis

### His Attack On Stalinist Disruption In Unions Weakened By Whitewash of Leaders and Support of Class Collaboration

By B. J. Widick

Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

While exposing the treacherous and disruptive role of the Stalinist Party in the labor movement, the Benjamin Stolberg articles, "Inside the C.I.O.," printed in the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers, suffered from the usual defects of liberal

journalism. Although many labor leaders inspired by the Stalinists have condemned Stolberg's articles, not a single prominent person outside the Stalinist circle has as yet disagreed with his fundamental analysis of the Stalinists.

Correct Premise

## SECOND STEEL PLANT STRUCK IN NEW JERSEY

Following the splendid example set by their brothers in Harrison last week, when a 36-hour sit-down forced the management to concede to almost every demand they made, the workers at Crucible Steel Company's Spaulding and Jennings plant in Jersey City went out on strike Tuesday January 25.

The rank-and-file action committee, elected by the local union, Lodge 1339 of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, issued a leaflet in the plant, listing the demands of the strikers, among which were demands to put an end to the stagger system; time and a half for Saturday, Sunday and overtime; equal pay for the same kind of work; an immediate end to all discriminations; settlement of all grievances; reinstatement of all union men unjustly fired; and "that the company recognize the shop stewards, officers and grievance committee of the union as being exempt from the provisions of the seniority clause and that during their term of office the above are the last to be laid off in the plant."

Have No Illusions

Because of the highly skilled nature of the work at the plant, and the resultant difficulty in obtaining strikebreakers, the strikers felt they could afford to obey the anti-labor ordinance of Hague's administration: Pickets were limited to four at a time and wore large buttons instead of placards. But the workers are under no illusions about the administration. At all times, a goodly number of the 300 union members employed at the time of the strike vote are to be found across the street from the plant in the union headquarters, ready to act to protect their strike.

Thus far, the police, deterred by the tremendous amount of publicity given the anti-Move campaign, have made no moves to break the strike. With messages of solidarity coming in from Crucible and other steel lodges all over the country, the Jersey City Crucible workers are determined to stay out until a real victory over the company has been won.

## Labor Secretary Widick Blasts Hague Before Jersey Unionists

NEWARK, N. J.—"Success in the Crucible steel strike in Jersey City will be the greatest impetus to union organization in Boss Hague's domain that is possible," B. J. Widick, labor secretary of the Socialist Workers Party pointed out last Sunday night in a talk to nearly 100 trade unionists and party members here.

"The strategy of the steel workers offers a key to the C.I.O. problem of how to fight I-am-the-law Hague, and win," Widick declared.

"By involving the workers and the people of Jersey City against Hague and aiding them in getting elementary demands from the bosses we will split the seemingly united backing that Hague claims to have."

"The C.I.O. must emphasize its fight with Hague that the right of collective bargaining, of union organization, are the fundamental issues, with other political considerations coming in as secondary at the present time," Widick declared.

"The Communist Party today is neither red nor Communist nor revolutionary," Stolberg wrote. "It is, in every country a branch of the Stalinist dictatorship. The force of the Communists derives from their totalitarian source in Moscow. They are interested in the American labor movement only insofar as they can use it for the political purposes of Stalinist world policy. Hence, they must rule or ruin."

This basic evaluation is correct. The West Coast labor movement, above all, has discovered through bitter experience, the real role played by the Stalinists.

Only a few weeks ago, the Sailors and Firemen unions repudiated in unmistakable fashion the Stalinist policies which Harry Bridges advocates under the guise of the C.I.O.

Militant, progressive and class-conscious unionism is feared by the Stalinists because of the obstacles it presents to the warmongering policies advocated by Earl Browder and his henchmen. Stolberg's expose of the Stalinists was, however, weakened by his inadequate explanation of this basic motive behind the "rule or ruin" order of Stalin to the Browder-Bridges clique.

False Characterization

The United Automobile Workers of America has been the scene of the latest and most intensive campaign of the Stalinists to capture a powerful union movement.

Stolberg devoted considerable space to exposing the double-dealing and unprincipled maneuvers of the Stalinists there. Yet he lost much of the force of his arguments by a false characterization of Homer Martin, the sky-pilot president of the auto workers.

"Homer Martin and his administration in the U.A.W. are known as the 'progressive' group. That name describes their program," Stolberg said. "The opposition known as the 'unity' faction is bent on only one thing—to control or destroy Martin and to try to impose upon the union a Communist-guided leadership."

Actually, Homer Martin's program in its trade union aspects differs not in the least from that of the unprincipled Stalinist clique opposing him. Heywood Brown, writing in the New Republic, might find fault with Stolberg's praise of Martin, but he neglects to mention that Martin's opponents are of the same

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## Seamen Stop Stalinists In Union Fight

### Rank-and-File Rescind Plan Hitting At West Coast Brothers

NEW YORK.—Rank-and-file revolt against the Communist Party's bitter campaign to destroy the militant and progressive Sailors' Union of the Pacific reached a peak last Tuesday when a group of militants in the National Maritime Union succeeded in rescinding the Stalinist plan to pull West Coast men off East Coast ships.

A special joint meeting of the Deck, Engine and Cooks Divisions of the National Maritime Union, C.I.O., was called by members of the District Committee in New York on January 24. The purpose of the meeting was to "take proper action" with regard to a telegram from Joe Curran, National organizer of the NMU, from the Pacific Coast, which asserted that the Sailors' Union of the Pacific was yanking NMU men off the West Coast ships regardless of whether they had strike clearances.

An Old Trick

News of this special meeting was given out in the morning of the meeting day. Hundreds of seamen on the ships in the harbor could not be notified of the meeting in time.

The only point on the agenda was the resolution by Moe Byrne which was presented by Jack Lawrensen, both stooges of the Communist Party. The resolution claimed that whereas the N.M.U. district officials had repeatedly made attempts to bring about unity with the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, which was "discriminating" against N.M.U. men, therefore members of the S.U.P. shall be given until February 28 to transfer into the N.M.U. or else be pulled off of all East Coast ships. This resolution, if passed, meant an open declaration of war by the N.M.U. against the militant Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

National Action Need

Jerry King, Lemmon and other progressive officials opposed this resolution. They and other rank-and-file fought hard, pointing to the need of national action to defeat the government Mediation Bill, showing that Lundeberg was for striking against this Federal attempt to hog-tie the seamen, and that it was time to fight the ship-owners and not our brother seamen. The Communist Party machine was too ineffective. The seamen were caught unawares. By a vote of 480 to 221 the "civil war" resolution was passed. The progressives were set back but not defeated.

Throughout the next morning, petitions were circulated among the N.M.U. men, on ships and ashore, calling for a second special meeting that night to rescind the former action and condemn the undemocratic method of passing the "civil war" resolution. Hundreds of names on the petition resulted in another joint meeting.

The progressives' resolution with the signatures was presented. A motion to table was made by the first person recognized by the chair. And then followed an hour of discussion on points of order, which resulted finally in the passing of the motion to table. But immediately Lemmon presented the chair with another written motion in line with the first one which took precedence over a motion from the floor to adjourn.

Finks Not Tolerated

N.M.U. men who sailed for months on the West Coast, with papers to prove it, testified that full-fledged members of the N.M.U. who had strike clearances are sailing from S.U.P. halls on West Coast ships, but that the West Coast was not tolerating anyone possessing a Copeland "finkbook" or who could not prove his strike-clearances. The arguments of those fighting for the "civil war" resolution were that "the S.U.P. does not want national unity because they voted for independence and because

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PRES. ROOSEVELT

## Dockmen Tie Up Ships, Cargoes In Puerto Rico

### Strikers Demand Wage Hike To 75 cents; Ortiz Arrested

Luis Vergne Ortiz, political secretary of the Independent Communist Party of Puerto Rico (Fourth International), was arrested by the San Juan Chief of Police on January 7 for distributing a leaflet on the dock workers' strike. The longshoremen's strike, led by the C.I.O., began January 3, since which time no cargo has entered or left the island's ports. Crews on board the ships, by refusing to furnish steam for the winches, have made it impossible for the strike to be broken by scabs on the docks.

The strikers' demands included wages of 75 cents an hour (the prevailing rate before the strike was 32 cents), a wage settlement with clerks, checkers, and watchmen, recently organized by the C.I.O., and the discharge of cargo at ports of destination regardless of the size of the cargo. The companies have offered 40 cents an hour and, although the strikers have lowered their demand to 60 cents, have refused to budge. Nor will they discuss a wage settlement with the clerks and watchmen or the question of delivering cargo to ports of destination.

Asks Strike Support

The leaflet comrade Vergne Ortiz was distributing called for united support of the strike by all workers—members of the C.I.O. and the Free Federation affiliated with the A.F. of L., employed and unemployed—and advocated industrial unionism pointing to the joint action of the ships' crews and the longshoremen as an example of the effectiveness of that form of unionism. He was arrested, however, on the ground that the leaflet did not bear the name of the printer. When the leaflet was shown to be mimeographed, the charge was dismissed. This is but one example of the pressure used by the police under the influence of the manager of the Bull Steamship Line, who was president of the Police Commission until recently. His influence over the police system has not been curtailed by his resignation from his official post.

The Puerto Rican government, faced with an outrageous increase in the cost of necessities, has been forced to set up a commission to regulate prices. Prices have been skyrocketed so high as to put dried codfish beyond the means of the underpaid workers. Even in normal times, food prices in Puerto Rico are from 20 to 25 per cent higher than in New York City, since the island imports most of its food (including the beans, rice, and codfish that make up the diet of the great bulk of the people), and pays excessive freight rates and U.S. tariffs. When it is recalled that the Puerto Rican worker has to spend over 90 per cent of his income for food,

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# Roosevelt Speeds Drive Toward War With Navy Budget

## BROWDER BACKS F. D. R.; HEARST BACKS F. D. R.

In both his annual budget message and his special message to Congress on naval appropriations, President Roosevelt has proposed the biggest armaments program the United States has ever had in its peace-time history.

Why? To "protect the coast-lines" of the United States from attack? Preposterous. No man in his right senses believes that the territory of the United States is liable to attack from a foreign power.

Hugh S. Johnson has stated that "there is no great power that could invade continental United States."

Major-General Douglas MacArthur has declared, that an attack on American ports is impossible.

The late Admiral William S. Sims said that no foreign power or group of powers could operate across the oceans and stand a chance in combat with forces operating from the home base.

ARMS FOR WAR ABROAD

The fact is that the unprecedented increase in armaments proposed by President ("I hate war!") Roosevelt is for the defense and expansion of American interests abroad. The bigger army and the bigger navy are meant for war!

What interests have the American masses abroad? What do they need a war to protect? The billions of dollars invested by Wall Street in all parts of the world? The collection of war debts to American financiers in Europe? The markets of American capitalism in Asia and Latin America?

That's what the army and the navy are being built for.

Who stands back of the monstrous armaments bill of Roosevelt?

COMMUNIST PARTY OKAYS BIG NAVY

As was to be expected, Browder and his Communist party are behind the president. They do not have a single word of criticism of the phenomenal naval appropriations which Roosevelt demands. In actual fact, they endorse the Big Navy by the argument that the reason for it lies with the "war-loving fascist" nations. In actual fact, they endorse the Big Navy by explaining how it can be built up in the "best" way. The Daily Worker (Jan. 31, 1938) says:

"The demand should be raised: 'make the rich pay' for the increased armaments and increase all social legislation to balance the human budget."

Which is another way of saying: So long as the rich pay for a Bigger Navy, we have no objections to it! The Communist Party has no objection to a Bigger Army and Navy with which the workers of the world are to shoot each other into perdition, so long as Wall Street pays for every shell that is used.

HEARST ALSO SATISFIED

The President and Browder are not alone in their endorsement of the armaments campaign. They are joined by William Randolph Hearst. The Hearst papers have given their unequalled support to the President's increased armaments demand. The New York Journal and American (Jan. 31, 1938) writes:

"The President has listened to the VOICE OF AMERICA. . . . President Roosevelt's stirring words and his practical application of them should receive the backing of the whole country. We are now pledged to defense—a DEFENSIVE PEACE—and a NAVY SECOND TO NONE. LET CONGRESS ACT AT ONCE."

A fine united front for the billion-dollar arms program: Roosevelt, Browder and Hearst. All together for imperialist war!

Instead of a billion dollars for workers' homes, they are ready to give you a billion dollars for workers' graves.

Down with the war-mongers and their lawyers! Not a man and not a penny for their capitalist wars!

## Lynn Food Workers' Unity Move Aids Fight Against Sahraf Chain

BULLETIN

The Sharaf strike was settled over the week end with the Foodworkers Union winning a preferential shop, wage increases, reduction in hours and time and a half for overtime, besides vacations with pay.

LYNN, Mass.—A strong plea for A.F.L.-C.I.O. unity was made here last week by John Poulos, business agent of the Foodworkers union. Poulos' statement, which contained a promise that the C.I.O. Foodworkers union here would observe jurisdictional lines, gave added support to the three-weeks' strike at Sharaf's, a chain restaurant company.

This move smashed the hope of Sharaf that he could get the A.

F. of L. bartenders' union to fight against the C.I.O. unions for higher wages, lower hours and better working conditions.

Poulos Makes Denial

Sharaf advertised in the daily press that the walk-out in his company was caused by a jurisdictional dispute between the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O.

"Nothing is further from the truth," Poulos replied. "The strike was called after seven weeks of fruitless negotiations, marked by Sharaf's refusal to concede any contract and demands of the workers," he added.

Assurance was given to the A. F. of L. that the bartender would be allowed to remain in his own

## Will Spend Billion In Arms Program

### Huge Outlay Bares War Aims of American Imperialism

By Maurice Spector

President Roosevelt's message to Congress last week called for naval and military appropriations totalling one billion dollars, the greatest "preparedness" budget in the peace-time history of the country.

In 1932 the Democratic platform had attacked Hoover for burdening a tax-ridden populace with military and naval expenditures "approaching a billion dollars annually." That is a thing of the past. In complete disregard of the express anti-war sentiment of the masses, Roosevelt continues spelling out the imperialist logic of his Chicago speech.

Stages of Policy

There he contemptuously jettisoned the laboriously constructed Neutrality policy of Congress; next he ordered American diplomatic participation, in the Brussels Conference; now comes the huge arms bill; and on February 14 there is to be American participation in the British naval demonstration at Singapore.

Glib assurances are forthcoming that the appropriations are a measure of "national defense." But nobody need innocently imagine that "national defense" here merely means coastal defenses because it does not. As Admiral William D. Leahy made plain, it means the defense of American imperialist interests wherever they be.

It means for example the self-avowed "defense" of the Latin and Caribbean Americans under the Monroe Doctrine. It means the defense of Standard Oil tankers on the Yangtze. Finally it means implementing the policy Roosevelt enunciated of the quarantine, which is another word for blockade anywhere on the seven seas.

Pushed By Depression

American imperialism has emerged from its phase of temporary quiescence. To this the collapse of the New Deal has powerfully contributed. The more catastrophic his domestic policies turn out, the more insistently Franklin (Happy Days Are Here Again) Roosevelt will turn in the direction of the world market.

Representative Maverick, a friend of the Administration, charges that "the New Deal has more or less abandoned all its economic ideals and is riding horses in all directions without getting anywhere." The cost of living travels upwards. The millions of unemployed continue to add to their ranks. The trust busters and brain trusters are at sixes and sevens. The New Deal has labored mightily and alphabetically to produce another slump, in accord with the laws of a decaying capitalism.

As the keenest representative of the American ruling class, Roosevelt realizes that the predatory set-up of Versailles is in ruins. The struggle for redistribution of the world's spoils, colonies, materials, and markets, is in process. In the future the post-war antagonism between the British Empire and American interests, temporarily tided over by the naval parity agreement, will again come to the fore. But at this juncture Roosevelt is cautiously moving in the direction of Anglo-American collaboration against the lean hungry fascist powers, menacing the accumulated fat of both. The New York Times reports that the news of the Roosevelt message was received in London almost "as if Britain had won a war victory."

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