

Teachers Union Ousted By Joint Committee

Company Union Type of Organization Moves With Reactionary Wave; Conciliatory Methods Of Local 5 Prove Bankrupt

NEW YORK.—Following immediately upon the close of the legislative session in Albany, where it worked feverishly to defeat the progressive teacher and child welfare legislation introduced by the Teachers Union, Local 5, the Joint Committee of Teachers Organizations on April 7, ousted Local 5 from the committee by a vote of 82 to 25.

The ostensible reasons given were "criticism" and "charges" made by the representatives of the Teachers Union in 1936 and 1937 regarding the Committee's actions in Albany.

Line-up With Reaction
This move serves notice on the teachers of New York that the Joint Committee takes its place with the dangerously growing forces of reaction, retrenchment and hysteria as expressed most characteristically by the McNaboe-Devaney bill in Albany and the "Educational Signpost" in the school system. (The "Signpost" is the publication of a newly-organized American Education Association whose purpose is to eradicate radicalism, "leftism," and all progressive education from the New York City schools.)

This action also serves notice on the Board of Education authorities that the Joint Committee will perform well its function of company union and lead in the attempt to smash the only organization which can serve the interests of the classroom teacher, namely, the Teachers Union.

The Joint Committee of Teachers Organizations, originally the joint Salary Committee, is composed of delegates of some 76 teachers' organizations, the overwhelming majority of which are the dollar-a-year, supervisor-favored, bureaucratically-controlled company union type of organization. While the committee itself contains some 60 per cent classroom teachers, the real control is vested in the self-perpetuating executive committee, where 12 of the 20 members are supervisors, and in the legislative committee, where four of the six members are supervisors.

Demand Reorganization

One of the important demands of the opposition in Local 5 before the Lefkowitz split was that the union demand a reorganization of the Joint Committee to give more democratic representation to the classroom teachers whose dollars are collected each year. The Union had previously adopted a policy of militant campaigning for democratization of the Joint Committee. Under the pressure of the opposition, the committee had already made some slight concessions.

But just at this time, a change took place in the "Rank-and-File" group, now the majority group in the union. Instead of following through on its campaign, and reinforcing the demands of the classroom teachers for democratic representation in the committee, there was a sudden switch to conciliation and friendliness. Nothing must be said or done to antagonize the Joint Committee. The union would win them over by the sweetness and light of People's Frontism. Union teachers in the schools, left without directives, docilely supported the Joint Committee requests for funds, even while it was attacking union bills. The present "Rank-and-File" administration, under the guise of "Progressivism," has proved itself in this respect as well as others to have betrayed the interests of the teachers to the same extent as Lefkowitz did in the old administration.

Oppose False Policy

The Independent Group has been organized as a strong and growing opposition within the union to such policies, as well as to the policy of turning the union into a pro-war organization behind the slogans of "collective security" and support of President Roosevelt's "peace policy." Proposals for a militant campaign against the Joint Committee made by representatives of the Independents within the union committees, were turned down by the administration as recently as two weeks ago, but now, when its leaders can no longer defend their policies before the membership, they hasten to adopt measures they should have carried out long ago, although some of these leaders still continue to mouth empty phrases about "unity."

It is highly significant of the administration's attitude toward company unionism among teachers that they have placed before

the union membership a proposal to affiliate Local 5 with the National Education Association (not to be confused with the American Education Association), the national company union of teachers, supervisor-controlled rival of the American Federation of Teachers.

Militant Slate
In the elections of officers and executive board to be held next month, the Independents are running a full slate against the administration upon a program of militant action as opposed to playing around with Democratic and Republican politicians, exposure of the role of the Joint Committee and an active campaign for its reorganization, opposition to the pro-war policy of collective security and for a sound democratic union administration in the interests of all the teachers. Only upon such a program can the union fight off its many enemies and continue to grow as a force in the New York school system.

Rochester Unions Begin Organizing Jobless Workers

AFL Affiliates Support Drive To Unite Unemployed

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—With the aim of bringing unemployed workers directly into the recognized trade union movement, steps are being taken to organize W.P.A. workers of Rochester under a charter of the International Laborers Union, A.F. of L. affiliate. It was announced here last week.

First Charter Granted

The new charter, first granted in this area, provides for reduced initiation fees and low monthly dues. Such an organization, according to Fred Struble, president of the local, will enable union workers who become unemployed and are forced to drop their regular union affiliation, to continue to have their welfare guarded through union connections. The group instrumental in gaining the charter were the founders of the Workers Alliance in this section, who have since resigned because of the disruptive activities of the Stalinists. The Workers Alliance, at one time 1,500 strong, has dwindled until a scant 40 members remain.

Fur Strike Ends Its Second Week

NEW YORK.—A large force of police are patrolling New York's fur district as the general strike of fur workers nears the end of its second week. Efforts of scabs to continue work have already met with stern resistance from the strikers, and street skirmishes have resulted in several arrests by cops busily engaged in protecting the strike-breakers.

Mayor LaGuardia, who only last year received the enthusiastic endorsement of the Fur Workers Union, has placed his police force at the disposal of the fur manufacturers. A special detachment of 75 officers are on strike duty, and these are augmented by mobile reserves that speed to the district at the slightest sign of militancy from the pickets.

Despite the police, the workers are keeping the fur shops closed. Well-organized squads roam the district, picket lines are strong, and a series of meetings keep alive the spirit of the workers.

Stalinists Turn Out For St. Louis Rally

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A large and stirring anti-war rally was held here by the Socialist Workers Party on April 6, the 21st anniversary of America's entry into the world war.

The audience, including 10 rank-and-file members of the Stalinist party, greeted with prolonged applause the call of B. J. Widick, national labor secretary of the S.W.P., for them to join our ranks for a revolutionary struggle against imperialist war and fascism.

"Not since I had 15 rank-and-file members of the Stalinist party at the Indiana Harbor anti-war rally have I seen such a large group of awakening Stalinists at a meeting," Widick told the audience.

In both instances the rank-and-file violated Communist Party orders to boycott the S.W.P. meetings.

NMU OPPOSITION SHOWS LACK OF CLARITY IN POLL

NEW YORK.—As the first union-wide election in the National Maritime Union began last week, an opposition slate, issued by the group around the Rank and File Pilot, anti-Stalinist weekly newspaper edited by Octave Loones, was circulated on the New York waterfront.

Reprinting the ballot, using red ink and the hammer and sickle emblem to identify the Stalinists and their stooges, the leaflet called on the members to elect "sea-going rank and file seamen" to various posts.

Fly Progressive Colors

While the sponsors call themselves the "progressive, seagoing rank and file" the slate actually represents an amalgam of all the various oppositional elements stirred up by the bureaucratic rule of the Stalinist clique in control of the N.M.U. Despite the presence of real militants and progressives on the slate, the candidates present no clear cut program nor do they represent a genuinely progressive group that stands by itself.

This is shown clearly by the support offered Joseph Curran, candidate for president and present general organizer of the N.M.U. Curran, who in the past has exemplified the worst aspects of Stalinism, receives the endorsement of this anti-Communist group on the basis of his left-handed slap against the Communist Party, delivered at a meeting of the deck department some weeks ago.

The presence of Curran's name, which stands for the policy of conciliating and kow-towing to the government and the ship-owners alike, is in strange contrast to the names of genuine militants, such as Arthur Thomas and Charles Torres of the Gulf, or Jerome King of the New York District. Nor is the name of Jesse Nohokiau, a Hawaiian sailor and certainly a real rank-and-filer, completely in harmony with some of the former I.S.U. office-holders backed in the slate.

Militant Group Weakened

The position of the real militants and progressives with the N. M. U. is made less tenable, rather than strengthened, by the support of this group. The tactics of the group, attacking their opponents simply as "Communists" and avoiding a presentation of a genuine program for defending the interests of the seamen, opens the door to all sorts of shady elements. The time may come when the real militants will find it difficult to explain their association with this group.

The struggle against the "Communists" must be tied up with the struggle against opportunists of all stripes, whether they be the henchmen of Stalin or discredited fakery.

The ranks of the real progressives can be kept free of pie-card artists, disgruntled fakery and outright company men only by following, in action, a program against the shipowners, against the government boards, and all who would stand in the way carrying out such a program.

C.P. Seeks To Prevent United May Day Parades

Strait-jacketed Committees Exclude Militants From Meetings In Boston, Lynn, Newark To Prevent Unity

BOSTON.—"Trotskyites" were excluded from the United May Day Conference called by the Communist and Socialist parties of Boston last Sunday, when representatives of the Socialists and Lovestoneites bowed to the demand of the Stalinists to deny seats to representatives of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League.

A minority report from the credentials committee, submitted by Socialist and Lovestoneite delegates, asking that the credentials of the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. delegates be recognized, was voted down, 40 to 11, by a conference packed with Stalinists and their stooges.

A motion by one of the delegates that the floor be given to a representative of the S.W.P. for five minutes was also voted down.

During the debate, the delegates under discussion were barred from the hall and given no opportunity to reply to the slanderous accusations of the Stalinists. Philip Frankfeld, state secretary of the Massachusetts Communist Party, denounced the Trotskyites as fascists and the conduct of the Communist Party made by members of the S.W.P. during the red-baiting hearing at the State House.

Delegates representing the Socialists and Lovestoneites took the floor to defend the right of the Fourth Internationalists to participate in a united front on May Day, but finally capitulated to the majority decision of the Stalinist-dominated body. A courageous refusal to abide by any such outrageous proposition would have forced the hand of the Stalinist disrupters.

That the Socialists and Lovestoneites may still withdraw from such a farce of a "united front" is not impossible, especially as their organizations in New York have rejected the high-handed proposals of the Stalinists. It is possible that Boston may yet have a real united front on May Day, a united front that will permit the participation of the revolutionists.

Same Tactics In Lynn

LYNN, Mass.—Last Saturday morning the Stalinists here staged their annual clown-play of "kicking out the Trotskyites" from their private May Day conference.

The May Day call this year was signed by several trade unionists. Although some of them are sincere militants, they nevertheless represented only themselves. It goes without saying that invitations were not sent to the Socialist Workers Party or organizations sympathetic to it.

Crash Conference

Nevertheless, delegates from the S.W.P., Local 134 of the Workers Alliance, and the Workers Defense League, crashed the "Pre-May Day Conference," which met in the hall of the fake "American Committee for Aid to Armenia."

A dozen delegates were present from the International Workers Order, the Russian Club, the American League for Peace and Democracy and other Sta-

linist puppet set-ups. The only bona fide union which had responded to the call, the Lasters Local of the United Shoe Workers of America, was unfortunately represented by two dyed-in-the-wool Stalinists.

No sooner had the meeting opened than the assembled Stalinists moved to the task of "kicking out the Trotskyites." They started out by claiming that the uninvited organizations "did not exist" and therefore could not be represented. Jack Green moved they be requested to leave and the question was immediately called. Our comrades vigorously protested these tactics and Green thereupon delivered a lynch speech, calling upon his followers to throw out "these stinking elements."

Stalinists Isolated
Our comrades departed amid a chorus of epithets. It appears probable that the Lasters will repudiate the report of their delegates and withdraw from the conference, thus leaving the Stalinists high and dry in People's Front isolation.

The wrecking tactics of the C.P. have so disgusted union labor in Lynn that the workers are apathetic toward any kind of May Day celebration. The S.W.P., however, will hold its own May Day meeting and endeavor to make it a genuine working class celebration.

Barred In Newark
NEWARK, N. J.—Socialist Workers Party delegates to the Newark May Day conference are to be denied credentials for further participation in the preparation of the May Day celebrations. Our party is also to be debarred from the celebrations themselves.

Decision to exclude our delegates was taken at a conference session thoroughly packed by Stalinists and their stooges and noted for the almost total absence of delegates from those trade unions which at a previous session had voted to seat the S.W.P. delegates.

Regimented Vote
The vote at the session was almost identical on practically every question, approximately 64 votes for the Stalinist proposal to about six against.

On a proposal to invite a Negro speaker for May Day, the Stalinists voted solidly for Lett of the reactionary Urban League as against Plaskett, militant Workers Alliance fighter.

None of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee lodges in the Greater Newark area, embracing a membership of some 6,000, had delegates present. Nor did the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. All have withdrawn—the S.W.O.C. because it could not meet the tax voted on the unions by the Stalinist-controlled conference.

Contact Unions

The S.W.P., in a letter to the trade unions of the Greater Newark area, has re-emphasized its desire to demonstrate with labor and pointed out the reasons for its exclusion from the conference, namely, its class struggle program. The S.W.P. plans a May Day meeting to which it is inviting all trade unionists.

ing, of course, "international cooperation of nations," and advocacy of a "democratic declaration of war along the lines of the Ludlow Amendment." The program is to be realized by sending petitions to Congress and building a membership organization similar to the old American League Against War and Fascism—now the League for Peace and Democracy.

Newark Union Adopts Anti-War Resolution

NEWARK, N. J.—The Verona Bronze Powder Workers Union, Local 425, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, C.I.O., voted at its membership meeting last week the unanimous adoption of the militant anti-war resolution passed by the Central Labor Union of Minneapolis and published in the Socialist Appeal of April 2.

Adoption of the resolution was voted after a full and lively discussion of the war policies of the Roosevelt administration and of certain forces within the labor movement.

The local is preparing to demand, when the present contract expires, even better conditions than those obtained as a result of their 100 per cent effective sit-down last Fall in the plants of the American Bronze Powder Company. Delegates to the Newark May Day Committee were instructed to maintain a firm anti-war, anti-collective security stand.

LABOR PLAYING PENNSYLVANIA BOSS POLITICS

**Lewis Sets Out To Take
Over Democratic
Party Machine**
(Continued from page 1)

chine-politicians. The presence of Kennedy on one of the slates and its backing by Labor's Non-Partisan League no more alters this fact than would the selection of a labor bureaucrat as Secretary of Labor turn the current U. S. regime into a workers' government.

Stalinists Back Democrats
It goes without saying that the Stalinists, who have given up even the pretense of independent working class politics, are among the most active Democratic party hacks in the primary fight.

The A. F. of L. condemnation of the Kennedy slate has been pointed to by Labor's Non-Partisan League and by the Stalinists as an act of "treachery." True enough; and true also that the condemnation sprung from thoroughly reactionary motives. But the action of L.N.P.L. and the Stalinists in ham-stringing the workers and keeping them bound to the Democratic machine at just the time when the workers themselves are ready to take a mighty step forward is no less treachery.

The workers are going to have to take things into their own hands if L.N.P.L. is not to prove merely and exclusively one more additional yoke around their necks. It will never become in any sense an instrument of class action by relying on the good will of Lewis, Kennedy, and Browder. The Pennsylvania experience is proving this much in a very thorough manner.

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WAA Meet Sedulously Skirts Vital Problems

(Continued from page 1)

the C.P. than the Stalinists turned the convention into a hog-calling contest, with the female Stalinists having the edge. In the midst of the bedlam, Wiseman appealed to the chair to rule Rhoda Pearson out of order. Chairman Willis Morgan promptly obliged.

Stalinists Run Riot
Appealing the decision of the chair, Neil Harrison for the Progressives pointed out that a previous speaker had attacked the Trotskyists and had not been ruled out of order. In scathing terms he lashed the Stalinist totalitarian conception of democracy while the Stalinists howled and boomed.

Lasser took over the chair and gave the floor to Rhoda Pearson, who pointed out that it was the truth of her remarks which was causing all the "indignation." She declared: "If any other party, with the Republicans to the Trotskyists, is attacked—that's okay. But once the Communist Party clique comes under fire the speaker is stopped."

Charge Retracted
A motion to refer Pearson's charges to the Rules Committee was carried by the Stalinist-packed convention. Harrison then moved to refer the charges of Trotskyist disruption to the same committee. This caused a little panic among the red-baiters and Campbell, one of the Harlem delegates, a Stalinist, took the floor and admitted that they actually knew of no Trotskyist disruption in their local. "It was just a slip of the tongue," he explained.

At a meeting of the rules committee next day, arrangements were made to withdraw the entire matter from the convention floor and to have an "impartial committee" investigate Stalinist discrimination on W.P.A. projects.

Finances took up a large part of the convention's time. It was here that the only division in the monolithic Stalinist caucus appeared. Membership cards were increased to 30 cents and dues stamps "standardized" at 25 cents for unemployed. The battle was fought over a matter of two cents. Sam Wiseman, as city treasurer, led a fight to increase

the price paid to his office for dues stamps from 10 to 12 cents. He finally went down to defeat after fighting valiantly for the two cents. Harrison made a determined effort to have the dues changes referred to a referendum vote of the membership but was voted down.

S. P. Delegates Switch
A number of resolutions, though none dealing with the immediate and vital problems of the unemployed, were reported out by the resolutions committee. On the question of the attitude of the Alliance toward the American Labor Party, the committee was divided. The two Socialist Party members on the committee brought in a resolution opposing the People's Front line of the Stalinists. But at the last minute, they withdrew their own resolution and united with the Stalinists to carry a weasel-worded People's Front type of resolution which called, inter alia, for cooperation with the American League for Peace and Democracy.

The militant anti-war resolution of the Minneapolis Central Labor Council, presented by David Cowles for the Progressives, was of course voted down.

C. P. Slate Elected
The rules committee, which included two S. P. members, brought in a slate for the new joint board, completely dominated by the Stalinists although including four S. P. nominees. A minority of the committee nominated and spoke for Neil Harrison, who was voted on and defeated. Other nominees from the floor met the same fate and then the combined C.P.-S.P. slate was put to the vote and elected en bloc.

The convention, taken as a whole, presented a perfect picture of a Stalinist-controlled organization and as such quite incapable of advancing the true interests of the unemployed workers. As long as the control of the Stalinists lasts, the Alliance will continue to be an instrument of class collaborationism and collective security war-mongering. The lesson for the unemployed—Break the Stalinist stranglehold!

Appeal Army

It is not too late to place your orders for extra copies of the May 1st issue of the Appeal which promises to be as popular as the anti-war issue. Let's not repeat the mistake of failing to order in time. Our press run depends upon all locals getting their orders in at once.

Nor is it too late to send greetings to the Socialist Appeal for the special May Day edition. All branches and locals have been notified of the scale of prices. Every employed party member and sympathizer should be able to take at least one column inch. Send Your Greetings in at Once.

It is gratifying to see locals that have been comparatively inactive in the past as far as the Appeal is concerned, taking hold and going to work. Allentown, Pennsylvania, has appointed a new literature agent, Ruth Quorio, who, with the cooperation of the Allentown comrades, has started putting the local on the map by increasing the bundle order and straightening out accounts.

Joseph Almansburger, literature agent in Rochester, New York, is also doing good work for the Appeal. He has increased his bundle order twice in the past month.

And of course Karl Shier in Chicago must be mentioned in this column. He has more than doubled Chicago's bundle order since the drive started, brought the local out of debt, and still goes on.

One more week of the subscription drive has still to go and New York is far in the lead. We realize that awarding the prizes to comrades in New York is not entirely fair to other locals. But there will be another drive in the near future and we'll figure out a more equitable method of making awards.

But the end of the drive does not mean relaxation in sub-getting. Subscriptions still supporting the Appeal and this support must come from you who read it.

Los Angeles Local of the S.W.P. has sent us, by air mail, a special donation of \$10 with the accompanying comment: "The eight-page paper on April 2 sold out almost immediately. We need more. All the comrades and sympathizers in Los Angeles have received it enthusiastically and are anxious to see an eight-page Appeal continue with the same high caliber as the April 2 issue. With an eight-page paper we can immediately double our order. To facilitate this, we are donating \$10 to the Appeal as an initial step."

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