

Workers Resist Scab-Herding Police in Detroit Battle

Force Closing Of Screw Plant

Thousands Join Strikers To Prevent Movement Of Scabs

DETROIT—Two days of bitter picket-line battles involving injury to 25 strikers and strike sympathizers as a result of clashes with the police, shut down tight the plant of the Federal Screw Workers here last week. Militant members of the United Automobile Workers put to rout the scabs and their police protectors.

The 300 strikers were aided in holding the picket line firm by nearly 5,000, sympathizers, mostly residents of the industrial neighborhood around the plant. Cops and scabs were bombarded with a barrage of bricks from the huge crowd of workers.

Fight Wage Cut

The strike was called Monday of last week by the U. A. W. members when the company arbitrarily cut the wage-scale ten per cent. Tuesday morning, police, using their clubs freely and armed with tear gas, broke through the picket line and escorted 20 scabs into the plant.

At closing time the police again brutally clubbed their way through the picket line and hurried the scabs away.

News of the encounter swept through the neighborhood, and Wednesday found the strikers prepared for a real battle. A first-aid tent was set up, the pickets nailed their placards on heavy sticks, and the huge crowd of neighborhood residents gathered, in solid sympathy with the strikers.

Scabs Escorted

At closing time, the police again prepared to evacuate the strike-breakers from the plant but this time the strikers were ready. When 150 foot policemen and 15 mounted officers attempted to escort the scabs to their automobiles parked five blocks away, they were forced to fight every foot of the way. The battle lasted over 45 minutes and extended over the entire five blocks.

While the scabs escaped, the cops got more than a taste of their own medicine. Five were forced to undergo hospital treatment. "Cracked heads" among the officers were numerous.

Ten strikers were arrested and sixteen treated for injuries at the union's first-aid tent. That the real victory lay with the strikers was shown when the company announced that the plant would remain closed. Negotiations between the union and the company are expected to begin shortly.

WORKERS HOLD POWER PLANTS IN MICHIGAN

(Continued from page 1)

Foremen and supervisors were ejected, but operations were maintained, with power still flowing throughout this vast industrial area.

Governor Frank Murphy, returning from a sojourn in Florida, promptly called a conference between the strikers and the company in Detroit, where the agreement was reached this Monday. Evacuation of the plants was the first demand of the company, and Murphy backed them completely in this. He declared that the seizure of the plants was "indefensible, illegal and cannot be justified." Such aggressive and significant strike tactics cannot be condoned by even a "labor-loving" governor.

The union was demanding the renewal of a contract won a year ago, when a similar strike shut off the power for twenty-four hours, and a guarantee of no wage cuts.

One of the company's chief weapons has been the Independent Power Employees Association, Inc., a paper union fostered by the company. This outfit, equipped with high-powered legal advisers, is demanding a National Labor Relations Board election. The maneuver has only one purpose—to give the company a legal cloak for refusal to sign with the C.I.O. union.

Trailing along on this path is the Electrical Workers Union, an A.F. of L. affiliate, which is also demanding an election and threatening to call a strike if the company signs with the C.I.O. Such tactics are completely exposed when the real union men go on strike and demonstrate

Electrical Workers Score Fine Victory

MINNEAPOLIS.—The electrical workers have smashed the union-busting scheme of the Northern States Power Company, the full story of which was published in the Socialist Appeal of March 26.

After all its bluster, the company resumed relations with the union under the existing agreement, and abandoned its demand for the ousting of militant union leaders.

The union, Local 292 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is in better shape than ever. The crisis precipitated by the company's action in breaking off relations and its demand for ousting of the union leaders, actually served to rally the union membership in solidarity with the leaders, and to cement together the Utilities Section and the Inside Workers, who were in two separate unions a year ago.

The whole membership is toned up by the short and successful fight, and the company is faced with a firm body determined to secure every concession to be gained on the basis of the agreement, which has another year to run.

FOOD WORKERS TO TAKE POLL ON APRIL 12

NEW YORK.—The election of officers in Waiters Union, Local 16, will take place at Palm Garden, April 12. This election is of vital importance to all members of the Union and to the entire union movement of New York. It is a clear-cut fight. All progressive and honest elements in the Union on the one side, and the Communist Party and racketeer combination on the other.

The Progressive Group, gathering around themselves all honest members of the Union, have an excellent chance to defeat the remnants of the Coulcher gang, and their corrupt Stalinist allies. The platform of the Progressive Group calls for one industrial union of all food workers in New York, and is steadfastly opposed to all racketeering elements. It is for democracy in the Union, and against domination of the union by any political organization.

In the election held last year, after the merger of the Stalinist-controlled Independent Food Workers Union, Local 119, with Local 16, members of the latter, having had no previous experience of the activities of Stalinist stooges, elected a number of them to office. A year's experience has convinced the progressives that between Browder's followers and Coulcher's gang, there is no choice.

The progressives have put up a full slate against the Stalinist racketeer fusion slate. They are confident that the members of Local 16 will unite with them in cleaning these harmful elements out of office.

Jersey Law Void, High Court Rules

Leaflet Distributors Need No Permits

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—Handbill distributors "covered" Mayor Hague's City Hall last Saturday as the dictatorial city government found its rigorous anti-handbill ordinance declared invalid by a Supreme Court ruling of March 28.

Distributors, ranging from representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union to the political quack, Jeff Barkitt, were celebrating the demise of an ordinance that had been used with crushing effectiveness against all attempts to organize the workers of this industrial area. Only last December, six C.I.O. members received jail sentences for violating the ordinance.

The decision of the Supreme Court, which held that the town of Griffin, Ga., violated the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press in requiring persons distributing circulars or advertisements to obtain a license, is of national importance to the labor movement. Jersey City, along with Dearborn, Mich., represents, not an isolated instance of repression by city ordinances, but a common practice of city fathers throughout the nation in fighting working class organiza-

Chicago Office Workers Reject C. P. Attempt To Oust Organizer

CHICAGO.—At a recent membership meeting of Local 24 of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.O., the rank-and-file administered an overwhelming defeat to the rule or ruin tactics practiced by the Stalinist leadership for the past six months.

The test occurred on the proposal of the Stalinist executive board to abolish the post of paid organizer for purposes of economy. The real purpose was to remove the organizer, Sandra Slotkin, because she could not be swung into the line of the Communist Party in its attempt to force its views on the union membership.

Why Stalinists Won

The Stalinists had obtained the majority of the executive board at the last election chiefly because the progressives and militants had organized too late to combat them. The net result of their leadership has been to alienate the general membership to a point where attendance at meetings has fallen to less than half that prior to their administration.

The membership who voted the Stalinists into office are now voting with their feet. The average member had no interest in long discussions on affiliation to the American League for Peace and Democracy, or an investigation into the Women's Charter. He felt that the union had no interest in his problems, his job, wages and conditions.

The present leadership, upon getting into office, began to throw all responsibility for organizing upon the membership. "Every member an organizer" was their slogan. To effect this, rank-and-file organizing committees were set up. At the head of the general organizing committee was placed an incompetent who could not even call a meeting to order, let alone lead the work of organizing. The or-

ganizer of the local was pushed more and more into the background.

Committees Disintegrate

Almost every committee rapidly disintegrated and very few members were brought into the local. Although these committees were supposed to be a step in the direction of union democracy, they were allowed no initiative, held no discussions to plan their work, but were called together primarily to be given assignments.

The local has been suffering financially for some time now. Its expenses rise constantly, and it cannot pay the excessively high per capita tax to the International. But the local has a good foundation and good possibilities for growth, which alone can overcome the financial difficulties.

The leadership, however, seized the present situation to strike a blow at the progressive elements. Remove the organizer and save money—that was their solution.

Proposal Voted Down

In this move, they had forgotten to reckon with the membership which has the union at heart. The last meeting was the largest membership meeting in over a year. The members turned out in full force because they understood that without full-time organizers the union cannot grow and overcome its present critical condition. By a vote of two to one, they defeated the proposal of the executive board and instructed the budget committee to include as one of its necessary expenditures the maintenance of an organizer in the field.

The plans of the Stalinists are quite clear now. If they cannot smash the opposition (and that means the majority of the members), they will undertake to destroy Local 24. They will propose to divide our small local

Chinese Garment Workers Strike in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO.—A determined strike by 100 Chinese dressmakers in the factory of the National Dollar Stores, Ltd., supplemented by picket lines around their retail stores in this city, marks a real step forward in the organization of the Chinese workers in this area.

The strike was called by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union after the Chinese owners of the National Dollar Stores, a retail chain of 37 stores, had broken the agreement covering their factory workers. Members of the Retail Clerks

Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, are respecting the picket lines manned by the Chinese strikers, leaving the retail stores without salespeople.

In face of nearly insuperable difficulties, the San Francisco I.L.G.W.U. Board, under the leadership of Jennie Matyas, I.L.G.W.U. organizer, succeeded toward the end of last year in organizing the National Dollar Store factory, largest Chinese dress factory in San Francisco. Chinese labor, employed mainly by their own Chinese boss class, has long been kept in docile subjection by appeals to national solidarity.

20,000 Furriers Tie Up N.Y. Shops

Industry Paralyzed By Strike Action

NEW YORK.—The New York City fur industry was closed down completely when 20,000 members of the International Fur Workers Union answered the strike call issued by the union's Joint Council Thursday of last week.

The general strike was voted the previous week, and affected 14,000 fur workers, 2,500 floor boys, several thousand Greek fur workers organized in a separate union, and designers, foremen and pattern-makers.

The strike came after a lock-out instituted early in February by the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers, Inc., followed by weeks of fruitless negotiations through the State Mediation Board and the intervention of Mayor LaGuardia. The union, plagued by unemployment and Stalinist leadership, has consistently avoided any form of militant activity, but has sought the aid of the City administration and the state apparatus.

All such efforts of "mediation" have failed, and the workers face a long fight with the manufacturers, who apparently intend to starve the workers into submission.

Ben Gold, international president of the union, is a well known Stalinist, and the policies of the Communist Party play no small part in accounting for the disadvantageous position the fur workers still find themselves in. Only recently this same Gold instigated a frame-up trial against a leader of the fur workers union in Toronto, Canada, which succeeded in disrupting

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Pastor Holmes Confirms 'Appeal' Story On Strong

In our issue of March 19 we carried a report of a meeting held at the Community Church in New York, in which Anna Louise Strong, the speaker, was quoted as saying: "Suppose the Moscow trials are frame-ups—so what?"

Miss Strong has been covering the country assiduously since then, continuing her campaign of "enlightenment" on the ticklish subject of the trial. Her itinerary took her to Boston on March 23.

She Got Indignant

There, speaking before 300 people (whereas she has always managed to attract upwards of 1,200 on past occasions to hear about her Halliburton-like peregrinations through Stalinland), she once again took up the cudgels in defense of Stalinism. The Daily Worker reported that at this meeting Miss Strong indignantly repudiated our "slandereous" charge that she had cast aspersions on the validity of the trials in her Community Church meeting.

"The gang in New York threw a barrage of questions at me, in order to confuse me," Miss Strong explained, in reference to the New York meeting. Before entering the hall she announced to one of our comrades selling the Appeal that she intended to sue our paper for libel.

It was reassuring, therefore, to receive a response to a communication we addressed to the Reverend John Haynes Holmes, who presided as chairman over Miss Strong's meeting in Community Church. "You are quite

into several smaller ones, with the aim of controlling each one separately.

They tried to smash the opposition by calling it "Trotskyite"—but that failed. A leading Stalinist member of the executive board explained to a newcomer that the trouble was being caused by a lot of Reds who had got into the union. But such "explanations" have acted as boomerangs against the Stalinists. They will therefore attempt the other method—ruin Local 24.

Members—On Guard!

The membership must be on guard against any moves for division which the Stalinists propose. Such a policy is suicidal at the present time. Against such policies, and against the bureaucratic control of the leadership, the membership must now organize.

A. L. P. SEC'Y GIVES BACKING TO BEAL GROUP

Rose Sends Letter Of Support To Defense Committee

NEW YORK.—Timidly and half-heartedly, as might have been expected, the American Labor Party has gone on record as being "deeply sympathetic" to the case of Fred E. Beal, leader of the 1929 Gastonia textile strike, who is now serving a 10-20 years' sentence in a North Carolina prison. The sentence, which Beal evaded for nearly ten years by escaping to the Soviet Union, was secured on a frame-up charge.

In a letter to the Non-Partisan Committee which is working for Beal's liberation, and which has received endorsement from numerous working class organizations and scores of liberals and intellectuals, the A. L. P., through its state executive secretary, Alex Rose, declares that "though the sympathies of the American Labor Party may always be found on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed, there are limitations imposed upon our participation in individual cases, in view of the fact that as a political party we have our own program and objective to achieve."

Rose, however, adds that his letter may be used by the Committee for "enlisting the support of any of our affiliated trade unions."

WIDICK SPEAKS TO FARMERS IN OLIVIA

OLIVIA, Minn.—B. J. Widick, labor secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, spoke here before a large group of farmers and unemployed, Wednesday, March 30. Farmers from many miles around turned out for the meeting, in spite of a heavy snow storm.

The meeting was marked by the extreme interest shown in the war question by those in attendance. Comrade Widick was asked many questions pertinent to the plight of the farmers and rural communities in war time.

The meeting was sponsored by the Olivia local of the Socialist Workers Party.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NEW YORK

THE RED PUPPETS—The Lower East Side Branch presents them again in "Fireside Chat" with Roosevelt, Hearst, Browder, Saturday, April 9, 1938. Swing music, bar specials. Sub. 25 cents. Children 5 cents.

BOB STILER, "On the Coming War," plus full length feature film, "Potemkin." Friday, April 8, 8 P. M., Irving Plaza, Irving Pl. and 15 Street. Auspices, Y.P.S.L.

CABARET, SWING BAND, FLOOR Show, Bar and Snacks, Sat. Apr. 9, 9 P. M., 916 Ninth Ave. at 53rd St. Cover charge: 25 cents. Upper West Side Branch, S.W.P.

PHILADELPHIA

ANTI-WAR MEETING, Friday, April 22, 8:20 P. M., 431 Pine Street. Speaker: Maurice Spector. Auspices: Socialist Workers Party. Admission 20 cents.

LOS ANGELES

SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK ONLY, WHAT? HTLEL WANTS, by Leon Trotsky, 25 cents. Orders filled promptly. 5 cents extra for postage. Modern Book Shop, 594 1/2 W 5th St., Los Angeles

Newsmen On Coast Vote Strike Action

SAN FRANCISCO.—Authority to call a strike against four San Francisco and one Oakland newspapers if they fail to comply with demands presented by the Northern California Newspaper Guild was voted overwhelmingly here Sunday of last week after an enthusiastic mass meeting of the newspaper workers.

A vote of 247 to 16 for strike action followed a report on negotiations, during which the publishers have repeatedly refused to consider the major demands of the Guild.

About 700 workers will be affected if a strike is called. Members of the unions in the mechanical departments were present at the Sunday meeting as observers, and it is likely that the mechanical workers will support the strike, if called.

Steps to set up a Guild newspaper which would be published during the strike have already been taken and a committee is now working out plans for such a project.

Marine Unions Hit By New Fink Hall

Crews Shipped Out By Maritime Body

NEW YORK.—The Maritime Commission struck at the most vital function of the seamen's unions with the opening last week of a government shipping hall, designed to replace union hiring halls in the manning of the 38 ships operated by the commission.

Captain Grenville Conway, local director of the Maritime Commission, stated that applicants would be required only to produce their licenses indicating fitness for duty. "We are not concerned," he stated, "with the union views or affiliations of the men."

Two ships, the Independence Hall and the Algic, have already been manned by this fink hall, after members of the National Maritime Union had refused to sail the ships. The Algic crew refused to work with two stool-pigeons who had been re-employed after testifying against union members in the famous "Algic case."

The crew of the Independence Hall were discharged when they refused to take lines from a tug of the Dalzell Towing Co., on the "unfair" list for discrimination against union members. Officials of the N. M. U. charged that A. F. of L. seamen, on orders from the Maritime Commission, replaced the N. M. U. crew and sailed the ship.

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WAA Convention Opens At Hippodrome In N. Y.

(Continued from page 1)

With this record of political "victories"—actually steady losses in relief conditions for the unemployed—the Stalinist leadership of the Alliance comes before the convention.

If this leadership was docile and meek in the face of the steadily worsening conditions of the unemployed, they showed real ruthlessness to critics of their own administration. Leading members who proposed militant policies were brought up on all sorts of trumped-up charges.

Progressives Rally

Responding to the needs of the unemployed and the threat of expulsions, progressive members of the Alliance formed a Progressive Group and succeeded in checking the expulsion campaign for the time being.

Also by their aggressive criticism they have compelled the leadership to make some moves against the 10 per cent cut. Faint-hearted and weak though these moves were, they will have far more effect in winning back the 10 per cent cut than all the behind-the-scenes diplomacy of the leadership.

Threats of "action" against the Progressives at this convention have been made. Whether these

threats will simmer down to the usual slander and red-baiting attacks by the Stalinist leaders, or develop into a move for expulsions, remains to be seen. In any case the Progressive Group must be on guard against any attempt to split the Workers Alliance.

For A New Course

It is now the task of the Workers Alliance to turn its back on the past line of the leadership and consciously seek to restore the morale and fighting spirit of the unemployed by:

- (1) Practicing and teaching reliance first and foremost on the organized strength of the unemployed themselves.
- (2) Working for the closest cooperation with the organized trade union movement.
- (3) Rejecting the People's Front policy of reliance on "progressive" politicians.
- (4) Restoring democracy to the organization. The practice of bringing critics of the administration and political opponents of Stalinism up on phony charges must cease.

These two fundamental points: Democratic procedure within the organization, and a fighting policy, will place the Workers Alliance back on the road to becoming an effective organization of the unemployed.

April New International Contains Timely Articles

Leon Trotsky reviews the campaign waged by the Anarchists, Mensheviks and other opponents of Bolshevism around the "Kronstadt issue" in an article entitled "The Hue and Cry Over Kronstadt" in the April issue of The New International, which came off the press last week. The real issues of the Kronstadt revolt 17 years ago are made clear in an uncompromising defense of the actions of the Bolsheviks.

In the same issue, Max Eastman addresses an open letter to Corliss Lamont, replying to Lamont's circular letters attacking the Trotsky Defense Committee.

The regular feature, Comments on the current scene by the editor, this month is devoted to the Trial of the 21, viewed in relation to the swift-moving events in Europe.

An inquiry into the "peace-

loving" nature of the great democracies is made by Maurice Spector and his findings revealed in "The Record of the Democracies." Dave Cowles analyzes the current economic situation and answers the question whether the new depression is "A Strike of Capital?"

In the valuable "Archives of the Revolution" the concluding installment of Trotsky's letter on the problems of the Chinese Revolution, written in 1927, is published.

Other articles by Jack Weber, S. Stanley and Walter Held, and book reviews by W. Keller, George Novack and Bernard Wolfe, round out the 32-page issue.

Single copies sell for 20 cents and yearly subscriptions may be obtained for \$2.00 by writing the New International, 116 University Place, New York City.

Appeal Army

Last week's eight-page anti-war issue of the Socialist Appeal was a success from every point of view. A press run increased by thousands has already been exhausted and orders still come in for more. Unfortunately we cannot fill the orders that came in late. Comments too numerous to list have started coming in, too—all enthusiastic and complimentary. There seems to be a growing sentiment in favor of a six or eight-page paper every week instead of now and then. If you get behind the Appeal as you have this past week, six or eight pages it will be in the not too distant future.

New York continues to lead the field in getting subs and increasing its bundle orders. Here are the increases for the week ending April 1st:

SUBS
Chicago, Ill. 3
Louisville, Ky. 1
Worcester, Mass. 1
Detroit, Mich. 2
Minneapolis 2
St. Paul 1
St. Louis 1
Billings, Mont. 1
Plentywood, Mont. 2
Camden, N. J. 1
Portal, N. D. 1

BUNDLE ORDER INCREASE

Boston, Mass. 25
Louisville, Ky. 10
Wiseton, Canada 6
Billings, Mont. 10
Chicago, Ill. 40
Gardner, Mass. 2
New York City 200
Columbus, Ohio 15

TOTAL INCREASE ... 308

The above figures do not include the extra copies of the anti-war issue ordered by locals all over the country, nor do they include the copies ordered for promotion purposes. Don't forget that the success of the Appeal drive is a reflection of the Party's success in its Anti-War Campaign.

And don't forget that May Day is only three weeks off. Plans should be made immediately for a mass distribution of the Appeal. We will give you a good paper if you will give us the orders for it. We expect bundle orders to be at least doubled and you can do it.

Socialist Appeal

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