

# Widick Leaves On Midwestern Lecture Tour

### To Organize Party Union Activities During Two Months on Road

B. J. Widick, Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, began a lecture and organization tour last Monday, Feb. 21, at Boston. The tour will carry him as far west as Minneapolis and Omaha and keep him on the road for two months.

Comrade Widick will address mass meetings, meet with party committees and fractions of active trade unionists, and in general aid in the organization work of the Party. Provision has been made for him to remain several days in the most important centers, in order to combine his party organization work with public mass meetings.

#### Union Work Stressed

Comrade Widick will devote special time and attention to the problem of organizing the party's trade union activities in the various localities.

At the same time, the National Office has announced that the first order of 50,000 leaflets, containing the party's Anti-War Manifesto, has come from the press. It is planned to print and distribute a million copies of this manifesto in the course of the anti-war campaign.

#### Tour Schedule

The schedule of Comrade Widick's tour is as follows:

Boston, Feb. 21, 22; Lynn, Feb. 23, 24, 25; Boston, Feb. 26, 27; New York City, Feb. 28.

Philadelphia, March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; New York City, March 6, 7; Akron, March 8, 9; Youngstown, March 10; Akron, March 11, 12; Cleveland, March 13, 14, 15; Toledo, March 16; Detroit, March 17, 18; Chicago, March 19, 20, 21, 22; Indiana Harbor, March 23, 24; Chicago, March 25, 26; Minneapolis, St. Paul and vicinity, March 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, April 1.

Omaha, April 2; Kansas City, April 3, 4; Joplin, April, 5; St. Louis, April 6, 7; Indianapolis, April 9, 10; Louisville, April 11; Columbus, April 12; Newcastle, April 13; Reading, April 14; Allentown, April 15, 16; Quakertown, April 17.

# Denver Teachers Face Union Split

### Political Issues Injected By Stalinists Cause Threat of Bolt

DENVER—Local 203, American Federation of Teachers, faces a crisis that may result in nearly half the members, including twenty-two founders of the local, leaving the union. After more than a year's effort to work with a Stalinist majority in control of the local, this large minority has decided to demand from the national headquarters a charter for a local separate from the Stalinist majority, threatening to leave the Federation if this is denied.

Local 203 was founded about seven years ago by teachers of trades and mechanical arts in the Denver public school system. Practically all the union members at that time, and for several years subsequent, were members of the unions in the trades in which they had worked before entering the teaching field.

#### Abuses and Violations

A few years ago the Stalinists began to throw all the strength they could muster into Local 203, and then by virtue of their numerical majority began a long series of abuses and violations of all sane principles of trade unionism. They used their majority to appropriate all the offices of the union. At every opportunity they used the union as a front to carry forward the political program and to advance the activities of the Communist Party. Foisting their politics on the union, they set up innumerable "co-ordinating committees" to gain a foot-hold in labor assemblies by electing only their own members as delegates from the Teachers' Union.

By their maneuvering, the Stalinists succeeded in securing for their members and stooges teaching posts in the Denver Labor College, an institution endorsed and supported by the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly. As a result of carrying their methods into the Labor College, they found themselves removed as teachers, and in retaliation instituted a "workers' school," at which leading officials of the Communist Party taught the new Stalinist line in classes variously designated.

# Progressives Lead Car Strike In Minneapolis

### Unsatisfactory Terms Forced Through By Union Officers

MINNEAPOLIS.—The first effective street car strike in the history of the Twin Cities, completely tying up bus and trolley lines in Minneapolis and St. Paul for nearly two days, February 14-15, was one of the most magnificent demonstrations of labor strength which the Northwest has seen.

Nor was the present strike called by the Executive Board of the local. One lone progressive on the Board, Howard Carlson, initiated the strike. The men have many grievances, but the immediate issue was the dismissal of some men when their cars were replaced by one-man cars. The news reached Carlson Sunday night, and through the night he gathered a group of militants, who succeeded in tying up one car barn, then sent delegations to close the others. By Monday morning the tie-up was complete!

#### Fakers On The Job

Wigstrom, the business agent, and Coles, the president, attempted without success to induce the men to return to work. Sam Berrong, international vice-president, was hastily summoned from Milwaukee to end the strike.

Berrong, able and smooth, did a neat job. The Lake Street strike committee led by Carlson (formally representing the first barn that went out but actually leading the strike) was divided in two, one half shut up in the union office while the other half was locked up with Berrong and the company officials.

In exhausting negotiations lasting fourteen hours, the progressives on the strike committee, without sleep since Sunday morning, were beaten down by Tuesday afternoon. An agreement was accepted by the Executive Board, which gave the men nothing except 30-day notice before one-man cars replace the regular cars, and the empty right to negotiate before and after the cars are thus replaced.

#### No Meeting Called

Correctly fearing that the men, if called together in a strike meeting to discuss issues, would formulate a strike program, the Executive Board had successfully prevented the men from getting together. Now, with the backing of Berrong, they decided not to submit the strike settlement to the men!

But this was too much even for this body of inexperienced men, striking for the first time in their lives, most of them only recently in the union. Berrong's orders to return to work were disobeyed; the few cars that went out were ordered back by other barns. The city was tied up again Tuesday evening.

Whereupon Berrong yielded to the extent of convoking a membership meeting. But what a meeting! In a hall seating only part of the men, with speakers limited only to those who supported the agreement, with Berrong himself speaking twice and using all the authority of the international union to ram it down their throats, the agreement went through 754-167.

#### Two Other Strikes

Two strikes still going on are living evidence to the street car men how strikes can be carried on under progressive leaders. 450 cab drivers have the town shut tight, holding out for a \$24 weekly guaranteed wage minimum instead of the purely commission system. The Clark Wood-ware Manufacturing Company tried to hire strikebreakers among the national guardsmen, but quick action by Furniture Workers Local 1859 exposed the secret preparations. The plant is shut tight, and will stay so until Clark provides a 5-cent hourly increase for all workers and a 50-cent hourly minimum for beginners. Firm leadership has carried these workers to victory in previous strikes and will undoubtedly do so again. Here is a lesson and example for the street-car strikers.

The older members of the Teachers' Union by this time were becoming highly incensed and rebellious. Dissatisfied with the results of negotiations with the national office, they now seem determined to stand firm in their demand for a break with the Stalinists. They insist that they be allowed to function under a different charter, or they will withdraw completely from the union. It is extremely unfortunate that this disruptive and domineering course of the Stalinist majority has brought about a situation of split and weakness at the very time when the crying need of the organization in this part of the country is a drive to educate the vast majority of teachers to the elementary necessity of trade union organization.

# Rubber Unions Confronted By Fight For Life

### Lay-offs and Attacks On Organizations Open Critical Period

BY BLAKE LEAR

AKRON.—The present inevitable and deep-going crisis of U. S. capitalism has placed the rubber workers face to face with the most grave situation since the early precarious organization days. With the unions it is now very close to a situation of make or break.

For really the first time, the rubber worker has been confronted with the dilemma of capitalism. The unions, fighting the employers tooth and nail in a manly and courageous struggle, established themselves in the seemingly impregnable rubber shops. The fruits of victory seemed within their grasp. Then came the recession—and the lay-offs.

#### Unions Fall Back

Before the lay-offs, the unions virtually stood with their hands at their sides. Now the membership is dwindling, confusion and discouragement are spreading, while the leadership counsels patience. The howl of the Greater Akron Association sharpens. The demand for the lowering of wages, the speed-up, and the lengthening of hours becomes more insistent. Lay-offs, according to the United Rubber Workers, amount to 25 per cent; most of the other factory employees are working one, two, or perhaps three days. Everywhere the question is raised: What is the answer to lay-offs?

Increasing numbers of the leading militants are coming to understand that the union can survive only if every member fights for:

1. Absolute retention of the six-hour day.
2. Rejection of a proposal by Goodyear Local for "impartial" arbitration boards to act in the event of the management and the union failing to agree in negotiations—a proposal which would rule out strike action of any sort.
3. Strict plant-wide seniority in lay-offs and rehiring.
4. Stabilization of work at not less than 18 hours for those still employed, since to go lower will shift discontent from the company to the union as the cause of the trouble, prevent (at least for the time being) those "working" from getting relief, and stifle their militancy by imbuing them with hopes for an upturn in business.
5. United action by employed for adequate relief, including supplementary relief for those "working."

# Party Resolutions

## ON THE NATURE OF THE PARTY

Following is the full text of the resolution on "The Internal Situation and the Character of the Party" adopted by the founding convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Socialist Workers Party is a revolutionary Marxian party, based on a definite program, whose aim is the organization of the working class in the struggle for power and the transformation of the existing social order. All of its activities, its methods and its internal regime are subordinated to this aim and are designed to serve it.

Only a self-acting and critical-minded membership is capable of forging and consolidating such a party and of solving its problems by collective thought, discussion and experience.

From this follows the need of assuring the widest party democracy in the ranks of the organization.

The struggle for power organized and led by the revolutionary party is the most ruthless and irreconcilable struggle in all history. A loosely-knit, heterogeneous, undisciplined, untrained organization is utterly incapable of accomplishing such world-historical tasks as the proletariat and the revolutionary party are confronted with in the present era. This is all the more emphatically true in the light of the singularly difficult position of our party and the extraordinary persecution to which it is subjected. From this follows the party's unconditional demand upon all its members for complete discipline in all the public activities and actions of the organization.

### Principle of Democratic Centralism

Leadership and centralized direction are indispensable prerequisites for any sustained and disciplined action, especially in the party that sets itself the aim of leading the collective efforts of the proletariat in its struggle against capitalism. Without a strong and firm Central Committee, having the power to act promptly and effectively in the name of the party and to supervise, coordinate and direct all its activities without exception, the very idea of a revolutionary party is a meaningless jest.

It is from these considerations, based upon the whole of the experience of working class struggle throughout the world in the last century, that we derive the Leninist principle of organization, namely, democratic centralism. The same experience has demonstrated that there are no absolute guarantees for the preservation of the principle of democratic centralism, and no rigid formula that can be set down in advance, a priori, for the application of it under any and all circumstances. Proceeding from certain fundamental conceptions, the problem of applying the principle of democratic centralism differently under different conditions and stages of development of the struggle, can be solved only in relation to the concrete situation, in the course of the tests and experience through which the movement passes, and on the basis of the most fruitful and healthy inter-relationship of the leading bodies of the party and its rank and file.

The leadership of the party must be under the control of the membership, its policies must always be open to criticism, discussion and rectification by the rank and file within properly established forms and limits, and the leading bodies themselves subject to formal recall or alteration. The membership of the party has the right to demand and expect the greatest responsibility from the leaders, precisely because of the position they occupy in the movement. The selection of comrades to the positions of leadership means the conferring of an extraordinary responsibility. The warrant for this position must be proved, not once, but continuously by the leadership itself.

### Responsibilities of Leadership

It is under obligation to set the highest example of responsibility, devotion, sacrifice and complete identification with the party itself and its daily life and action. It must display the ability to defend its policies before the membership of the party, and to defend the line of the party and the party as a whole before the working class in general. Sustained party activity, not broken or disrupted by abrupt and disorienting changes, presupposes not only a continuity of tradition and a systematic development of party policy, but also the continuity of leadership. It is an important sign of a serious and firmly constituted party, of a party really engaged in productive work in the class struggle, that it throws up, out of its ranks, cadres of more or less able leading comrades, tested for their qualities of endurance and trustworthiness, and that it thus insures a certain stability and continuity of leadership by such a cadre.

Continuity of leadership does not, however, signify the automatic self-perpetuation of leadership. Constant renewal of its ranks by means of additions and, when necessary, replacements, is the only assurance that the party has, that its leadership will not succumb to the effects of dry-rot, that it will not be burdened with deadwood, that it will avoid the corrosion of conservatism and dilettantism, that it will not be the object of conflict

between the older elements and the younger, that the old and basic cadre will be refreshed by new blood, that the leadership as a whole will not become purely bureaucratic "committee men" with a life that is remote from the real life of the party and the activities of the rank and file. Like leadership, membership itself in the party implies certain definite rights.

Party membership confers the fullest freedom of discussion, debate, and criticism inside the ranks of the party, limited only by such decisions and provisions as are made by the party itself or by bodies to which it assigns this function. Affiliation to the party confers upon each member the right of being democratically represented at all policy-making assemblies of the party (from branch to national and international convention), and the right of the final and decisive vote in determining the program, policies and leadership of the party.

### Responsibilities of Membership

With party rights, the membership has also certain definite obligations. The theoretical and political character of the party is determined by its program, which forms the lines delimiting the revolutionary party from all other parties, groups, and tendencies in the working class. The first obligation of party membership is loyal acceptance of the program of the party and regular affiliation to one of the basic units of the party. The party requires of every member the acceptance of its discipline and the carrying on of his activity in accordance with the program of the party, with the decisions adopted by its conventions, and with the policies formulated and directed by the party leadership. Party membership implies the obligation of one hundred percent loyalty to the organization, the rejection of all agents of other, hostile groups in its ranks, and intolerance of divided loyalties in general. Membership in the party necessitates a minimum of activity in the organization, as established by the proper unit, and under the direction of the party; it necessitates the fulfillment of all the tasks which the party assigns to each member. Party membership implies the obligation upon every member to contribute materially to the support of the organization in accordance with his means.

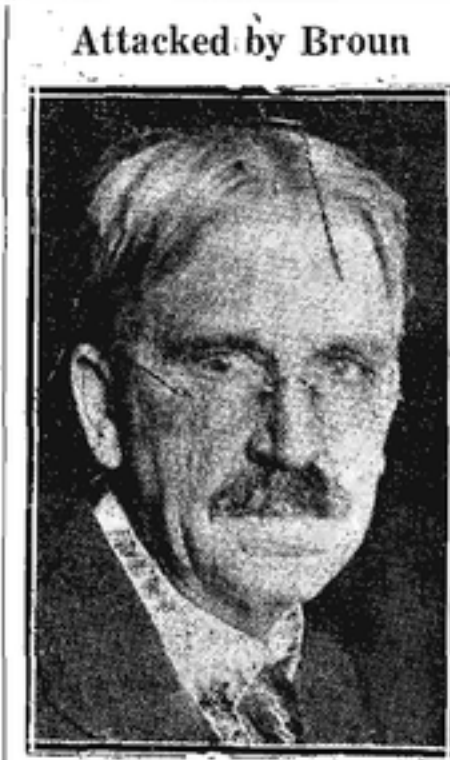
From the foregoing it follows that the party seeks to include in its ranks all the revolutionary, class conscious and militant workers who stand on its program and are active in building the movement in a disciplined manner. The revolutionary Marxian party rejects not only the arbitrariness and bureaucratism of the C.P., but also the spurious and deceptive "all-inclusiveness" of the Thomas-Fyler-Hoan party, which is a sham and a fraud. Experience has proved conclusively that this "all-inclusiveness" paralyzes the party in general and the revolutionary left wing in particular, suppressing and bureaucratically hounding the latter while giving free rein to the right wing to commit the greatest crimes in the name of socialism and the party. The S.W.P. seeks to be inclusive only in this sense: that it accepts into its ranks those who accept its program and rejects from membership those who reject its program.

### Inner Party Discussion

The rights of each individual member, as set forth above, do not imply that the membership, as a whole, namely, the party itself, does not possess rights of its own. The party as a whole has the right to demand that its work be not disrupted and disorganized, and has the right to take all the measures which it finds necessary to assure its regular and normal functioning. The rights of any individual member are distinctly secondary to the rights of the party membership as a whole. Party democracy means not only the most scrupulous protection of the rule of the majority. The party is therefore entitled to organize the discussion and to determine its forms and limits.

All inner-party discussion must be organized from the point of view that the party is not a discussion club, which debates interminably on any and all questions at any and all times, without arriving at a binding decision that enables the organization to act, but from the point of view that we are a disciplined party of revolutionary action. The party in general not only has the right, therefore, to organize the discussion in accordance with the requirements of the situation, but the lower units of the party must be given the right, in the interests of the struggle against the disruption and disorganization of the party's work, to call irresponsible elements to order and, if need be, to eject them from the ranks.

The decisions of the national party convention are binding on all party members without exception and they conclude the discussion on all those disputed questions upon which a decision has been taken. Any party member violating the decisions of the convention, or attempting to revive discussion in regard to them without formal authorization of the party, puts himself thereby in opposition to the party and forfeits his right to membership. All party organizations are authorized and instructed to take any measures necessary to enforce this rule.



JOHN DEWEY

# Hook Answers! Broun Attack On John Dewey

### Asks Pointed Questions In Reply To Columnist's Slandering Article

The following letter was sent by Sidney Hook, well-known Marxist scholar, to the New Republic, which published only a small portion of it.

The Editors, New Republic.

In his attack upon Professor John Dewey in the columns of the New Republic (Jan. 12, 1938), Heywood Broun not only exceeded the limits of *Narrenfreiheit* but was guilty of irresponsible misstatement of Professor Dewey's position.

Anyone who has examined the context of Professor Dewey's remarks in the Washington Post—which Broun admittedly has not done—will see that they bore upon the implications of the Trotsky Commission report for America. They were illustrated by a direct reference to the use which the Communist Party and press were making of the Corcoran case in Minneapolis.

#### Dewey's Warning

Professor Dewey did not say that Communist Party members should be barred from the C.I.O. or any other labor union because of their views. He warned against factionalism and against the familiar Moscow tactics of frame-up and slander as deadly to the unity of the labor movement.

In asserting that the Stalinists are striving wholeheartedly for the unity of labor, Heywood Broun shows that it is he who is behind in his homework, not Professor Dewey. Part of the public oath which all members of the Communist Party are required to take is "to drive the Lovestonites out of the labor movement" and "to drive the Trotskyites out of the labor movement."

#### Stalinists' Real Aim

Since in effect anybody who opposes the Communist Party on important measures is labelled a Trotskyite, this means that every independent-thinking union member, or leader is slated for railroad as soon as the Stalinists feel strong enough to get away with it.

It requires considerable cheek for Heywood Broun to ask whether Professor Dewey "seriously means to contend that certain workers should be barred from union membership because of their political or economic views." This is precisely the view of the Communist Party, as the above-cited slogans prove.

Before Heywood Broun undertakes to whitewash the role of the Stalinists in the labor movement, let him explain the following:

#### Explain All This

- (1) The attempt of the Daily Worker to smear Minneapolis trade unionists of Local 544 by practically charging them with complicity in the assassination of Patrick Corcoran, on the ground of their alleged Trotskyist sympathies.
- (2) The use of phony affidavits by West Coast Stalinists in the C.I.O. to prove that Meyer Lewis, A.F. of L. representative, had hired R. J. Bell to kill Harry Bridges, despite the wire sent them by George Cole, regional director of the C.I.O., warning that Bell was "unreliable and no good."
- (3) The resolution of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, condemning the Western Worker and the Communist Party for libelous assertions of gangsterism against its leaders and authorizing legal action for criminal libel against the Western Worker.

# Swiss Tribunal Convicts GPU

(Continued from page 1)

Bulletin reveal that they have at their disposal proof that Rossi (alias Rous), the actual assassin of Reiss, had also been chosen to murder Trotsky. For the time being, the editors confine themselves merely to pointing out that among Rossi's belongings were discovered the following items: a map of Mexico city and its suburbs; a street directory of Mexico City; a map of Mexico; a number of American addresses, and, most important of all, a duplicate of Rossi's application to the Mexican consulate for a visa to Mexico.

(For further details on the Reiss murder see "Soviet Union Notes" by John G. Wright on Page 3).

(4) The resolution of the Central Labor Council of San Francisco, condemning the Stalinists for attempted frame-up tactics.

(5) The Communist Party campaign against Homer Martin and the "Lovestonites" in the Auto Workers Union.

These are only some of the more outstanding incidents. I, for one, am in favor of Broun's suggestion that a neutral group of investigators be called together to consider how the Communist Party works for unity in the labor movement. Things have come to such a pass that it is impossible to expose the nefarious tactics of the Communist Party without Broun, its unofficial trouble-shooter, crying "red-baiting."

If the Stalinists are red, then Roosevelt is a Trotskyist. If Heywood Broun sees fit to join the hue and cry of the Communist Party against Homer Martin, a C.I.O. leader, why is it forbidden to criticize, on the basis of authentic evidence, the machinations of those Stalinists in the C.I.O. whose first loyalty is to the Communist Party and not to labor?

SIDNEY HOOK.  
Jan. 12, 1938.

# San Pedro Longshoremen Fight To Keep Hiring Hall

SAN PEDRO, Cal.—Securing the support of most of the maritime unions on the Pacific Coast, San Pedro longshoremen are threatening a stoppage of work if a receiver recently appointed by Judge Reubin Schmidt of the Los Angeles Superior Court is ordered to take control of the union hiring hall.

In an action brought by a few members of the International Longshoremen Association 38-82 Inc. (A. F. of L.), who are endeavoring to prevent the majority of members of the union from joining the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (C.I.O.), Judge Schmidt rendered a decision appointing a receiver to take control of the incorporated union and its hiring hall and enjoining the officers of the union from causing its affiliation with the I.L.W.U. or from using union funds to assist the organization of the I.L.W.U.

#### Protest Meeting Held

Upon announcement of this decision, the Longshoremen called for the cessation of all work in the harbor as a protest and held a mass meeting at which the men agreed to call a strike if the receiver actually took office.

The longshoremen protested the court's interference in the internal affairs of the union and declared that rather than submit to a decision permitting a small minority, assisted by a court receiver, to rule their job rights they would go out on strike.

# Beal Defense Wins Strong Supporters

(Continued from page 1)

Wash., and John T. Bernard of Eveleth, Minn.

Among the outstanding writers now in the defense group are Ferdinand Lundberg, author of "America's Sixty Families"; Edmund Wilson, one of the leading literary critics; Hendrik Willem Van Loon, author of "The Arts"; John Chamberlain, author and critic; Eugene Lyons, author of "Assignment in Utopia"; Sidney Howard, John Dos Passos, James T. Farrell, Rose Wilder Lane, H. R. Werner, Lincoln Colcord, Helen Woodward, Ludwig Lore and James Rorty.

Educators of national importance active in the defense include Prof. Paul H. Douglas of Chi-

cago University; Alvin Johnson, head of the New School for Social Research; Sidney Hook of New York University; and Paul Brissenden of Columbia University.

Among other members of the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred E. Beal are Alfred M. Bingham, Marion P. Burroughs, Abraham Cahan, V. F. Calverton, Richard T. Cox, Zara DuPont, Abraham Epstein, Morris Feinstein, Benjamin Gitlow, Rubin Guskin, Elizabeth Gilman, Jed Harris, Hazel Hawthorne, John Herling, Frank M. Hill, Jacob Hillquit, Gail Hillson, John Haynes Holmes, Harry W. Laidler, Lucy Robbins Lang, Suzanne LaFollette, Pierre Loving, Bertha M. Mailly, Charles Malambeth, A. J. Muste, Liston Oak, Meyer Schapiro, Anna Shapiro, Samuel Shore, Clara G. Stillman, Benjamin Stollberg, Norman Thomas, Carlo Tresca, Harry Weinberger and others.

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(Continued from page 1)

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before six o'clock Monday evening.

POLISH WORKERS CLUB dance and entertainment at their new headquarters, 74 St. Marks Pl., Saturday, Feb. 26, 8:30 P. M., 25 cents.

WILLIAMSBURG SOCIAL, at the new headquarters, 158 Lewis Avenue, Brooklyn. Famous Red Dancers and Refreshments, Sat. February 26.

ROOM WANTED. Young man would like to share room, apartment or studio with congenial, single, white S. M. in care of The SOCIALIST APPEAL.