

Frankenstein Move Balked At UAW Meet

Browder's Candidate Is Set Back A Peg In Union Fight

(Continued from page 1)

takable stand of the rank-and-file of his local and his party.

Meanwhile the anti-Stalinist sentiment among the ranks, reacting against bureaucratic policies and unprincipled deals, is beginning to surge forward. Last night, for the first time, the unchallenged position of the C.P. caucus in the district council of the Detroit U.A.W. was visibly shaken. A motion to oppose the Frankenstein anti-caucus program was defeated by the slim margin of 42-40. Six months ago the very conception of such a vote would have been laughed out of court.

Strike Problem Up

The strike problem came before the executive board today for consideration. By unanimous vote the board issued a warning against unauthorized strikes and took the power of penalizing members responsible for these unauthorized actions into its own hands. The resolution stated that the unauthorized strikes and stoppages have been in direct violation of the constitution, have resulted in unemployment for large numbers of workers and prevented thousands of union members from casting a vote on the strike question.

The problem of strike action has been a particularly grievous one. Employers have been eager to provoke premature and ill-prepared action so they could smash the union in a time of wide-spread unemployment. Strikes must be carefully prepared and the time for them properly chosen to the extent that is possible. The issues must be carefully picked.

Nevertheless, this added power in the hands of the top leadership is fraught with danger unless properly handled. If the board becomes the acknowledged leadership of the rank-and-file and provides direction to the vigorous defensive strikes, the problem of unauthorized actions will cease to exist. Otherwise the effect will be to curb the rightful privileges and powers of the rank-and-file.

Union to Fight

The last session of this resolution gives the first guarantee against these dangers. It states: "Should the management attempt wage-cuts, the impairing of working conditions, or refuse to settle legitimate grievances in keeping with the contract, the International Union will not hesitate to authorize and fully support strike action in keeping with the International Constitution to meet the offensive of the employer." Now the job is to carry this resolution into practice.

The next sessions of the executive board can mark a turning point for the auto workers union. It can once and for all smash the sinister threat aimed at its very existence by the Communist Party. This it can do only by rallying the membership around a program and then translating this program into deeds.

In brief a program for the auto union must begin by guaranteeing the membership against that which they have feared most: the infraction of their rights and the violation of local autonomy. The mistakes of the past and the inadvised actions can be corrected by steering a course which will assure these most precious rights to the rank-and-file. Particularly, must the assurance be keenly felt that all future contracts will be submitted for ratification to the workers involved. It was the failure to do this that aroused widespread and justified resentment among the workers in the General Motors plants. This resentment was unscrupulously exploited by the C.P.-inspired Unity Group. That should be a lesson for all time.

Against Wage-Cuts

Secondly, a vigorous campaign against wage-cuts, the most trying problem before the union, and the organization of the dozens of competitive plants, which are breaking down all union standards, must be seriously undertaken after the board meeting. The solution of these problems is vital to the very existence of the union. They brook no postponement.

Finally, the organization of W.P.A. workers and an aggressive struggle for an improvement of their conditions is of paramount importance. The offensive of the employers cannot be stop-

Daily Worker Retreats From Anti-Martin Fight To Escape UAW Wrath

Stalinists Change Their Tune Overnight As News From Detroit Presages Failure For Their Plot To Capture Auto Union

By B. J. WIDICK

Labor Secretary S.W.P.

The grandiose scheme of the Richard Frankenstein-Earl Browder factions in the United Automobile Workers of America, to oust Homer Martin, international president, and to capture control of this great C.I.O. union suffered a set-back at the first session of the international executive board in Detroit this week.

Martin took the bull by the horns when he announced at the session that he was abolishing the post of assistant president, which was Frankenstein's job. This was the first test of opposition forces to Martin's administration. Martin won.

C.P. Squirms

No sooner had Martin showed his strength by the aggressive stand he took in fighting his unprincipled enemies, than the Stalinists began squirming in an effort to avoid the boomerang created by their deal with Frankenstein.

William Weinstone, Stalinist commissar in the auto industry, declared, "Communists in the U. A. W., are making no move to oust Martin." He forgot to add that only one month ago the Stalinists openly distributed 100,000 copies of a Daily Worker editorial branding Martin a "fascist," who should be removed.

The shock in the ranks of auto unionists over the brazen deal between the Stalinists and that arch red-baiter in the auto unions, Frankenstein, aided Martin in exposing the reactionary role of the C.P. in the union movement.

Terms of Deal

This deal was exposed in the May 7 issue of the Socialist Appeal. Frankenstein was promised the presidency in place of Martin and also Stalinist support for achieving his ambition of becoming lieutenant-governor of Michigan if he would join forces with them against Martin.

Walter Reuther, executive board member, and former front man of the unity caucus, who carries a Socialist label, announced before the board session that he would not go along with the

BRIDGES THUGS ATTACK PICKETS ON WEST COAST

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In the Cocks and Stewards Union, where the Stalinists also have control, democracy was forgotten as Frank Koci was suspended for a year for daring to mention that, despite the N.L.R.B. ballot, the West Coast marine unions had signed agreements with the Shepard Line.

Koci was charged with "conspiring" with the S.U.P., hailed before a packed trial committee, and then suspended.

Another union, the Ships Clerks, decided that they had enough of the Communist Party union wrecking, and were voting to withdraw from the I.L.W.U. when Bridges and Schmidt descended upon their meeting. Bridges spoke for about an hour and a half and was followed by Schmidt, who spoke for thirty minutes.

Bridges blustered and blew, using every form of intimidation, even threatening to take over the Ships Clerks' hiring hall and run the union himself. In an attempt to further intimidate the membership by a show of physical force he tried to have the meeting moved to the Warehouse-men's headquarters, a hangout of the picket-line smashing C.P. stooges.

It is apparent that any serious attempt of the rank-and-file to throw out the Bridges machine that is forcing the bitter inter-union war now threatening the existence of the West Coast maritime unions, will be met with the same tactics employed in the Shepard Line dispute.

ped except by the most intimate unity of the employed and unemployed. Anywhere up to and over 50 percent of the U.A.W. membership is now in the ranks of the jobless. They must not be lost to the union. On the contrary, they should become its most loyal and valiant fighters. The picket lines of the next period will be manned by the unemployed if the U.A.W. organizes and leads them in the struggle for improved welfare and W.P.A. conditions.

Worker Paints Revealing Picture Of Conditions In Ford Factories

By A FORD WORKER

DETROIT.—Approximately 10 per cent of those now employed at the Ford Motor Company, were affected by recent wage cuts. Incomes of salaried men were reduced first, and wages of factory workers shortly afterwards. No wage is as yet below 75 cents per hour. In a large part, those affected are skilled men who have been transferred to unskilled jobs, or men whom the company keeps at work rather than pay compensation — men who were injured in the plant. Not all salaried men were affected.

That only a small percentage of men were affected by the cuts, that they hit salaried men first, and that the 75 cents minimum still remains, indicate the company's fear of unionism. In the previous depression, wages were slashed as high as 50 and 60 per cent at one time.

Lay-offs and Pay Cuts

The cuts followed recent lay-offs involving approximately 75 per cent of the Ford workers. Most of these men—even the skilled—will be rehired at the minimum wage. The policy of laying off and rehiring at 75 cents per hour is a regular one at the Ford Motor Company, even when lay-offs are not necessary. It is a substitute for wage-cuts. Another substitute is to place men on more highly skilled jobs than they have handled, without increase in pay, thus displacing the skilled man who had been paid more. Apprentices placed in complete charge of a job, trade school boys — paid as low as 15 cents an hour—working on regular jobs, are not a rare phenomenon.

Members, or former members, of the service department are not to my knowledge taking any wage-cut. Many are, however, being taken off "service" and placed back on their old jobs. Some are also being given lay-offs for periods of two or three weeks. They return to work at their old hourly rate.

Foremen, too, feel present conditions. Recently, 17 were sent home from the Motor Building. They will be called back to work "when needed." Others were put back on production jobs. Some

will probably never be called back, others will return to work at production jobs, many will return at the minimum wage. Many foremen, as well as servicemen, tend because of these conditions to be in sympathy with the worker.

More Speed-Up

Speed-ups, too, have increased. Some lines it is impossible to speed-up: men already work as fast as possible. Recent step-ups are especially noticeable among the skilled and semi-skilled. One man doing the work of two, three or even five is not uncommon. During this past summer, new badges for all Ford workers in the country were made in the Dearborn plant. The first complete set was thrown away: the picture of a V8 was stamped on the face and it was thought the model might change soon. This set was produced in about 4½ weeks although the job was scheduled for, and had always taken, six weeks. The week and a half in costs was saved by speeding up the men. No extra machinery was used. The next set of badges, which bears the same face as did the old—the Ford factory—was finished in three weeks. Again, added efficiency meant stepping up production. Today these conditions are the rule wherever possible.

Just last week, approximately 4,000 men were laid off. Most of these did not turn in badge and tool checks. This means that when and if they resume work, they resume without a wage reduction. Many of these are die-hards for Henry Ford, others are not. The policy of taking up badge and tool checks and rehiring at the minimum wage is, because of union threats, not as extensively utilized as formerly, but still is very much in use.

Police Regime Installed

This past summer, the service department reached its zenith in strength and number. Service men patrolled aisles within the plant, they filled the seats of many five-passenger cars stationed around each factory gate, they were armed with guns, handcuffs, and clubs. Many workers were taken off their jobs and placed under the direction of a

service man, without even being told why. Their job was simply to obey their superior. These workers were simply armed with clubs, their superiors had guns and handcuffs. In that period, I would estimate the number of men doing "service" as close to 10,000, a veritable army. Today there are no more than a few hundred. The others have been sent back to their regular work. It is significant that several attempted sit-downs, spontaneous in origin, within the last 18 months were broken almost before they got started. Results were disastrous for the workers.

The Dearborn polite and city administration help the company. In the May 26 riots of last year, the police stood passively by while union men and women were slugged and beaten. The Dearborn city council passed an ordinance prohibiting distribution of literature in front of the main gates, ostensibly "to avoid traffic congestion."

Lesson Learned

In the meantime the men in the plant have definitely learned that Ford is not their friend. Poor wages, job insecurity, unemployment, intimidation, amid a host of other conditions, have finally driven them to this conclusion. This does not mean that the service men and stooges feel this way. In part, these are so demoralized that they care no longer for anyone except themselves; in part, their sympathy for the worker is still latent; and in part, they still think that if labor and capital get together everything will be all right. But the worker who has seen only factory work for the greater part of his life, or who sees only this in store for him, looks favorably toward the union. Especially do the unemployed feel this way. They understand that the future has nothing in store for them, even if they resume work. Yet they are not decided that the U.A.W. will act. They want to be resolute but are afraid. The future of the Ford drive depends on overcoming this fear. A general rise in economic conditions even for a short period of a few months, may furnish this opportunity. In the meantime it is necessary to prepare.

Hillman Hints At New Attempt To Effect A.F.L.-C.I.O. Unity

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Another behind the scenes effort to negotiate terms for C.I.O. and A.F. of L. unity was hinted at in the opening address last week of Sidney Hillman, in charge of C.I.O. negotiations with the A.F. of L., before the convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of which he is president.

His public prediction of peace between the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. and the cautious attitude of the union towards the A.F. of L. as expressed in the report of the general executive board indicate that Hillman sees hope for resumption of negotiations. It also makes more possible his fondest dream—presidency of the united labor movement.

The Amalgamated will retain its allegiance to the C.I.O. and it will neglect no opportunity to bring about unity in the labor movement, Hillman emphasized.

The report of the general executive board discussed political action by labor and stated that the union intended to establish

a "permanent medium of independent and progressive labor action in politics." That the officers believe Labor's Non-Partisan League will meet the requirements of the trade union movement is to be inferred from the statement by Hillman that the League, "being flexible, will meet the needs of the future as it has those of the past."

This broad formulation of the purpose of the League is intended to cover the possibility of turning it into a labor party if sentiment among the rank and file continues. It is a statement which can be made to fit whatever political developments arise. Hillman is seldom caught napping.

Whenever possible, Poulos states, unemployed workers are to be reintegrated with their respective unions, and those previously unconnected with any union will be united in a broad unemployed organization.

Joseph blasted the lies and exposed the reactionary purpose including the "red scare" raised against him. His defense rallied every healthy element in the C.L.U., and the vote in his favor came as a great shock and blow to the bureaucrats who hold over the C.L.U. had never been successfully challenged in recent times.

Radio Union Votes Against Boss War

CHICAGO—Local 1121 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America lined up at its last membership meeting with all the genuine anti-war forces in the labor movement by voting enthusiastic endorsement of the anti-war resolution of the Minneapolis Central Labor Council. There were only three dissenting votes.

During the last month, Local 1121 has launched a whirlwind organization campaign under the slogan: "A city-wide union agreement for the radio plants." As a step in that direction, Climax Radio Corporation was organized 95 per cent, while by a series of go-slow strikes the union is forcing the management to accept its demands for a closed shop, seniority rights, a 40-hour week with time a half for overtime, and a 25 cent wage increase.

At Pacific Radio, the union has broken off negotiations because of the bosses' brazen demand for a six per cent wage cut. Preparations are under way for a strike when the contract expires on May 12.

The Chicago area encompasses the largest center of radio and electrical manufacturing in the world, employing over 90,000 workers, hitherto almost entirely unorganized.

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
VILLAGE AUCTION and dance, 107 McDougal Street, Saturday May 14, Admission 25c.

NEWARK
CLASS IN TRADE UNIONISM, Instructor, George Breitman. Four lectures, Tuesday nights beginning May 10, 8:30 P. M. Admission 10 cents per lecture or 25 cents for four. 284 15th Avenue. Progressive Workers School.

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Cafeteria Union Bosses Sell Out Hard-Won Gain

Job Security Sacrificed By Agreement To Refer Discharge Cases To "Impartial" Board

Throttling an aroused membership by base trickery and flagrant violation of union democracy, the Stalinist-ruled administration of the Cafeteria Employees Union, Local 302, recently erased the most important gain made by the union since its inception—job security. In return for an eight-hour day, the union conceded the demand of the Affiliated Restaurateurs' Association that all cases of discharge of workers shall be decided by an "impartial" Adjustment Board or a State Labor arbiter.

Previously, all such cases were decided solely by the union's Executive Board and the membership as a whole. Vigorous and highly effective opposition to this sell-out of the fundamental right of all workers had been led by the United Progressive Group of Local 302. The Stalinist leaders and their natural allies, the racketeers' ex-henchmen, had frantically called innumerable "rank-and-file" caucuses to extol the virtues of the proposed arbitration or adjustment clause on the following grounds:

- Stalinist Arguments**
1. "That we are now a membership of 12,000 and not 500."
 2. "That we are no longer living in the horse-and-buggy days."
 3. "That unless you accept the Adjustment Board you won't get the 8-hour day."

These contemptible and scabby gestures were amply answered by the Progressives who cited the following facts:

1. That if 500 workers could get job security, then 12,000 workers can hold it.
2. The 8-hour day can be fought for and won in the manner of all clean and free trade unions.
3. The Adjustment Board covers only 95 association shops

of 500 Union Houses; preference to the Association shops will build it as a powerful weapon against our Union.

Militant Workers Meet

So thorough was the campaign of the Progressives that a belligerent membership packed the meeting hall on the night of the voting. At the start of the reading of the proposed contract—which was actually the demands of the bosses' association—the Stalinist-reactionary clique was outvoted by five and ten to one on minor points. But the contract was sixteen pages long. At 2 A. M., the vital clause was reached. A motion to conduct a referendum on the clause was declared "out of order." Near violence ensued for many tumultuous minutes. An appeal from the chair's decision was lost, whereupon two hundred stooges of the administration voted "aye" and fifty members voted "no" in a deserted hall. Thereby job security was snatched from 4000 workers.

A few days later the contract was signed in the office of none other than our racket-busting district attorney, Thomas E. Dewey, who remarked amid clicking cameras: "This is the best contract I've seen yet."

Progressives Charged

Despite their victory the Stalinist leaders received quite a scare. Several Progressive leaders have been summoned before the executive board on charges of "slander" and "disruption." All this in compliance with the manifesto of the Cafeteria Units of the C.P. published recently in the Daily Worker, expressing their intention of purging the trade unions of all militant and free-minded men and women.

Goodrich Workers Vote Ten-One Against Wage Cut Plan

AKRON.—By a vote of 10 to 1 the Goodrich local of the United Rubber Workers of America last week voted down a compromise wage cut proposal.

At the same time the bakery drivers concluded a contract providing for no wage cuts; using a short one-day strike to clinch the agreement.

Stirring speeches by leading progressives helped to swing the anti-wage cut decision. Under the impact of the wage cut proposals and the catastrophic economic decline, progressive elements are beginning to awaken out of the apathy induced by a lethargic leadership, a stand-pat

Stalinist clique in the rank and file, and a demoralization induced by the failure to see any way out of the present blind alley the rubber industry, along with the rest of American capitalism, finds itself in.

With union leaders still pressing for continued negotiations, and James P. Miller of the national labor relations board still hovering on the sidelines, it is not to be excluded that a further attempt to sew up rubber labor in a compulsory arbitration proposal, using as bait an annual living wage, work guarantees, etc., will be attempted again in the not too distant future.

Appeal Army

Can't we raise our weekly subscription over the 30 mark? And as far as bundle order increases are concerned, the showing is only a little improvement over the past few weeks. Where are those promotion experts in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Minneapolis, etc., etc.?

New subs that came in last week:

- NEW YORK CITY 14
- California 4
- Chicago 3
- Massachusetts 2
- Philadelphia 1
- Montana 1
- Connecticut 1
- Minneapolis 1
- St. Paul 1
- Jersey City 1
- Girard, Ohio 1
- TOTAL 30

The following branches increased their bundle orders:
Kansas City, Mo. to:.....15
Vancouver, Canada to:.....25

Here's a letter from Comrade Danil in Seadrift, Texas, that should set an example for our younger comrades:

"I am really not able to subscribe but will try to help the cause \$1 for which send me paper for six months.

"I have been sick for some time now, am almost 82 years old and only getting \$15 per month from the government, but can depend on me always living and being for the cause."

Many thanks, Comrade Danil and we wish you many more revolutionary years.

Plans are now being drawn up to launch the biggest Appeal sub drive and circulation campaign we have yet tried. Details will be published shortly. All Appeal friends with ideas and suggestions are urged to send them in immediately. We guarantee they'll receive our attention.

We hope our friends and sympathizers in New York are carrying out the suggestion of the New York City literature agent, Abe Miller: Request and purchase your weekly Appeal at your local newsstand.

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