

# Progressive Painters Fight Bureaucrats

## GROUPS IN TEN LOCALS MEET TO MAP CAMPAIGN

### Thugs Beat Up Militant In Local 51; Members Are Outraged

NEW YORK.—Progressives from ten locals of District Council 9 of the Painters Union met here last Saturday at an inter-local conference of opposition clubs to plan for action against the Stalinist-controlled Weinstock administration in the coming union elections.

All delegates reported sentiment against the Stalinist union wreckers on the upsurge. Good prospects for the fight are in sight, according to spokesmen of the progressives. A whirlwind campaign to "save the union from legalized-scab conditions" is reported under way.

### Riot at Local 51

NEW YORK.—Growing sentiment among the rank and file for a showdown fight against the corrupt Weinstock administration in the Stalinist-United Front-controlled Painters Union has driven the latter to employ outright hooliganism against the militants.

Climaxing a whole series of attempts to break up local union meetings to prevent adverse votes, a scene of scandalous disruption was staged by Stalinist administration supporters in Local 51 last Friday night.

### Throttled Discussion

A dissident member of the Stalinist-sponsored "Unity" Club in the Local, Tom Luttenberg, who like many of his fellows has become disillusioned with the leadership, requested the floor. The chairman, an administration supporter, granted his request. As Luttenberg proceeded to speak, a motion to close discussion was accepted by the chairman, who then ordered the speaker off the floor in flagrant violation of union procedure.

Luttenberg protested. Immediately the Stalinist hatchet-man in the Local, one Charles Goslin, gave the high sign and the crowd of packed administration supporters set up a howl to prevent the militant from being heard.

### Luttenberg Slugged

In the midst of the uproar thus created, Hatchet-man Goslin jumped to his feet and attacked the speaker. A hundred-odd of his cronies followed this lead and slugged Luttenberg and those who came to his defense with beastly violence. Luttenberg lay prostrate on the floor as the Stalinist hoodlums kicked him mercilessly in the face as well as in the body.

Numerous administration supporters were visibly disgusted with this display of Fascist-like gangsterism. As the meeting was adjourned by the chairman, with the scuffle still going on, members in all parts of the hall expressed their determination to clear the Local of Goslin-Weinstock gangster tactics. Undoubtedly, definite steps will be taken in this direction in the very near future.

It is only natural that the Weinstock administration should employ thugs like Goslin as its hatchet-men in the local unions. Hatchet-man Goslin has led similar sluggings on previous occasions. In reward for thug-work done in the past, Goslin has just been re-appointed an "organizer" at \$50 a week. His record, which is extraordinarily revealing of the system of shady deals and terror used by the Stalinists to maintain their stranglehold in the union, will be thoroughly illumined in these pages in coming articles.

## Appeal to Publish Trade Union Series

A series of articles of extreme importance to trade unionists in New York as well as in the rest of the country, will begin in next week's Socialist Appeal:

### "INSIDE THE NEW YORK PAINTERS UNION"

An account of the record and activities of the Stalinist-controlled Weinstock Administration in District Council No. 9 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers and of the fight of the rank and file militants for a clean and effective union.

Fink-herder



HARRY BRIDGES

## Harry Bridges Orders Union-Smashing Drive Against Coast Sailors

(Continued from page 1)

up by offering to grant the S.U.P. two of the five Shepard ships and re-open the case if the S.U.P. will petition for such action. The S.U.P. is insisting that the Shepard Line live up to its contract.

Meanwhile the whole West Coast has been aroused by the union smashing of Bridges. Support for the S.U.P. has appeared from a number of sources. Teamsters have refused to handle the "hot" cargo. A majority of the members of the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Wipers and Water-tenders Association, who are behind the move to amalgamate the three unlicensed crafts on the West Coast, have given their full support to the sailors. The Seattle branch of the Cooks and Stewards Union has rebelled against the attempt of the Stalinist bureaucrats who control

their union, to force them into the C.I.O. without a referendum on the question—thus indirectly supporting the sailors' fight. The San Francisco Labor Council has unanimously endorsed the action taken by the S.U.P. including its refusal to accept the N.L.R.B.'s "compromise" offer.

### Opposition in I.L.W.U.

But what is most significant of all is that, on top of the noticeable reluctance of the longshoremen to obey Bridges' orders to work behind picket lines, under the protection of the police, an opposition bulletin has made its appearance in San Francisco within the I.L.W.U.

While not having a clear-cut program this bulletin has exposed a number of Bridges' union-wrecking activities and is demanding unity with the Sailors against the shipowners.

Through the bulletin is revealed some extremely telling facts: The I.L.W.U. treasury is empty and there is neither a strike fund nor any effort being made to build one. (It would seem that Bridges has no intention of fighting the shipowners this fall.)

The old timers who fought in the '34 and '36 strikes are being rapidly replaced by "permit" men on the docks. Permit men have no vote and their right to work depends entirely on the amount of "loyalty" they show toward the Bridges machine. They are the men who are used to smash picket lines.

### Fakers' Aims

The action taken by the teamsters and the Labor Council, while being accorded to by well-known labor fakers, is really an attempt to rank and file disgust with the Stalinists and Bridges, a disgust which these same fakers are attempting to canalize for their own ends. To prevent this from happening by uniting the progressive sentiment in all these groups and directing it toward a united, progressive, class-struggle program to preserve the Federation is the task of the Socialist Workers Party which is playing a small but ever increasing role in the West Coast situation.

Uniting with the Shepard Line, supported by the National Labor Relations Board and covered by a smokescreen of slander directed by the Stalinists against the West Coast militants, Bridges is attempting to split the Maritime Federation and saddle the member unions with the slavish policies of class-collaboration. He must do this quickly if it is to serve the needs of his masters, the Stalinists. For they on their part must be prepared in the near future to turn over the working class, bound hand and foot, to Roosevelt and his class who are rapidly preparing another world war for the conquest of new markets.

### The Opposition

Against this reactionary line-up stand the S.U.P., the majority of the members of the Firemen's Union, the Seattle branch of the Cooks and the growing opposition of the rank and file longshoremen. As yet these forces are not united except in sympathy. They need a clear cut program around which they can unite and rally all the progressive elements which still lie dormant in the maritime unions. Only such a program of unity of the rank and file against the bosses, their agents in the unions—Bridges and the Stalinists, and the bosses' government which serves the shipowners so well, can save the Maritime Federation and with it the hard won conditions of the West Coast maritime workers. Carried out, this program would enable the maritime workers to stand their ground against the inevitable attacks which will be made on their living standards this fall. To fail means death to the Federation.

The members of the Socialist Workers Party have given their full support to this struggle both on the picket line and in helping to expose the reactionary role of Bridges. We have the task now of tying together the different groupings which are groping for a way out and giving to them a clear lead toward unity in the struggle for the preservation of the Federation. It is a great task and one which calls for great sacrifices but it is one that can and must be fulfilled if West Coast labor is not to be driven back into the hands of the bosses to be transformed into cannon fodder for the coming war.

## GOODRICH UNION DEFEAT PLANS FOR WAGE CUTS

### Akron Bosses Overplay Hand In Rubber Parleys

AKRON.—[With a unanimous decision not even to consider voting on the company's proposed wage-cut program, the Goodrich local union April 23 spiked efforts of boss stooges to get rubber workers' acceptance of wage-cuts. This decision climaxed weeks of frantic propaganda by business men's committees, the chamber of commerce, the mayor and the daily press to intimidate and frighten workers with the loss of 5,000 jobs through decentralization.

In overplaying their hand, the business men's group, with a hysterical campaign that fell short only of vigilante violence, stiffened the spines of countless thousands of workers, and clearly demonstrated the necessity for militant unity against the bosses' solid front. The union resolved to press forward to a written agreement with the Goodrich Company and take no vote until such can be "submitted to the membership in an atmosphere of fairness and freedom."

### Want Books Examined

A department of Labor statistician is now in town investigating the wage situation at Goodrich, and his report is expected by the union to have vital bearing on the result of the controversy. In this connection, the statement of President Callahan of Goodrich local is of great significance. He says: "There is only one thing that will give us a true picture. We've got to find out how much raw material is bought, how much finished goods is produced, and what is paid for wages in any given period of operation. The company has pointed out the differentials in wage rates, but has not pointed out the actual cost of production."

This demand—for the company to open its books and reveal its commercial secrets—the union hopes will be fulfilled by Roosevelt's investigating statistician, in line with its general confidence in the Roosevelt administration. But the union is in for a sad disappointment here; for such a far-reaching demand can only be realized when the workers themselves control production and have complete access to the company's books.

## Shepard Line Ships West Coast Sailors

NEW YORK.—Picket lines around the Shepard Line "Windrush" were withdrawn last week when the operators decided to live up to the West Coast agreement and shipped the deck and engine departments from the Sailors Union of the Pacific's New York hall. Possibility of a continued tie-up was probable should the National Maritime Union refuse to supply men for the steward's department.

In Baltimore the "Harpoon," another Shepard ship, is clear with a full West Coast crew. Reports from the Pacific Coast state that the "Seathrush," center of fighting on the San Francisco waterfront when longshoremen broke through the S.U.P. picket line, has sailed from San Pedro with a skeleton crew of N.M.U. men. Besides being short of men, the "Seathrush" is undoubtedly short of stores as West Coast teamsters refused to go through the picket lines.

In Seattle the "Timberush" is tied up tight, with sailors, stewards and officers off the ship and longshoremen defying their officials and refusing to pass the S.U.P. picket line.

## 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.

### NEW YORK

NOTICE, BROWNSVILLE! We start our open air meetings on Friday, April 29 at Pitkin and Bristol. All comrades of the branch and Y.P.S.L. and all party sympathizers, please be on hand at 8 o'clock. We need you all to put these meetings over.—Branch Secretary.

### NEWARK

MAY DAY CELEBRATION, Sunday, May 1, P. M., 252 Market Street. Hear John G. Wright on "May Day, 1938," Games, Dancing, Refreshments, Red Puppets, Auspices, S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L.

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may it live and grow in  
carrying out the tradi-  
tional fighting spirit of  
May day against imperi-  
alist war, Fascism, and  
Capitalism.

MAY DAY GREETINGS  
TO THE  
SOCIALIST APPEAL  
ASTORIA BRANCH

Louis Fleisher, Morris Rubin, Dave Gordon, Irving Levy, Al Brenner, I. M. Stein, H. Ringhill—Sympathizers, Brownsville.

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