

Progressives Force Close Painters' Poll

Two Years Of Weinstock Domination Finds Stalinists Hard Pressed To Win District Council Posts; Opposition Gains Impressive

WEINSTOCK GETS 615 MAJORITY

NEW YORK. — Progressives running against Stalinists for District Council offices in the Painters' Union made an impressive showing in elections held here last Saturday.

The Communist Party-backed candidate squeezed in by a majority of 615 votes in an election turn-out that brought out the heaviest vote ever recorded in the history of the union.

Board's Opportunism

The general executive board is distinctly reactionary and extremely unpopular with the rank-and-file. For the past year, it has played ball with the Stalinist-Weinstock administration in District Council No. 9.

Stalinist Majority Down

Forty-six per cent of the total vote cast went to the progressives—a significant fact in view of the two and a half years' domination of the painters' union by the Stalinist machine under Louis Weinstock.

The powerful vote cast for the progressives and against the C.P. machine is especially striking when it is borne in mind that the progressive forces organized only a short six weeks before elections.

Machine Vote Only

The Stalinist majority is obviously not a popular victory, but a straight machine vote. Their candidate for secretary-treasurer, Al Ghidoni, is a man entirely unknown to the membership.

Although this campaign fell flat in view of Stevens' progressive and anti-Zausner record, the fact that the general executive board expelled Weinstock two days before the elections in a most arbitrary and bureaucratic manner no doubt served, as a sort of last minute face-saving device for the Stalinists.

Expulsion Aided Stalinists

The Weinstock expulsion aided these squads. One of their foremost arguments was: "An expulsion deprives a man of the right to make a living. Would you like it if you were deprived of your right to make a living by such an expulsion?"

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National Guard Stages Big Chicago War Demonstration

CHICAGO.—A gigantic military demonstration, replete with booming planes, power-diving, marching men and martial music, was staged in Chicago's Soldiers' Field last Saturday and Sunday by the National Guard in its annual Military Show.

Concrete evidence of the government's war preparations was presented by 5,000 national guardsmen operating all types of military equipment, from new light tanks to improved anti-aircraft guns.

The main feature of the demonstration, however, was not the exhibition of military equipment and efficiency, but the planned appeal to jingo patriotism which characterized the entire show.

A reproduction of the Battle of the Argonne, showing the taking of the German positions by dauntless American troops in a romantic setting of red searchlights, sky-rockets, and airplane flares, the unceasing speeches, and the pageant of armies playing up past American wars as romantic crusades, were enough to gladden the heart of any super-patriot.

The demonstration was a real rehearsal for M-Day, the day designed by the United States War Department as the first day of the coming war. Such military parades, pageants and holidays are staged to whip up a jingo spirit among the workers in preparation for leading them to the slaughter.

Akron Labor Defense Hit By Stalinists

C.P. Press Calls United C.I.O.-A.F.L. Committee 'Trotskyist Plot'

By B. J. WIDICK Labor Secretary, S. W. P.

AKRON, O. — A vicious campaign that can endanger the unity of the Akron labor movement and destroy the militant traditions of the United Rubber Workers of America was opened here last week by the Communist Party following its inability to curb the resurgence of progressive union policies that have revived and strengthened the union movement during and since the Goodyear strike.

The rule or ruin policy of the Stalinists was outlined in the June 18 issue of the Midwest Daily Record, official C.P. paper, by James Keller, Akron Stalinist organizer.

Confronted by the unanimous approval of every action of the United Labor Defense Committee (C.I.O. and A.F.L.), during the recent strike, the Stalinists haven't dared attack it openly.

Launch Sniping Attack

Instead, they have launched a sniping attack by "blaming" only the A.F.L. leaders in the committee for the "provocative" stand Akron labor took in warning the mayor and police that further violence would not be tolerated.

"Trotskyism!" cried the Stalinist spokesmen, when the Akron labor movement sought to defend its picketing rights and civil liberties in an emergency. "Trotskyism!" Keller yelled at militants "for their" outstanding work in the Goodyear situation, hoping, thus, to terrorize them with his crude red scare.

The Midwest Daily Record criticized the marvelous mass meeting which protested police brutality. It termed the militant speeches given by C.I.O. and A.F.L. officials "ill advised and thoughtless," claiming them given because of "pressure of the Trotskyites who raised the slogan: Meet force with force—organize squads for labor defense."

Seek to Wreck Defense

In their frantic efforts to quell militant action, the Stalinists saw in the fine solidarity of the A.F.L. and C.I.O. only "a bid of the Trotskyites for leadership."

Unable to dictate the policies of the United Labor Defense Committee, the Stalinists seek to wreck it by playing off the A.F.L. against the C.I.O. The Stalinist program for Akron in essence is: Repudiate the good work of the Defense Committee in the Goodyear strike; exclude all unionists who refuse to take orders and therefore are called Trotskyites; for-

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Union Busters Prepare Marine Federation For Strike-Breaking Course

Bridges' Machine Forces Through Anti-Union Program As Searfaring Crafts Quit Convention; Unions Protest Splitting Tactics

SAN FRANCISCO.—Having broken the back of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific by driving out four of its founding organizations, the Bridges machine proceeded last week to set a strike-breaking dictatorship of shore-side outfits over the sections of maritime labor still within its control.

The union-busting resolutions which were rammed through the Federation convention were too raw to have been swallowed by the genuinely militant sea-going unions, the sailors, firemen, masters and mates, telegraphers and anti-Bridges longshoremen. For this reason, the opening sessions of the convention were devoted to the unseating the Tacoma longshoremen, thus forcing all the unions bucking the Stalinist regime out of the Federation.

With their hands freed by the removal of all militant opposition, Bridges and his associates hastened to steamroller through the packed convention a series of resolutions which effectively transform the Federation into an air-tight Communist Party machine, to be used in smashing the Sailors Union of the Pacific and its seafaring allies.

Dictatorial Powers

Resolution 71, adopted without a murmur of protest from Bridges' yes-men, establishes complete control over all negotiations and contracts by a top committee with unlimited dictatorial powers. Militant job action is forestalled by an amendment to the constitution which deprives all component organizations of the right to strike. Thus, at one fell swoop, a situation has been established in maritime which surpasses even the rosiest dreams of Senator Copeland and the shipowners.

The all-powerful Joint Negotiating Committee provided for by the convention resolutions is not one whit different from the domineering executive board of the old International Seamen's Union (A.F.L.), a set-up under which, all control was wrested from the rank-and-file and turned over to a strike-breaking top committee. The only difference is that, in this case, dictatorial powers are given to a class-colaborationist Communist Party which is a hundred times more vicious and reactionary than the A.F.L. bureaucracy ever was.

Good Dose of Bridges

Maritime transport workers have already had a good dose of dictatorship a la Bridges. As recently as during the 1936-37 strike, the Maritime Federation refused to take a coastwide strike poll, and instead set up the infamous Joint Policy Committee which laid down the policy of "handling perishable cargo" and postponed settlement under favorable terms so that the strike could be used as a political football for Bridges and the C.P.

The new committee of rule-or-ruin dictators now has plenipotentiary powers to sabotage every militant action on the waterfront, to club every enemy of the Stalinist-C.I.O. machine, to bring the N.M.U. out to the Coast to take over S.U.P. hiring halls, to drive full steam ahead for government fink books and fink hiring halls and com-

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2 Union Men Get Year In Kentucky Jail

Teamster Organizer Sent To Penitentiary Under Old Statute

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Two union men, one an American Federation of Labor organizer, were convicted of "confederating and banding together to intimidate" and sentenced to one year each in the penitentiary by a Fayette Circuit Court jury last week. The jury, unable after several hours of deliberation to reach a verdict, was forced by the judge to bring in the guilty verdict.

The defendants, Frank Kwallock and Henry Brown, faced trial as the aftermath of a militant strike conducted last September by Teamsters' Local 779 against the E. L. Martin wholesale grocery company. The indictment and conviction is a brazen attempt by the authorities to prevent the recurrence of effective strikes in this open-shop town.

Eight More Indicted

Eight others were indicted on the same charge, and while one, John Everett, had the charges dismissed, the other seven risk a penitentiary sentence of from one to five years if apprehended. The statute under which the two men were convicted is one of those ancient relics on the law-books that the authorities find convenient to resurrect when workers organize and fight against the bosses.

Kwallock, a leading militant in the Teamsters' local here, was in charge of picketing the E.L. Martin warehouse during the strike last September, when Milton P. Sanchez, a Lexington commodities broker, came to the warehouse after 10 sacks of sugar. With the help of a worker brought with him, Sanchez proceeded to truck the sugar from the warehouse.

A group of pickets, headed by Kwallock, informed the broker that a strike was in progress and returned the sugar to the warehouse. No violence was used against either Sanchez or his helper, but the effectiveness of the picket line was maintained. For this "crime" indictments against the whole group were returned by the Grand Jury.

First Case Recorded

The Wheel, organ of Teamsters' Local 779, comments that one of the lawyers present at the trial stated that this was the first case on record in which the defendants were ever convicted on the charge of an intention which was never converted into an overt act.

The State Federation of Labor in Kentucky has promised full support to Teamsters' Local 779 in the fight to prevent the imprisonment of the two men, who are guilty of only one crime: helping workers to organize into unions capable of protecting the interests of the workers.

Union men throughout the State are determined to halt the use of laws dating back to Civil War days against militant strikers, and the sentencing of Kwallock and Brown is expected to arouse mass protests from the growing labor movement in the South.

Cannot Endure Long

Once achieved, however, such a Federation cannot endure for long. Actually its councils become mere duplicates of the Stalinist C.I.O. councils in the port cities. Its press is a costly and unnecessary repetition of the C.I.O. Herald, the N.M.U. Pilot, and the C.P. People's World. As predicted in the West Coast Firemen, Bridges and his crew will find their "industrial union" with the cannery workers and boiler-makers too costly, and will turn to operating directly in the name

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SP Advances Phony UAW Peace Plan

End Of Factional War Proposed On Basis Of The Former 20-Point Program Whose Violation Caused Frankenstein Suspension

MARTIN NOT BATTLING WRECKERS

DETROIT, June 28—A new and ugly wrinkle has appeared on the face of the bitter factional fight in the auto workers union. This wrinkle, dubbed the "Peace Plan," has been contributed by Walter Reuther's Socialist Party.

The names of some 40 local union presidents have been signed to a letter addressed to all members of the International Executive Board. The letter puts forward the following program: (1) Bring peace to the union by uniting the warring groups on the basis of the 20-point program; (2) reinstate the five suspended officers; (3) stop the name-calling; (4) call in John L. Lewis; (5) constitute the presidents as a police power to punish peace-breakers at "the next convention or at a special convention, if necessary."

This is the greatest hoax thus far perpetrated on a membership which sincerely desires cessation of the faction struggle. In its main points, the so-called peace program of the Socialist Party is identical with the "war" program of the Communist Party: reinstate the suspended officers; summon Lewis to Detroit as super-arbitrator and call a special convention if necessary.

New Stalinist Move?

The Stalinists can well afford to take a back seat while the paladins of peace carry out their program. It would come as no surprise to us if the facts revealed that the peace program was worked out in joint caucus with the Stalinists. With the stigma of factionalism and disruption discrediting them at every turn, the Stalinist clique can send this Peace Group to the front with every expectation of better results.

Even if we granted a sincere desire for peace, this middle-of-the-road program would be no more effective than the doddering League of Nations. The nostrum of uniting the executive board on the basis of the 20-point program is brought forward as an all-healing solution. In reality, it is nothing but quack medicine. Are these people blind to the fact that the factional fight was already "solved" and "peace" established only two months ago on the basis of that very 20-point program? Yet hardly three weeks later the war started all over again.

Malignant Work

The signers of the letter are fully aware of these circumstances. They know—or should know, as responsible union men—that no program but their own will satisfy the Stalinist clique, which is prepared to tear down and destroy anything and anybody in disagreement with them. That is what makes the peace program a malignant piece of work.

It contains not a mention by so much as a word of the Stalinist activities in the union. No comment on the organization-

crippling drive to halt dues payments to the international union; or to set up a dual financial apparatus; or to destroy the W.P.A. auxiliary, etc., etc. Not a solitary word about all this!

On the other hand, the "peace, peace, there is no peace" group votes, meets, consults and agrees with the Stalinist crowd whenever it can get a hearing. It is no wonder that the names of John Anderson and Lloyd Jones, well-known Stalinists, are coupled with those of Emil Mazey and Walter Reuther, supposed socialists, on a committee to see John L. Lewis. Nor is it a wonder that the Daily Worker, official Stalinist organ, hails the "3-point program for unity."

Martin's Responsibility

Not the least responsible for the ease with which the Stalinist wolf has disguised himself with "socialist" sheep's clothing—and gotten away with it in the eyes of the membership—is Homer Martin himself. Martin has been fiddling with all sorts of ineffectual enterprises while the Stalinists have been setting fire to the union. With the exception of press statements, the Stalinists have met little or no resistance from the union president to their campaign to bulldoze and hoodwink the membership.

In local after local, the Stalinists have been staging their wild and merry circus. As far as large sections of the membership are concerned, the Stalinist lie is the only side of the faction fight they know. In rapid succession the big locals in Detroit—Dodge, Plymouth, Hudson, Chrysler, West Side—have adopted the Stalinist program. In no case has Martin carried the fight into the camp of the enemy.

Within the next day or two, charges against the suspended officers will be completed and published. Within two weeks it is reported the trial will be held. Under present conditions, the cry of "frame-up" and "persecution" is inevitable in the union ranks, however fair and impartial the trial may be and however lenient

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We Ask Once More: IS NOAH LONDON ALIVE OR DEAD?

Although two weeks have passed since we demanded of the official communist press a statement about the case of Noah London, the American communist reported shot in the Soviet Union, there has not been a single word in either the Daily Worker or the Morning Freiheit.

Their silence can be interpreted only as an admission of crime, for if the killing of Noah London were an act of justice it would be acknowledged and defended by the Stalinist press.

More Comes to Light

Since our first notice in these columns, more details have come to light.

London, founder of the American communist party, prominent writer, speaker, educator and organizer, one of the editors of the Jewish communist daily, the Freiheit, most intimate collaborator and friend of M. J. Olgin, was employed by the New York Board of Transportation. He left it to work for the Soviet trading agency, Amtorg, which finally sent him to the Soviet Union as a qualified engineer.

Some three years ago, London, his wife and two other engineers were tried in Russia on the customary charge of "sabotage." Old-time, devoted communist that he was, this charge

was as absurd as are most of the others. The two engineers were, however, shot; London and his wife sent to Siberia as exiles. London's sister was deported from the Soviet Union.

Since that time, there has been no authentic word about Noah London, except for the recent report that he had been shot by the Kremlin butchers—another of their thousands of victims.

Family Refused Visa

Significant and alarming is the fact that efforts on the part of his family in New York to obtain a visa for entry into the Soviet Union in order to learn his whereabouts and his fate, have been denied by the Soviet authorities. The Stalinists have something to hide—and knowing their barbaric record, there is good reason to believe that what is being hidden is a crime.

Therefore we demand once more: What has happened to Noah London and why? If the actions of the Stalinist authorities with regard to London are above reproach, they should have no hesitation about making a public statement. Why are his former colleagues on the Freiheit as silent as the grave? And his former comrades of the Daily Worker; and of the C.P. Central Committee?

What monstrosity are they concealing?

Libel Suit Against Daily Worker Shifted To M'pls

MINNEAPOLIS—Depositions in the libel case of General Drivers' Local 544 against the Daily Worker, arising from the campaign of slander launched by the Stalinists against the Minneapolis teamsters after the murder of Patrick J. Corcoran, union leader, last November, have unexpectedly resulted in an agreement by attorneys for both sides to have the case transferred from New York City to Minneapolis.

The libel suit was originally filed in New York because the publisher of the Daily Worker could not be served in Minnesota. It was therefore necessary to take the testimony of the Dunne brothers and Farrell Dobbs by deposition in Minneapolis. On June 23, the taking of testimony was commenced before a notary public in Minneapolis.

Vincent Dunne was the first witness and in his cross-examination the attorney for the Daily Worker went so far afield that Albert Goldman and Meyer J. Myer, representing Local 544, threatened to instruct the witness not to answer further questions.

During the controversy that arose, attorney Edward Kuntz, representing the Daily Worker, offered to accept service on behalf of the Daily Worker if a new suit were filed in Minneapolis. This was readily agreed to by the representatives of Local 544. An agreement in writing was drawn up to that effect.

It is expected that all necessary papers will be filed in Minneapolis within six weeks with the probability that the case will come up for trial within the next six months.