

Stalinists Put To Flight By UAW Board

Frankenstein-Browder Combination Collapses
Completely; Union Errs, However, In
Supporting Governor Murphy

PROGRAM GETS UNANIMOUS VOTE

DETROIT, May 16.—Not since the collapse of the frame-up campaign in the Minneapolis Corcoran case have the Stalinists been put to so complete a rout as at the current Executive Board sessions of the United Automobile Workers of America.

The report of President Homer Martin and his twenty-point program was accepted without a dissenting vote.

The grand strategy of Richard T. Frankenstein, supported by his Communist Party allies, to outlaw the democratic rights of groups and caucuses went a-begging for supporters, without a single soul daunt enough—not even Frankenstein—to present it to the Executive Board for consideration and action.

To cap the climax, every member of the Executive Board, including those previously associated with the Unity Group, acting voluntarily and with no compulsion or coercion of any kind brought to bear upon them, affixed their signatures to the program presented by Martin.

On Factionalism

In his report to the Executive Board, covering numerous topics ranging from contractual relations with the employers to the internal condition in the union, Martin struck a fighting note in his discussion of the mooted issue of factionalism:

"Our union," he declared, "is and must remain a democratic organization. Just as all members should participate in making decisions, so all members should participate in carrying out those decisions once they are made. There should be freedom of discussion and opinion in our ranks. This is as it should be. However, democracy is not confined merely to freedom of discussion. Democracy also means that out of this discussion and an exchange of opinion, a cause, a program and a policy is agreed upon, which all unitedly support. This is the real meaning of unity. This is the only way for democracy to function and the only basis upon which an enduring organization can be built.

Real Democracy

"Let us state again that there can be no danger to our union when free discussion is not only permitted but encouraged. The danger to the union lies in the degeneration of healthful differences of opinion on the basis of real issues into chronic opposition for the sake of opposition itself. Real democracy in a union demands the rights of minorities to freedom of discussion and expression and their protection from arbitrary repression. Factions and factionalism cannot be eliminated by decree. Factionalism can be eliminated only through the adoption and execution of a constructive program and policies which every active union man and woman will support."

It is quite obvious that this statement flies in the teeth of the Frankenstein program. Despite this fact, Frankenstein and the other miserable C.P. and Unity Group leaders cast their vote for it. It is rumored, however, that one of the opposition—evidently as a face-saving move—proposed an amendment (1) to abolish all factions. Rumor also has it that his hand was the only one which went up for the amendment.

Economic Crisis

Further on in Martin's report there is another very thinly veiled slam at the mythical "sit-down strike of capital" theory advanced by the Communist Party. In discussing contractual relations with the corporations Martin declared:

"Some of the criticism directed against the union has been based on a false estimate of the economic situation. These people would cry that there was no economic crisis (only a "sit-down strike of capital"—Ed.) and hence the union could adopt exactly the same tactics which it followed in the spring of 1937. Later, when forced to admit that the crisis was a reality, they turned the tables and argued that the union was going down to defeat

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PROGRESSIVES SHOW GAINS IN PAINTERS' POLL

Get Majority In Three
Locals In Union
Referendum

NEW YORK.—Awakening opposition to the Weinstock regime in the New York Painters Union resulted in important gains for progressives as voting on the maintenance proposition proceeded in the locals this week. The proposition, with a "flexible wage scale" that means undermining the standard scale of the regular painters, met with serious resistance in all locals and was defeated in several.

Close In Local 51

In Local 51, Frank Carey, backed by the Progressive Club, rode into office over the Weinstock-backed candidate, Carl Lawson, in the by-election to fill the office of financial secretary. In this local, a member of the Stalinist "club" was slugged two weeks ago when he dared differ with the "party line." This brutal attack split the ranks of the Stalinist-controlled "Unity Club."

On the maintenance proposition, the local voted 210 to 204 in favor of Weinstock's proposal. Considering the three to one votes usually cast in favor of administrative proposals in Local 51, the gains of the progressives are apparent.

In three locals, 261, 1011 and 874, the maintenance proposition was defeated by comfortable margins. In Local 905, where progressives had reason to expect victory, the Stalinists are charged with outright swindle in the balloting.

Where Stalinists Scored

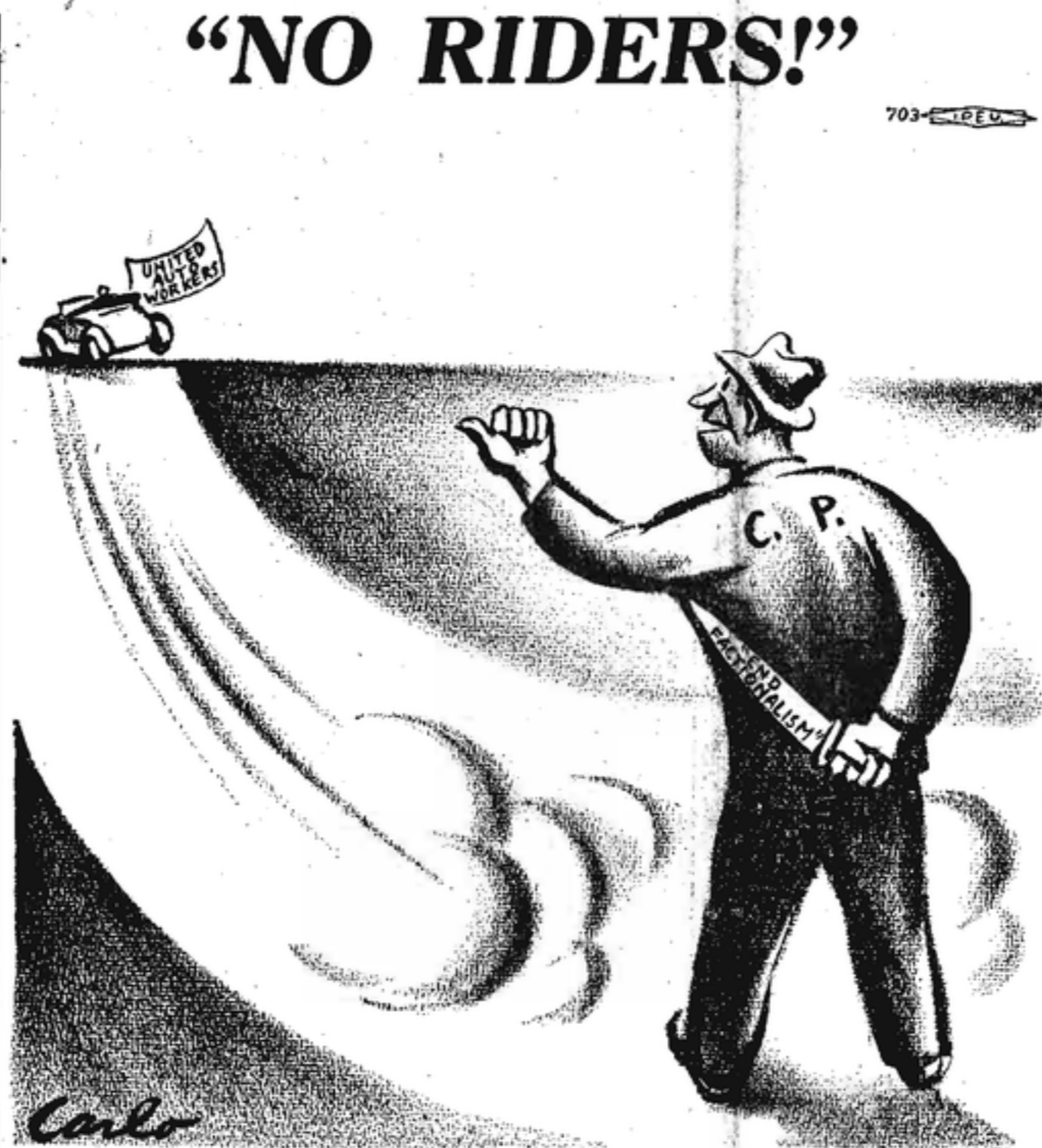
Where the open ballot was used, as in Locals 848,892, 905 and 442, the Stalinists were able to roll up big majorities for Weinstock's proposition. On the other hand, in the locals where the secret ballot was used, the opposition was able to score victories over the administration.

The contrast reveals the reasons behind the desperate fight against the secret ballot in the last referendum. It is clear that in a secret ballot, free from intimidations and gangster methods, the membership would make short shrift of such misleaders.

Paper Appears

The first issue of The Progressive Painter, organ of the progressive clubs in the various Locals in the New York District, is off the press this week. Formerly relying on mimeographed bulletins, the consolidation of the clubs into an inter-local conference has made possible a printed newspaper.

The paper is edited under the supervision of the Action Committee of the inter-local conference, and promises to play a real role in exposing the reactionary policies and methods of the Stalinist regime in control of District Council 9.



U.S. Imperialism Shows Aerial Might Over N. Y.

Japan Envisioned In Maneuvers As Actual Enemy
In Coming War; Air-fleet Defects To Be Used
As Lever For More War Appropriations

NEW YORK.—The aerial might of American imperialism was put on display here this week as the maneuvers of the Army's General Headquarters Air Force ended exercises which extended over a week, following closely the navy exercises in the Pacific. Army maneuvers, organized on the largest scale ever witnessed, are still proceeding and will not be completed until Fall.

Bearing witness to the fact that the Roosevelt government considers U.S. involvement in war nearer than at any time during the past 20 years, every endeavor was made in the air force maneuvers to simulate, as closely as possible, actual wartime conditions.

Farmingdale Blacked Out

On Monday night, the village of Farmingdale, L. I. and all territory within a five-mile radius was "blacked out" while pursuit planes and anti-aircraft artillery, aided by airplane detectors and powerful searchlights, beat off a simulated bombing attack on the Seversky airfield. Next morning all the planes assembled in the east for the maneuvers gathered at West Point, flew to Mitchell Field for an aerial review, and then passed in formation over New York prior to returning to their bases in various parts of the country.

The maneuvers, wrote Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the New York Times, "have demonstrated a great improvement in the army's aerial efficiency, but have also revealed considerable weaknesses... Not the least of these weaknesses is the fact that the army really has as yet no air force, but merely the good beginnings of one."

Headed for War

It is thus obvious that, in the first place, the aerial maneuvers and their results are to be used as justification for voting additional huge air force appropriations—in other words, to accelerate the war preparations program of the Roosevelt administration.

Roosevelt has no doubts, even if the pacifists have, that U. S. imperialism is headed for war—not a simple war of defense in which operations would be restricted to preventing "aggressors" from invading the continental United States—but a war of imperialist aggrandisement.

Wrote Baldwin of the air maneuvers: "The present problem... supposes that a 'Black' coalition of European powers is attacking our Northeastern states while the

Not An Abstraction

But actually, Trotsky's review demonstrates, it is not a question in the abstract of the end justifying the means, but rather of one and the other flowing into each other and changing places, as illustrated in the drama "Franz von Sickingen" by the German, Frederick La Salle.

"... Show not the goal But also show the path. So closely tangled

COAST SAILORS VOTING ON AFL ENTRY PROPOSAL

Stalinist Wrecking Drive
in CIO Forces Seamen
To Seek Support

SAN FRANCISCO.—Faced with the onslaught of the combined Stalinized C.I.O. maritime groups, the Sailors Union of the Pacific voted last week to place the question of affiliation to the American Federation of Labor before the rank and file for action and decision in the coming weeks.

The question will be placed before the membership for four consecutive meetings of all branches. The first week's voting resulted in overwhelming support for affiliation in all branches on the West Coast.

On the West Coast, where the strongest section of organized labor is in the A. F. of L., the militant seamen seeking to maintain their unions against the "splitting" drives of the C.I.O. unions under the domination of Harry Bridges have consistently received support from the major A. F. of L. unions.

The move for affiliation comes as the tactics of the Stalinist union-busters have reached the stage of open warfare. Picket lines of the S.U.P. are being broken by force, as Bridges &

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Chamberlain Seeking New Status Quo

Wants Understanding
With Germany At The
Cheapest Price

Great Britain's drive for a new "status quo" is being conducted with irresistible vigor. In Geneva Lord Halifax emerged as victor—though with little glory. The cases of Ethiopia and Spain have been dropped, according to the dictates of British and French diplomacy.

The course of the session of the League of Nations Council proved, if such proof was still needed, that treachery and violation of the weak is far from being the prerogative only of "fascist" imperialists. Ethiopia, China and Spain demonstrated irrefutably that not only the "ideals" but also the legal stipulations of the League demand their defense.

"Democrats" vs. Aggressors

The cold rejection of the appeals from these victims of imperialist aggression by the representatives of democratic England and France proves only that the latter's real conceptions of "law" are not at all different from those of Mussolini, Hitler and the Mikado.

Only through the miserable deception of the masses perpetrated by the Second and Third Internationals can it be pretended that collective security is anything but a cover for the maintenance of the world autocracy of the Versailles imperialists. If the latter preserve the bankrupt League, it is only to use it in case of war as a means of social patriotic mobilization.

Without losing any time, Britain continues to change the map of Europe. Now she is preparing to break the back-bone of another League member, Czechoslovakia, whose president was one of the outstanding lackeys of Geneva. No doubt, once everything is settled, London will once again demand post factum sanction from the League.

Hold Secret Talks

Over the head of official Czech diplomacy, London has started secret discussions with Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten German Nazis and uncrowned ruler of Czechoslovakia. As far as Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovakian ambassador to London, is concerned, the bourgeois press reports, as a kind of consolation, that he has at his disposal in London the "best organized intelligence service," which keeps him informed of the latest moves of Chamberlain and Henlein.

The aim of British diplomacy is to pay the cheapest possible price for a transitional understanding with Germany. More precisely, Britain wants to build "peace" on the broken backs of others. What she desires, above all, is to prevent Germany from being forced to subdue Czechoslovakia with violence.

To be sure, Chamberlain hopes

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Mexico Ends Its Relations With Britain

Action Follows Insolent Demands By Britain;
American Unions Must Give Strongest
Support To Mexican Workers

FASCIST REBELLION FOMENTED

Following the reception of an insolent note from the British government, in which the latter dared to dictate the domestic affairs of Mexico as it does to countries under its own colonial administration, the Cardenas government last week severed diplomatic relations with Britain. Great Britain was compelled to recall its minister from Mexico City.

Thus the conflict with private oil companies now assumes the form of an open conflict between states. The U. S. State Department, which so far has attempted to remain in the background, will now have to take a more straight-forward position.

Many symptoms indicate that there was a division of labor between Washington and London in the offensive against Mexico's attempt to gain greater independence from imperialism. While Britain tries to encourage the audacity of the Mexican reaction through provocative diplomatic acts, the American imperialists have chosen the method of economic strangulation.

INTEGRALISTAS APE HITLERITES IN BRAZIL COUP

Putsch Against Vargas
Recalls Attack On
Dollfuss In 1934

The Fascist Integralistas of Brazil staged a short-lived putsch in Rio de Janeiro last week against Dictator Getulio Vargas.

Trained and equipped by the Nazis, the Integralistas borrowed heavily from old Nazi methods in staging their abortive coup. It was strikingly reminiscent of the unsuccessful Nazi coup d'etat against Dollfuss in Vienna in 1934.

Familiar Methods

Then, as in this case, the plan was to take power by assassinating the chief representative of the enemy. Then, as now, the conspirators gained admission to the enemy's center disguised as bodyguards reporting for duty. Even if the Brazil coup, doomed in advance in the present circumstances, did not take place at the direct orders of German overseers, the source of its methods and of its inspiration is unmistakable.

But much more important are the political similarities. In both cases there was a struggle between two fascist competitors for power. Both factions had foreign sponsors. The only difference is that Dollfuss-Vargas is tied to the apron-strings of the eminent democrat, Roosevelt, instead of the Blackshirt, Mussolini.

The Integralistas

Like the Nazis in Austria, the Integralistas considered themselves robbed of the fruits of their own counter-revolutionary activity. Up until his coup d'etat of November, 1937, Vargas had used the Integralistas as a shock brigade against his presidential rival, A. de Salles Oliveira, an exponent of British imperialism who played the democratic tune. But the influence of the Integralistas became too dangerous for Vargas' own power. Having expropriated their essential program in promulgating a corporatist state, Vargas was able to attack his erstwhile allies all the more energetically. The Integralistas were soon driven into illegality.

The hostility became sharper when Vargas frustrated the premature hopes of the German backers of the Integralistas, and strengthened his ties with Washington—naturally, for good American dollars.

The Brazilian ambassador in Washington has taken this strife between two species of fascist counter-revolution as proof-by-example of the "democratic character" of the Vargas regime.

Naturally, the last word lies with the United States. To be sure, Britain is her most dangerous competitor in Latin America, and the Anglo-Mexican tension can become a splendid opportunity for American imperialists to shut the door to the British in the name of the Monroe Doctrine and the "good neighbor" policy, as well as to subdue Mexico still further under the pretense of saving her.

Broader Considerations

But elements of broader international policy might as well enter into the picture. The secret dealing between London and Washington, in respect to the Far East and joint "defense" of the Atlantic, plus the added pressure of Standard Oil, might well force Roosevelt to postpone the Latin American "strife" and to make common cause with Britain against Mexico, at least for the time being.

In this case the main line of action would most likely be the policing of Mexico in the internal conflicts which threaten. The economic situation of the country is rapidly worsening. The reserves of the state bank are dwindling. The peasantry is in dire need. The employers, who would like to see a more reliable representatives of their own class at the helm of government, are closing factories and reducing wages. In answer, the workers' organizations have threatened to break the truce forced upon them by Cardenas.

Concentrating Against Cedillo

Among the students, who are always an important thermometer in gauging the political temperature of a country, riots have broken out at the University of Mexico City. In San Luis Potosi, the seat of the reactionary General Cedillo, who has at his disposal a strong private army and upon whom the hopes of Mexican reaction are pinned, strong concentrations of government troops are taking place. The reactionary press publishes rumors about the impending resignation of Cardenas, and speculates about his possible successors.

Too many internal and external factors are involved to allow a certain prediction of coming events. The possibility of sudden and violent turns, generally characteristic of our imperialist epoch, now applies with special force to Mexico. The Mexican workers are vigorously determined to defend the expropriation which they forced. Any retreat on this point would lead to civil war. So would the continuation

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UAW Head Supports Mexican Strikers

DETROIT.—Support for striking workers in Henry Ford's Mexican assembly plant was wired to the Confederation of Mexican Workers last week by President Homer Martin of the United Automobile Workers of America.

"Ours is a common struggle to insure higher wages and better working conditions in the industry and to bring industrial democracy and freedom to the machine-driven, boss-ridden unprotected Ford workers," Martin wired to Mexican labor leaders.