

## Hague's Rule Still Awaits Real Challenge

Farmer-Labor Congressmen, Acting On Advice Of Stalinist I. L. D., Fail To Make Good On Threat To Defy New Jersey Dictator

### FREE SPEECH FIGHT IMPERATIVE

Boss Hague, his private police force, and his army of office-holders remain in undisturbed possession of Jersey City. In the first test of strength between the Jersey autocrat and his opponents, the Mayor emerged victorious without a battle.

The widespread movement of popular protest engendered by Norman Thomas's expulsion from the city on April 30 and the continued provocations of Hague's agents during last week fizzled out miserably when the two Congressmen, Jerry J. O'Connell and John T. Bernard, who came from Washington to challenge Hague's dictatorship, failed to appear at the meeting scheduled for Journal Square last Saturday night.

For three days Hague prepared to prevent the meeting. Billboards and full-page advertisements in all the Hudson County papers, jointly sponsored by the "American Federation of Labor Unions of Hudson County" and the "War Veterans Committee for Law and Order," headed by Col. Hugh Kelley, Secretary to Gov. Moore, called upon Jersey City citizens to "show their Americanism" and "be present in Journal Square" on Saturday evening to repeal the invaders. The leaders of the Democratic ward clubs, together with heads of several A. F. L. unions, rallied Hague's cohorts for the expected battle.

#### Police Fill Square

From noon on the atmosphere around Journal Square was noticeably tense. Plain clothes cops and uniformed police were sprinkled throughout the place. The first act of violence occurred around one o'clock when Milton Filker, executive director of the Jersey City Committee of Labor's Non-Partisan League,

"I Am the Law"



MAYOR HAGUE

## LEAGUE SERVES TO CONSECRATE ETHIOPIAN RAPE

Italian Conquest Will Be Legitimized At Geneva

The only real point on the agenda of the Council of the League of Nations, which is meeting in Geneva this week, is the question of recognition of the new Italian empire which Mussolini has raised over the grave of the last independent native state in Africa—Ethiopia. Macchiavelli might well have studied in the school of Halifax and Daladier. Their task is to preserve the possibility of using the Negus against Italy at some later date—if and when that may be necessary or desirable. Meanwhile they yield to "reality" and call upon the League to adopt its "principles" thereto.

The Negus or his representatives will be granted the democratic privilege of appearing before the high assembly; there will be some speech-making. But everything is settled in advance. The President of the Council—who, to complete the picture, is the delegate from Lithuania, the country which recently had to

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## Y.P.S.L. Members Arrested At Street Meeting In N. Y.

NEW YORK—Two members of the Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International) were found guilty and fined five dollars each this week for "obstructing the sidewalk"—the latest dodge of local police and businessmen to prevent minority parties from exercising their rights of free speech and assembly.

The young comrades, Morris Blum and David Goldberg, were attacking LaGuardia's new taxes when they were arrested at the corner of 163rd St. and So. Boulevard on a no-permit charge which was changed to "obstructing the sidewalk" after police authorities discovered the original charge was unconstitutional.

In court, the policeman's whole case rested on perjured testimony to the effect that the platform stood on the sidewalk. The defense produced five witnesses who testified that the platform was in the gutter and that a passage lane of fifteen feet was available for pedestrians. The presiding judge, "Old Mother" Murphy, sour-puss protégé of Democratic boss Ed Flynn, made prejudiced comments throughout the trial, overlooking the civil liberties issue and ruling in favor of the false testimony of the policeman.

Unlike the liberal congressmen who shield clear of Hague-town under threat, the local Y.P.S.L. branch will hold a rally in defense of civil liberties on the same spot next Monday night.

## Workers! Unite All Forces Against the Union Wreckers!

By JAMES P. CANNON

The "big push" of the Communist Party to take over or smash the United Auto Workers raises a question which is rapidly coming to a head in many unions. Supported by a strong press and apparatus, and with huge funds at their disposal, the Stalinists have become a big factor in the trade union movement, especially in the C.I.O. Catering to every prejudice of the most backward workers, combining with the worst types of labor fakers and even with discredited racketeers, cajoling, bribing, slandering and bull-doing, the American operatives of the G.P.U. have taken the unsuspecting trade unionists unawares. They have inched their way into strategic control of many unions and are reaching out for power in others.

The first effects of this quiet and systematic penetration by the Stalinists are now becoming manifest. The affected unions are erupting in widespread dissension and disruption and split as the victim of syphilis breaks out in sores and rashes. The labor movement is being frightfully weakened and undermined by internal disorders at a time when it needs all its strength for the external struggle.

### The Workers Must Be Prepared

The economic crisis, plunging deeper and without prospects of alleviation, automatically endangers the position of the trade unions and sternly imposes upon them a policy of preparedness for coming storms. Production is away-down and is dropping steadily. Unemployment figures are up to the 1935 level—the ultra-cautious statisticians of the A.F. of L. put the number of jobless at 11,232,000. If the entire history of capitalism means anything this state of affairs spells only one thing: organized and determined assaults of the employers to batter down wages and destroy the unions are on the order of the day.

Preparations for such a campaign are to be seen on every side. To meet this campaign successfully it is self-evident that the unions need a firm solidarity in their own ranks. They need to hold together, despite differences of opinion among the membership, and present a united front to the employers.

But this necessary internal cohesion is precisely what is lacking. The unions are sick. Take the almost daily reports of violent internal dissensions—auto union, maritime, pocket-book makers, New York painters, teachers, office workers, restaurant workers. Look

where you will, from one end of the country to another, in one union after another, the record of internal discord describes the fever chart of sick unions in convulsive struggles to throw off an alien poison. The name of this poison is Stalinism.

### Crisis Aggravates Union Problems

The problems of the trade unions are many and varied. These problems are aggravated under conditions of the deepening crisis. In the newly formed organization in the big industries the problems are complicated by the inexperience of the workers and by the concentrated power of big capital arrayed against them.

Differences of opinion over programs and policies are inevitable. Trade union democracy alone can provide the arena for the responsible discussion of these differences and the disciplined execution of majority decisions. It is not possible, and it is not necessary, for all members of the beleaguered unions to answer all questions in the same way. But there is one thing upon which all constructive and responsible trade unionists must agree and co-operate. That is the preservation of the unions against disruption and disorganization. This is a common platform for all bona fide trade unionists.

From this point of view, the class-conscious and militant forces in the unions must take the lead in the life and death struggles of the unions to overcome the dread disease of Stalinism in their ranks. They must become the champions of the united front of all union-loyal and constructive forces against the Stalinite wrecking crew.

### The Auto Union Situation

This is a burning problem right now in the automobile workers union. In their mad drive to control or wreck the U.A.W. the Stalinists have formed a factional combination with the ultra-reactionary, red-baiting Frankenstein and his similars against the Martin administration. This crooked factional maneuver is carried forward, of course, under the slogan of "an end to factionalism." In this, the jingo-Stalinists only slavishly imitate the hypocritical tactics of the imperialist diplomats who always advance their war preparations under the guise of peace conferences and peace pacts.

Will a single intelligent militant in the auto unions be taken in by this cynical stratagem? Can they really wish, after the horrible experiences of workers in the Stalinist controlled unions, to experiment with such "control" in the great organization of the auto workers?

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## Martin Balks Frankenstein Plot In U.A.W.

Browder's Candidate For Union Presidency Gets Rebuff At Executive Board Meeting; Stalinists Begin to Squirm

### UNION-BUSTERS STRIKE SNAG

DETROIT, May 10—As the fateful session of the executive board of the United Automobile Workers of America rounded out its second day, the Martin forces had a clear majority and were confident of victory over the reactionary elements seeking to control or smash the union.

The Frankenstein Stalinist combination received its heaviest blow thus far when it became obvious that they proposed to throttle the union with a bureaucratic stranglehold. Homer Martin, President of the U.A.W. made the public declaration that "caucuses cannot be abolished by decree."

He elaborated his opinion, tracing the origin and conditions that give rise to factions. Three factors were responsible for the formation of factions, he continued: (1) Legitimate differences of opinion arising from the manifold problems of a union as large as the U.A.W.; (2) natural misunderstandings occasioned in the course of work; (3) opposition in the union. Factionalism, he declared, can be eliminated only by uniting the membership around a program. Any other method would not eliminate but merely suppress factions.

#### Weather-Vane Frankenstein

Undoubtedly the third case is most applicable to Frankenstein. As outlined in previous issues of the Appeal, Frankenstein's opposition on caucuses and on most other problems facing the union have changed as often as it was necessary to serve his overweening ambitions. It is even rumored that out of the "bigness" of their hearts, Weinstein and Foster promised Frankenstein the Lieutenant-Governorship of Michigan. What applies to the pitiful figure of Richard T. Frankenstein holds good for the Stalinist bureaucrats. Their unscrupulous course in the auto union has been dictated solely in the interests of the Stalin bureaucracy. Where principled considerations can be said to motivate their policies, these principles can be classed as distinctly inimical to the interests of the auto workers.

The first slap in the face administered by the Communist Party bloc was the public removal of Frankenstein from the post of Assistant President. Last December Martin had committed the error of appointing Frankenstein to this post despite the absence of any constitutional provision calling for such an office. Earl Browder's new disciple felt that this post made him heir-apparent to the presidency of the union. Since his alliance with the Stalinist gang, it appeared likely that Frankenstein would use his post to become a frankenstein.

Martin's statement to members of the executive board, respecting the just resentment evoked in the rank-and-file by the original Frankenstein appointment, declared that "after consideration of the constitution upon the complaints lodged and on the authority vested in me as president of the U.A.W., I am hereby declaring that the office of assistant president has no constitutional standing with the International Union, and therefore does not and cannot exist under the constitution."

#### Martin Group Carries

On all issues, mostly of a secondary nature, to come before the board in its first two sessions, the Martin group has carried by a vote of 14-10. Although there has been no public declaration of policy on the crucial issue, it appears likely that Walter Reuther, president of the West Side Local, will line up against the anti-caucus. He has been committed to this stand by a meeting of the joint council of his local. He called this meeting for the purpose of receiving instructions for the executive board sessions. He was duly instructed, on a motion of John Anderson, West Side executive board member, to oppose Frankenstein's program. The Socialist Party has adopted a similar decision. It remains to be seen whether Reuther will follow the determined and un-

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## BRIDGES THUGS ATTACK PICKETS ON WEST COAST

Revolt Movement Grows Among Rank and File Longshoremen

SAN FRANCISCO.—Six sailors picketing the contract-breaking Shepard Line were beaten and pursued for three blocks by a gang under orders of Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director and Stalinist leader of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, last week.

Victims of the attack were members of the Sailor's Union of the Pacific, picketing the Shepard Line because the company refused to abide by an agreement signed with West Coast seamen's union over a year ago.

#### Bosses Fare Badly

Despite the support of the Stalinist misleaders in the C.I.O. maritime unions, the cause of Shipowner Shepard fared badly as two ships, the Wind Rush and the Harpoon, were manned by West Coast men and a third, the Timber Rush, remained tied to its dock in Tacoma.

Growing opposition from the rank-and-file maritime workers against the union-wrecking activities of the Communist Party is making Bridges' position within his own union precarious. At a recent meeting of the I.L.W.U., Henry Schmidt, Bridges' right-hand man, was forced to plead "dumping" their own officials, with the membership not to start

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## APPEAL SALESMEN ARE THREATENED

DETROIT, May 9—Gangster threats of physical violence were made tonight by Stalinist members of the executive board of Local 157, United Automobile Workers, against comrades selling the Socialist Appeal before a meeting of the District Auto Council. The issue of the Appeal carried a leading article exposing the Stalinist-Frankenstein alliance to throttle democracy in the auto union. The appearance of this article, at the opening of the International Executive Board meeting, has created a sensation in union circles.

## Toledo White Collar Workers Put Progressives In Office

TOLEDO, Ohio.— Progressive and militant labor forces won a decisive victory here last Saturday, when a complete slate of progressives was elected to office in Local 29, W.P.A. Division, of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.O., despite a campaign of the Stalinist reactionaries to seize the reins of the union.

Art Preis was elected chairman; Richard Gigandet, secretary; Alex Feldstein, secretary; and Clarence Rose, treasurer. The new officers have for years been active organizers and leaders of the unemployed in Northwest Ohio, and have helped win many decisive victories for the unemployed and relief workers.

Progressive forces in the Toledo Industrial Union Council were also bolstered by the election of Rose, Gigandet and Ted Selander, former national executive board member of the Workers Alliance and leading labor militant here, as delegates to the C.I.O. central body.

This union was started in February and is the first C.I.O. chartered group of organized W.P.A. workers in Toledo. By a militant and aggressive program it has succeeded in stopping all lay-offs of white-collar workers and won hundreds of

## DEVALUATION OF FRANC TO RAISE COST OF LIVING

Daladier Move Strikes Blow At Workers' Standards

Stimulated by the Supreme Court decision in the Fred O. Morgan Sheep Commission Co. case, the spokesmen for Big Business let themselves go at last week's convention of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but piously neglected to notice the S. E. C. hearings which were proving that most of the prominent figures in Wall Street knew for months of Richard Whitney's thefts and were thus legally accessories to his crimes.

Big Business, as usual, had every reason to thank its gods for the Supreme Court, with its Papal power to intervene on any occasion to uphold the divine rights of property and profits. Moutching a customary fulsome sentence—"The liberty and property of the citizens shall be protected by the rudimentary requirements of fair play"—the Court in the Morgan Co. case struck a heavy blow, ostensibly at various government agencies, but in reality at the unions in the mass industries.

The glory for having effected

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## Big Business Asks Curb On Trade Union Rights

Knudsen and Others Sound Off At Chamber Of Commerce Session In Washington

Steel and Inland Steel, favorable decisions which would on the whole uphold the contentions of the C.I.O. with respect to these companies. Charles Fahy, counsel to the N.L.R.B. moved to withdraw these cases from the courts, realizing that the Supreme Court decision in the Morgan Co. case would, on the basis of the records, result in decisions against the board. The corporations gleefully contested Fahy's motions, confident that they can now force through decisions one hundred per cent in their own favor.

#### Union Smashing Was Issue

It should be recalled that these cases involve Ford's and Republic Steel's open smashing of unionization at their plants, and Inland Steel's refusal to sign a contract with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. The courts are once again teaching the lesson that the workers must rely on their own organized class strength, and that hope in the institutions of the capitalist government leads always into a blind alley.

Cheered up by the Supreme Court decision, General Motors' W.S. Knudsen (whose recently reported 1937 salary alone totaled over \$300,000) took the floor at the Chamber of Commerce sessions to lash out at industrial unionism. Industrial unionism, Knudsen declared, had been put in the balance and doubt wanting. And he was no doubt being honest enough in this reflection: in the balance by which Knudsen measures, industrial unionism is certainly a large negative quantity.

Knudsen and Irresponsibility Industrial unions are irresponsible, Knudsen complained. To put it in other words, (Continued on page 3)