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Progress In Akron

The report in last week's issue about the decision of various A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions in Akron to establish a "United Labor Defense Council" on a permanent basis for the purpose of protecting the unions' right of picketing and guarding the civil liberties of labor, is a welcome sign of progress.

Coming on the heels of the murderous assault by company thugs and Akron police upon the Goodyear picket line, the action of the unions takes on additional significance.

The rubber workers of Akron, organized a few years ago, have already distinguished themselves by their militancy, fearlessness and determination to win. They are among the vanguard of American labor. They have now fortified their record by the important step of overcoming the division in labor's ranks and uniting A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions into a common front. Nobody will quarrel with the aims of this front; on the contrary, every worker will salute it cordially.

Now that Akron labor has taken the first step; it should take the second. The United Labor Defense Committee needs the widest support from the ranks. If the rights to picket, to organize, to free speech and assembly, are really to be preserved from reactionary attack, the United Labor Defense Committee must have at its disposal hundreds, if not thousands, of courageous workers ready at a moment's notice to defend themselves from the reaction with every available means. The Akron labor movement has thousands of such workers, ready to respond to the first call.

A committee of a dozen or a score of persons, no matter how willing, cannot, by itself, protect the picket line or other labor rights. That job requires mass support. And by mass support, nothing else can be meant than selected, trained, disciplined fighters, properly organized and democratically led, who will know how to protect the union's rights from assaults of mobsters, uniformed or otherwise.

Acron has already set the pace for American labor in many fields. Let it now take the initiative in organizing the first important Labor Defense Guard. Such a step would be an unforgettable service to the working class, and a terrific blow to reaction.

Thomas In Queer Company

Many are the crimes that have been committed in the name of Liberty. But seldom has a more sinister burlesque on that mouth-filling word been perpetrated than is done by the movement just launched under the patriotic title of "National Rededication."

"We are not interested," announced its acting director, Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, in making public the names of the national committee, "in criticizing anybody or attacking anybody. Our purpose is to state the case for liberty and democracy as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States."

In their statement, the sponsors of the National Rededication say: "Liberty has been destroyed in many of the leading nations. Openly or secretly, alien revolutionary forces are seeking the overthrow of free governments. The glorification of violence and the resurgence of racial and religious intolerance are everywhere endangering democracy. The only answer to militant autocracy is a democracy, informed, united, revitalized and aflame."

The organization will have among its purposes "to rekindle the public mind to the splendor of America's free institutions . . . to stimulate that faith which has been the nation's strength—faith in

liberty, faith in man, faith in America and faith in God." And among other special observances during its six-month "educational campaign on the significance of democratic institutions" will be the Fourth of July and Armistice Day.

Who are the ladies and gentlemen so vitally concerned with guarding Liberty and smashing the "alien revolutionary forces . . . seeking the overthrow of free governments?" Among them we find such illustrious democrats as the reactionary gentleman from Virginia, Richard E. Byrd; the agent of the House of Morgan and former candidate for president, John W. Davis; the democratic Hero of Anacostia, Herbert Hoover; the late candidate for president put forward by DuPonts and the Liberty League—Alfred Landon; the red-baiting specialist of the A. F. of L., Matthew Woll; and the head of the General Electric Company, Owen D. Young.

That this collection of reactionaries should seek to pose as guardians of liberty, may be a fine piece of hypocrisy, but not entirely strange. Not at all strange is their eulogy of "America's free institutions," of the Constitution, of "faith in America and faith in God." Their dislike of "alien revolutionary forces" dates back to and is of a piece with their ingrained hatred of the Russian Revolution, of Marxism, socialism, communism, and all other doctrines and movements which they stamp as "alien." They are people who have regarded the mild reforms of Roosevelt, and Roosevelt himself, as a modified American translation of Bolshevism. Their whole public record shows them to conceive the term "liberty" to mean the untrammelled freedom of reactionary capitalism to exploit the masses and to crush all those who oppose it. Nor can "liberty" have any other meaning on their lips.

For this perfectly obvious reason alone, the new movement is a cheap deception, a democratic, capitalist-patriotic mask for reaction.

But side by side with Hoover, Landon, Young, Woll, Davis and Byrd, sits—we rub our eyes!—the national chairman of the Socialist Party, Norman Thomas. Has his party approved his participation in this reactionary fraud or has he, as usual, committed the party without even consulting it? We are loath to believe that there is one man in the S. P. who takes the ideas of socialism seriously, who will not immediately repudiate Thomas' disgraceful and criminal collaboration with such arch-enemies of labor and liberty as he is now associated with.

When the Stalinist party proclaims itself the defender of American capitalist democracy and "the splendor of America's free institutions," this is universally recognized as the measure of its self-degradation. What a low estate the Socialist Party has fallen to when its national chairman can blandly join hands for the same "free institutions" and the same chauvinistic drivel, with such precious specimens as Herbert Hoover, Owen D. Young and John W. Davis!

Deport 'Em!

Last week's press reported a letter from the March Federal grand jury in the Southern District of New York, to President Roosevelt, urging him to take steps towards the deportation of all aliens on relief who have lived in the United States three years without obtaining first citizenship papers.

We are sure that the gentlemen of the grand jury had no objection when, years ago, agents of the big corporations of the United States cajoled workers and peasants from South, Central and Eastern Europe into coming to this country by painting attractive pictures of its unlimited possibilities and unrestricted freedom. That was when the big corporations needed big reserves of cheap labor to keep the profit-wheels moving.

Now, in the midst of the crisis, these same gentlemen are unwilling to continue giving these workers even that miserable relief which they are now getting and which constitutes only a tiny fraction of the profits they helped to pile up for the capitalist class in this country. Rather, they propose mass deportations on the grounds that . . . they are not citizens!

We wonder if this insolent demand was made on the assumption that it would be supported also by the Stalinist party, which recently disqualified from membership all "aliens" who are not 100 per cent American citizens?

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

Stalinists Oust Selves From Anti-Nazi Drive

SAN FRANCISCO. — Communist Party heads reached a new all-time low in bankruptcy (to say nothing of perfidy) at a united front conference held here June 6, where they attempted to exclude the Socialist Workers Party from the anti-Nazi movement and capture control of that movement for themselves.

Picketing Announced

A few days later the German-American League for Culture, militantly anti-Nazi, announced through its secretary, Eric Rix, that it would picket the convention and called for mass support. Among the organizations which responded were the Socialist Workers Party, the United Anti-Nazi Council (Stalinist controlled), a number of unions and the Communist Party. The Socialist Party (Clarityites) allowed its name to be used but did not send delegates or turn out for the demonstration later.

Because they came in after the Trotskyists and because the real core of the movement was represented by Rix, the Stalinists were unable to keep from uniting with the Socialist Workers Party in this demonstration. Their only choice was to go along or withdraw from the action. They chose the first, but not without insisting that all participants hide the names of their organizations. To achieve this, they of course had to be the first to lower their own banner. The S.W.P. delegates objected but refused to break the united front on this point. Despite this, their banners stood out in the picket line like a beacon light because of their working class content.

An Inspiration

As for the demonstration it was beyond question one of the most inspiring and militant actions seen in San Francisco since the great strikes of 1934-35. An estimated two to three thousand took part in the picketing and three or four times that many jammed the streets before California Hall cheering the marchers. When the line was officially dismissed at approximately 9 p. m., most of the workers returned to the hall and remained there despite police efforts to disperse them until the convention adjourned.

Such a show of anti-fascist sentiment naturally led those who had been instrumental in awakening it to make an effort to further expand such a splendid movement. On the morning following the demonstration the united front committee met to discuss ways and means to continue and enlarge still further the struggle against Nazism. At this meeting the delegate from the Stalinist United Anti-Nazi Council informed the committee that his organization had already called a city-wide conference for just such a purpose. He invited the committee as a whole to participate in that conference, where ways and means of fighting the Nazis would be discussed and acted on. His invitation was accepted unanimously, no objections being made by either him or the Communist Party delegate to the fact that this invitation included the Trotskyites, who not only were on the united front committee but were represented in the steering committee of five which conducted the demonstration.

With these events as a background the city-wide conference convened on the evening of June 6. Delegates from the German-American League for Culture, the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League, the Socialist Party and their Young Peoples Socialist League, were present. The balance of the delegates, with a few exceptions, were from the Communist Party, the Stalinist-dominated middle class groups and unions with Stalinist administrations. Approximately 150 attended.

Taking the chair, the representative from the United Anti-Nazi Council opened the meeting by announcing that no delegates from political parties would be seated! When it was pointed out that political parties had been expressly invited, he and half a hundred other disguised Stalinists rose to point out how such parties as were present would give the conference a left wing (no less!) tinge and thus make it impossible to draw in other political groups such as the Democrats and Republicans! And then, to make the maneuver complete, the Communist Party delegate rose and announced that he agreed with the above arguments and so the C.P. would withdraw (sic!) from the conference.

Exclusion Voted

Delegates from the S.W.P., the Socialist Party and the German-American League for Culture were told by the chairman—when they protested—that this had long been a rule of the Anti-Nazi Council. He was reminded that these delegates had not come to affiliate to the Council but to form a united front with it for specific actions. Unperturbed he entertained a motion to exclude political parties and of course got an overwhelming majority, practically every delegate but those from the protesting organizations voting "aye." These latter then withdrew to caucus and decided to return as individual observers with voice and no vote.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing ways of spreading the boycott against German goods and enlisting the unions for a boycott of California Hall. The discussion was interrupted repeatedly by efforts on the part of the chairman and others to get Rix to reconsider his withdrawal—efforts which met with a firm refusal. And so, once more, the Stalinists wound up shaking hands with themselves. They have demonstrated to all who have eyes to see that they much prefer unity with the organizations of the capitalists than with those of the working class. Just as Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director, in carrying out the C.P. program, smashes picket lines of the Sailors Union and then meets with the Committee of 43 (industrialists) to end "industrial strife" (read, break strikes) so the Stalinists in the Anti-Nazi movement prefer unity with the bosses' political parties to unity with those of the workers.

Stalinists Oust Themselves

To sum up, the workers in San Francisco have come out on the streets against the Nazis. The core of their movement was and is the German-American League for Culture. In an effort to capture this movement and exclude the other political groups from it the Stalinists have alienated this all important core and in effect excluded themselves from the anti-fascist struggle. Meanwhile, those organizations which were forced to walk out of the conference are planning to hold a genuine united front meeting in the near future to carry on the work begun the night of May 29. The Stalinists have made their choice of whom they wish to unite with, but this will not keep the organizations of the workers from uniting and carrying on the magnificent fight they have launched against the Nazis and fascism in general.

Bloody Reign Of Terror In Jamaica Still Continuing

The score for "democratic" British imperialism, in its bloody suppression of the Jamaica workers who have struck against their wretched conditions, mounted to twelve killed when a striker was shot by police in the parish of Trelawney on June 7. Two strikers shot the previous day at Luddasvale were in a critical condition. On the same day sailors landed from the British cruiser Ajax to help "keep order."

The strike of the Kingston

power plant workers, which had left the city without light and power, was settled last week, but strikes continued in rural areas, with the workers burning cane fields in some districts.

A British Guiana-West Indies labor conference meeting in Georgetown, British Guiana, on June 8, sent a cable expressing sympathy with the Jamaica strikers and condemning the use of bayonets and rifles against them.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL Monthly Marxist Magazine — SUBSCRIBE NOW! —

Mpls. Unions Show Method Of Ending CIO-AFL Disputes

Jurisdiction Quarrel In Garages Settled By Firm Action

By CARL O'SHEA

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Minneapolis trade union movement, which both by example and by direct organizational aid has contributed so much to the American labor movement, last week executed a brilliant plan to end an A.F.L.-C.I.O. dispute in the local garage industry which had been precipitated by the Communist Party and was endangering unionism in the industry and the city.

The Minneapolis solution to such jurisdictional disputes should prove of great interest to other sections of the labor movement cursed with similar internecine struggles.

Background of Dispute

In order to weigh the merits of the Minneapolis solution, one must know the background of the dispute. Briefly, last August the Stalinist leaders of the three A.F.L. machinists locals induced part of the membership to withdraw from their International and join the C.I.O. Solely a job-saving device on the part of the Stalinists, the move was condemned by the "Northwest Organizer and the progressive labor movement as a crime, for the following reasons:

1. The locals had signed agreements with the bosses. The split would give the bosses a chance to renew their fight on unionism;

2. The split isolated the machinists from their brothers on a national scale;

None Better Organized

3. Nowhere else in the country were the machinists organized on so broad a basis as in Minneapolis. In fact, industrial unionism prevailed in the industry;

4. By raiding an established industrial union, the Stalinists only confused and disrupted the local labor movement, serving neither the interests of the workers in the C.I.O. or in the A.F.L.

While condemning the Communist Party for its utter irresponsibility in splitting the A.F.L. machinists, progressives pointed out that part of the blame for the disastrous situation rested on the shoulder of the Machinists International, which by its stupid policies in the past, and its lack of decisiveness, had furnished the unscrupulous Stalinists with an excuse to split and weaken the labor movement.

Bosses Seize Chance

Nine months have passed since the split occurred. The old union contract had expired and the garage owners, organized in the Auto Dealers Association, were refusing to sign new agreements.

At this point, the labor movement took a hand in the situation. Recently there was set up a Policy Committee, consisting of eight elected representatives—two each from the Central Labor Union, the Allied Printing Trades Council, the Building Trades Council and the Teamsters Joint Council, to put an end to the plague of jurisdictional disputes and to deal with broader phases of the union movement.

Policy Committee Plan

The Policy Committee called in leaders of the two Machinists Unions (the C.I.O. and the A.F.L.) and after several meetings made the following recommendations:

1. Negotiations with the employers committee to start at once, with representatives of both unions sitting in;

2. An election to be held within five days after an agreement has been reached. The majority vote of the workers involved, cast for either union, is to decide which union is to be the bargaining agent for all employees;

3. Irrespective of the election outcome, the right of any worker to belong to any union of his choosing is not to be impaired;

4. The vote and election machinery to be held by the National Labor Board through arrangements with a joint union committee.

Stalinists Renegé

The Stalinists who spoke for the C.I.O. signified they would go along with the above plan, and then, without warning, proceeded to independent negotiations with the employers.

At this point, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union stepped in and unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the C.I.O. machinists' leaders and calling upon the labor movement to support the policy committee in carrying out its decision.

The Stalinists, who talk a lot about industrial unionism, then came forward with the proposal to hold elections in each garage, the union receiving the majority

Noah London Reported Executed In Moscow!

A report has reached the United States that Noah London has been executed in Moscow, and there is good reason to believe that the report is true.

Who was Noah London? He was a founder of the Communist Party of the United States and a leader of its Jewish Federation for years. A true proletarian, raised in the misery and poverty of New York's East Side, he devoted his whole life to the revolutionary movement. Speaker, organizer and writer, he was known to thousands of Jewish workers in New York and elsewhere.

HELPED FOUND THE FREIHEIT

Among the leading spirits in the foundation of the first Jewish communist daily newspaper—the Freiheit—he was a member of its editorial staff all during the early years of its existence. In addition he was a member of the Educational Committee of the party and one of the directors of the C.P. Workers School since its foundation.

Several years ago, he voluntarily gave up a well-paying position as engineer with one of New York's big corporations and went to the Soviet Union with his wife, to place his technical talent at the disposal of Soviet economy. He left for Russia with a recommendation from the American Communist Party to the Soviet authorities.

Why was this old communist militant executed? To those who knew him and worked with him in the past—even to those who could not agree with his political acceptance of Stalinism—it is inconceivable that he should have committed any crime against the revolution or the Soviet Union to merit capital punishment.

STALINIST PRESS KEEPS SILENT

And the fact the official communist press has been absolutely silent about his case only strengthens the suspicion that Noah London was murdered by the Stalinist assassins.

We know that hundreds of foreign-born communists—leaders and rank and files—well known in the German, Hungarian, Polish, Greek and other movements have been murdered on Soviet soil by the G.P.U. But this is the first case we know of which involves an American communist.

What has Moissaye Olgin, London's old friend, political colleague and collaborator on the Freiheit, to say about the case? What have his other old associates to say about it? Why is there no statement at all from the party of which he was a member? The labor public is entitled to a plain-spoken explanation!

July New International To Have Article By Trotsky

The July issue of the New International, which is now being prepared, will contain a number of interesting articles which are sure to keep the circulation of the review mounting at the rate it has been growing up to now.

Leon Trotsky contributes a new article called "Learn to Think" on the war question and the principles and tactics which revolutionary internationalists are called upon to follow in the course of wars of variant character.

Maurice Spector is writing another article on the New Deal's

present status and the situation in the United States.

The significance of the recent convention of the Communist Party, its new constitution and general political orientation, will be dealt with in an article by Max Shachtman.

In the "Discussion" section of the review will be printed letters by Victor Serge, from Paris, and Dwight Macdonald, of the Partisan Review, commenting on articles about the Kronstadt uprising by Leon Trotsky and John G. Wright in preceding issues. The editors are including a reply to the contributors.

Chilean Stalinists Ally With Fascists

An alliance between the Communist Party of Chile and the "Union Socialista," open supporters of the Nazis, has been exposed by the Partido Obrero Revolucionario (Revolutionary Workers Party.) Chilean section of the Fourth International.

The "Union" has been openly supporting the Nazi candidate, Ibanez, in his campaign, first for the presidency, and then, when he dramatically withdrew in favor of Aguirre, candidate of the People's Front (!), for the senate. The Stalinists, publicly raising their fists in support of the bourgeois-landowner politician, Aguirre, at the same time were selling on the streets of Santiago, together with members of the "Union" and "regular" Nazis, the newspaper "Clamor," propaganda sheet for Ibanez!

The Stalinists further support the presence of the "Union" in the "anti-fascist" People's Front, and the Stalinist paper "Frente Popular" published the portrait of the "valiant" Nazi deputy, Gonzales, who fired a pistol shot in Congress in protest against the entry of President Alessandri, who has come out against both the Nazis and the People's Front!

Labor Action Needed

The P.O.R. has issued a call for independent class action against the bourgeois candidates Aguirre and Ross, and has called upon the militant elements within the Socialist Party to fight against the class-collaborationist tactics of the party leadership who withdrew the Socialist candidate, Grove, in favor of Aguirre.

The P.O.R. has also given critical support to the local candidates of the Socialist Party, the election issue of "Alianza Obrera" raising the slogans: "Repudiate the bourgeois, radical, democratic and Stalinist candidates of the People's Front! Against the bourgeois and landowner reaction! Against Ross, Ibanez, and Aguirre! Vote for the candidates of the Socialist Party!"

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