

Unemployed Get No Lead At WAA Meet

N. Y. Convention Skirts
All Issues Vital
For Jobless

NEW YORK.—A three-day talk-fest in which anything and everything but the pressing problems of the unemployed victims of capitalism was discussed and dealt with—this was the convention of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York held at the Hippodrome last week.

Held tightly in the bureaucratic control of the Stalinists and their stooges, the convention was compelled to listen to dull and lengthy People's Front speeches and to spend an even longer time in debating a raise in membership dues. No time whatsoever was allowed for a discussion on W.P.A. resolutions, the urgent question of relief, or future policies. Resolutions on these and other vital matters were referred to the new joint board without being discussed or even seen by the delegates.

LaGuardia's Advice

First of all, the convention listened to Mayor LaGuardia. The only advice the "Little Flower" could offer the unemployed representatives was this: "If you want something just come to me, but don't picket."

This set the tone. Sam Wiseman, secretary-treasurer of the Alliance, then proceeded to read a People's Front speech—31 pages of it—through this sheaf of Stalinist wisdom had already been handed to the delegates in mimeographed form. This proceeding occupied, with asides, a full four hours. Wiseman called on the unemployed to support LaGuardia, but in the dulcet tones of a good People's Fronter gently chided the mayor for having made a 10 per cent cut in relief recently.

LaGuardia's police, he noted, arrested only 100 W.A.A. members in the last six months as compared with 1,000 in the same period a year previously.... "not that we condone a single arrest," he was careful to add.

"Democratic" Processes

And, of course, the unemployed should support Roosevelt, although the "peace-loving" president is not quite perfect. Collective security, as was only to be expected, loomed large in the remarks of this 100 per cent Stalinist. His next big point was a threat to outlaw the Progressive group.

Stalinist "democracy" began operating in all its nakedness immediately after the conclusion of Wiseman's long-drawn-out speech. A motion was carried forbidding the distribution to delegates of any resolutions or leaflets not approved by the administration. This motion, aimed at the Progressives, compelled the latter, and others as well, to hand copies of their resolutions to their fellow delegates outside the convention hall.

Lasser On Roosevelt

David Lasser, national president, and Herbert Benjamin, national secretary, following Wiseman's example, spoke at great length. Lasser outlined a national program for the Alliance which contained many good points, but he smeared it with praise of, and a call for reliance upon, the Roosevelt administration, finishing up with a plea for unity and democracy.

Jerry Benton and Moe Howard reported for the Unemployed and W.P.A. divisions. In discussing the reports, a delegate from Harlem, taking the red-baiting cue already given by Wiseman, launched into a denunciation of the "Trotskyist" disrupters in her local.

Shortly thereafter Rhoda Pearson, a leading Progressive, took the floor to expose a case of rank discrimination against a worker on a white collar project who committed the error of not following the Communist Party line. This project is run on strict Stalinist totalitarian lines. Disagree with Browder's latest fad and out you go, while the union stands to one side and applauds. No sooner had Rhoda Pearson mentioned the sacred name of

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150,000 FRENCH WORKERS OUT ON STRIKE TO DEFY DALADIER

Threatens Workers



PREMIER DALADIER

LABOR PLAYING PENNSYLVANIA BOSS POLITICS

Lewis Sets Out To Take
Over Democratic
Party Machine

Reputation by the A.F. of L. of the slate entered in the Pennsylvania Democratic primaries by Labor's Non-Partisan League and the C.I.O. again underlined the disastrous futility of labor's attempts to play capitalist politics. The A.F. of L. action last week completed the picture of confusion in this significant political struggle.

The powerful trade union movement of heavily industrialized Pennsylvania provides the basis for the rapid development of independent working class political action. Instead of building firmly upon this class basis, Lewis and the other leaders of Labor's Non-Partisan League set out to "capture the Democratic party" in Pennsylvania—that is, they set out to stifle the growing class-consciousness of the workers by keeping them tied in the net of capitalist politics.

Roosevelt Steers Clear

Lewis demanded a place on the regular Democratic slate for Thomas E. Kennedy, vice-president of the United Mine Workers and present lieutenant-governor of Pennsylvania. Governor Earle, New Deal stalwart and leader of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania, refused. The dispute was carried right up to the White House, but Roosevelt, playing safe, washed his hands and declined to intervene.

Earle stood by his refusal; and, after a few days hesitation, Lewis decided to run an opposition slate in the primaries. Kennedy was put up for the senatorial post. After a week more of jockeying around, the notorious Guffey, already at odds with the Earle group, threw his own machine behind the Kennedy slate.

Thus, Pennsylvania labor, instead of getting a chance to promote its own class interests, is being offered the old choice between two sets of capitalist ma-

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Plenum of S. W. P. Postponed One Week

The Plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party has been postponed from April 15 to the following week, and will open Friday, April 22. The change in date was necessary in order to permit a fuller attendance of National Committee members than would have been possible earlier. The anti-war mass rally at the Center Hotel, Friday, April 14, will be held as scheduled.

Red Flag Flies Again Over Paris Factories As Workers Resist Reactionary Offensive; Communists Vote For Daladier

A swiftly-spreading strike of more than 150,000 workers in the airplane, automobile, and motor factories around Paris was the immediate response of the French working class to the formation of the cabinet of Edouard Daladier.

Sit-down strikers in the Citroen plants were joined in rapid succession by the 35,000 workers in the Renault factories. Without awaiting orders from their unions or parties workers in one plant after another joined in the movement for defense of the workers' livelihood from the open capitalist offensive.

Floodgates Open

The collapse of the People's Front on the parliamentary field has opened once more the floodgates of proletarian activity. While Daladier, touted as the "strong man" in the present crisis, seeks to break the strikes again by arbitration, the new wave has every possibility of growing into a movement comparable to that which in June, 1936, stopped practically every wheel in French industry.

After two years of futile People's Front governments the workers are once again face to face with the economic and political impasse which provoked that great strike wave two years ago. Now they are freed from the blackmailing of their "own" government. They can feel free to present their demands with less restraint and to throw the whole weight of their revolutionary methods of struggle into the social balance. They understand that the Daladier government is a transition to a "national union" regime and that such a regime will mean a pitiless attack on their political rights and living standards. These they are prepared to defend.

Accord With Rome Looms

Internally the Daladier regime represents a transition to "national union." In the domain of foreign policy it will begin to shift France in the direction already blazed by Britain—agreement with Mussolini, and after him, Hitler, and abandonment of the Soviet Union to its own devices and to Hitler's designs.

Despite this the Socialists and Communists came into the

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NIPPON DRIVE BOGS DOWN IN CENTRAL CHINA

Chiang Kai-shek Given
Absolute Powers
By Congress

Japan's imperialist drive into Central China has been checked north of Hsuechow, the strategic junction of the Tientsin-Pukow and Lunghai railroads which is the key to the Central China plain.

Chinese troops massed along the north bank of the Grand Canal have not only succeeded in checking the Japanese advance but have reconquered lost ground and forced the invaders to retreat northward.

Against Great Odds

These victories—coming after the loss of the northern provinces and the coast to below Shanghai—testify to the enduring power and fighting capacity of the Chinese soldiery who are engaged in a terrific struggle in which all the odds provided by superior arms and equipment are against them.

But the course of the war against the Japanese imperialist invaders—like the fight against Franco in Spain—is not determined by military considerations alone. The Chinese armies are

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U. S. Puts Off Freedom For Philippines

War Strategy In Orient
Causes Revision
of Plans

One of the most significant of all the war moves of the Roosevelt administration was revealed April 6 in the announcement from Washington that an agreement had been reached between President Roosevelt and Manuel L. Quezon, president of the Philippine Commonwealth, whereby the economic independence of the Philippine Islands will be postponed until 1960, that is, 22 years hence.

The announcement followed hard upon the statement of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, former governor-general of the Islands (reported in last week's Socialist Appeal) that when the Islands gained their independence their seizure by Japan was a certainty.

Concession to Bourgeoisie

In 1936, the Tydings-McDuffie Act gave a promise of Filipino independence by July 4, 1946.

Roosevelt placed the act on the statute book, against the opposition of the more rabid imperialists in the government, with the aid of the powerful American sugar interests which have heavy investments in the Cuban plantations.

These slavers of the Caribbean, vicious exploiters of the Cuban plantation laborers, "welcomed" the Philippine independence plan because it meant an end to the duty-free entry of Philippine sugar into the United States. Passage of the act was thus a valuable economic concession to the imperialist sugar interests. But its primary importance lay in the fact that it was a political concession to the bourgeois-nationalist movement in the Philippines.

Japan was at that time already engaged in its march toward a continental empire. Publication of Baron Tanaka's memorandum had made it clear that the Philippines were among the territories marked down as prey by the Japanese imperialists. Japan-

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Mink, Well-known G.P.U. Assassin, Is En Route To Mexico

Notorious Stalinist Agent Proceeds South Via
Galveston: Served As Terror Chief
For G.P.U. In Spain

TROTSKY'S LIFE IS MENACED!

By MAX SHACHTMAN

An international assassin is en route to Mexico.

He sailed early this week from the port of Galveston, Texas, for the port of Vera Cruz, Mexico, to carry out the mission assigned to him by his gangster overlords: TO ORGANIZE THE MURDER OF LEON TROTSKY.

In this country he is known to certain circles by the name of George Mink—known to the Philadelphia police as a petty larceny crook—subsequently known to the workers on New York's waterfront as the financially well-heeled boss of the late "Marine Workers Industrial Union" organized nine years ago by the Communist Party.

Worried In Moscow

In Moscow, after the inevitable collapse of his "Union," he was known as an associate of Juliet Stuart Poyntz in the Red International of Labor Unions (the "profratern"), where he worked in reality as an agent of the G. P. U., especially charged with surveillance over American communists and other visitors to Moscow's hotels. He is a relative by marriage of the Stalinist chief, Arnold Lozovsky, head of the Red International of Labor Unions prior to its dissolution.

In 1935, the New York Times reported in a dispatch dated from Copenhagen, Denmark, July 30, that "two Americans, George Mink and Nicholas Sherman, arrested two months ago, were condemned today to eighteen months in prison under the accusation of espionage." The two had been apprehended in Denmark for their espionage activities in behalf of the G. P. U.

More recently, we learn from the charges made by Carlo Tresca, editor of the anarchist weekly "Il Martello," who bases himself upon the secret investigations of the anarcho-syndicalists in Spain, Mink was engaged for more than a year in working as head of the murderous G. P. U. in Barcelona, where, under the name of Alfred Herz, he and his agents were instrumental in organizing the arrest and assassination of literally hundreds of militant anarchists, members of the P. O. U. M. and of the Fourth International.

He Killed Berneri

It was "Herz" and his assistant, "Herman" (Nicholas Sherman?), who organized the foul assassination of the noble Italian anarchist leader in Barcelona, Camillo Berneri and his comrade Barbieri.

It was Mink, whose description tallies fully in every detail with that of "Herz," who told the wounded English militiaman, Parker, on April 31, 1937—the very eve of the famous May events in Barcelona—that "in a few days we're going to get Moulin and all the other goddamned Trotskyists." Shortly thereafter, our comrade Moulin, leader of the Fourth Internationalists in Catalonia, disappeared and has not been heard of since.

It was Mink who was known throughout Barcelona as the man directly responsible for the arrest of John McNair, representative in Spain of the Independent Labor Party of England.

It was Mink—"Herz" who was responsible for the disappearance and probable kidnapping to Moscow of Marc Reim, son of Rafael Abramovich, Menshevik member of the Bureau of the Second International, and of Erwin Wolf, former secretary to Leon Trotsky.

It was Mink—"Herz" who, under the direction of Soviet Consul-General Antonov-Ovseyenko, carried on a reign of terror against all those militants who refused to bow to the totalitarian power of Stalinism in Spain.

Preceded By Other Agents

Now this murderous thug is on his way to Mexico, and when this appears in print, will probably have arrived in the capital, where Leon Trotsky and his wife have been granted an asylum which has proved to be a bone in the throat of the Kremlin frame-up camarilla.

Mink has been preceded by a number of other Stalinist agents. More than a month ago we made public the fact, transmitted to us from France, that a certain Georges Fournial, member of the notorious Stalinist "International of Educational Workers"

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Twelve SWPers Injured By Hoodlum Attack In Chicago

CHICAGO.—An organized gang of Stalinists carried out a planned attack against members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League distributing leaflets a block away from Earl Browder's meeting in Chicago last Wednesday and succeeded in injuring 12 of the distributors.

After having listened for two hours to Browder's exhortations to the people to rally to the support of "democracy" over 60 Stalinist hoodlums systematically attacked and beat up the 4th Internationalists, who were distributing copies of the "Open Letter to the Communist Party" printed in the Socialist Appeal of March 19.

Led by Claude Lightfoot, prominent Communist Party member, and "Red" Kruck, hoodlum sympathizer of the C.P., the gang ordered the Y.P.S.L. and S.W.P. members off the streets, seized their remaining leaflets, and proceeded to beat them up—men and women impartially. Not satisfied with playing the role of a volunteer capitalist police force, when the uniformed police arrived the Stalinists pointed out the 4th Internationalists to them and demanded that they be arrested.

The "Open Letter" was read avidly by workers who had attended the Browder meeting and witnessed the attack. Many of the leaflets which had fallen to the pavement in the melee were picked up by workers who have ideas of their own about "democracy."

Leon Trotsky

THE PRIESTS OF HALF-TRUTH

The Nation and the New Republic are now playing the sorriest and most ignoble role in the American press. These journals lay claim to the role of oracles of "liberal" public opinion. They have no ideas of their own. The social crisis that began in 1929 and caught the "liberals" unaware compelled them to cling to the U.S.S.R. like a saving anchor. In popularizing the successes of the planning principle and in the cautious counterpoising of this principle to capitalist anarchy, these gentlemen temporarily found a mission. They had absolutely no independent program of action for the United States; but for that, they were able to cover up their own muddleheadedness with an idealized image of the U.S.S.R.

In fact, the "friendship" with Moscow signified the reconciliation of bourgeois liberalism with the bureaucracy which had strangled the October Revolution. The more extensive the privileges of the new leading stratum became, and the more conservative it grew in the defense of its privileges—the greater became the number of its friends among the bourgeois intellectuals and the liberals, snobs who keep up with the vogue of the day. The inspirers of this state of mind became Walter Duranty and Louis Fischer, downright sycophants of the Soviet oligarchy. Under their guidance, small-minded professors, mediocre poets, lawyers who had not succeeded in attaining prominence, bored widows, and ordinary lonesome ladies, seriously began to take their friendship with the Soviet Embassy in Washington for service in the interests of the October Revolution. Many of them displayed a readiness to defend the Soviet Union to the last drop of blood... not theirs, to be sure, but that of the "Trotskyists."

REED AND... DURANTY

In the heroic epoch of the revolution, the representative of American public opinion in Moscow was John Reed. At that time, Walter Duranty was located in Riga, working as professional calumniator of the revolution and of its leaders. In later years, Duranty became the principal link between the Soviet bureaucracy and "liberal" public opinion in the United States. The moral contrast between John Reed and Walter Duranty well reflects the political antagonism between Bolshevism and Stalinism. If the editors of the Nation and the New Republic tax their ingenuity to avoid an understanding of this antagonism, it is because such petty tradesmen in lies as Duranty and Louis Fischer are incomparably closer to them in spirit than the heroic John Reed.

Is it surprising that the present bureaucracy of the Kremlin

is incomparably more suitable to the democratic oracles than was the revolutionary party of Lenin? Just as in the past they did not understand the laws of the revolution, so today they do not understand the laws of reaction. They hoped that the bureaucracy, not without their benevolent cooperation, would become increasingly respectable and "human." Faith in uninterrupted and automatic progress has not been extirpated, to the present day, from the heads of these people. They have been unable to draw any conclusions at all even from the fact that the democratic petty bourgeoisie, whose flesh of the flesh they are, transformed itself in a few years in Germany into an army of fascism. They were even less capable of understanding the malignant evolution of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

LOGIC OF CLASS STRUGGLE

Lamentable indeed is he who, in the great turns of history, confines himself to empirical conjecture instead of penetrating into the imminent logic of the class struggle. In the psychological sense, the defendants were merely instruments in the hands of the G.P.U. Inquisition. In the historical sense, the Inquisitor, Stalin, is merely an instrument in the hands of the bureaucracy which has landed in a blind alley. The bureaucracy itself is merely an instrument of the pressure of world imperialism. The Soviet masses hate the bureaucracy. World imperialism regards it as a tool that has outlived its usefulness and makes preparations to overturn it. The bureaucracy seeks to dupe the masses. It seeks to dupe world imperialism. It lies on both fronts. So that the truth shall not filter out past the frontier nor filter into the country from abroad, the bureaucracy allows only "reliable" people to enter or leave the country.

It surrounds the Soviet Union with a border patrol palisade such as the world has never seen and with a countless pack of police dogs.

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*W. Duranty, in spite of his genuine Anglo-Saxon "soul," participates in the Moscow frame-ups in a strictly planful manner, side by side with the judges, the prosecutor, the defendants, and in general with people who have a "Russian soul." However, Duranty was not even confronted with the necessity to choose every day between life and death. His colleague, Mr. Harold Denny, a man who obviously has an American soul, even if not of very large dimensions, has speedily adapted himself to the totalitarian regime. Faced with the need of choosing between lean-stomached truth and fat sandwiches, he unhesitatingly took his stand with the sandwiches and Vyshinsky. It is creatures of his stripe who are the source of inspiration for "liberal" public opinion.