

MEMBERS DENIED VOTE IN TEACHERS UNION ELECTION

Stalinists Pull Fake Election to Pack Convention

In typical bureaucratic manner, the Stalinist-controlled administration of the New York W.P.A. Teachers Union, Local 453 of the American Federation of Teachers, has elected 20 delegates to the coming national convention.

Seating of Delegates Contested The legality of this meeting, attended by about 150 members, was challenged by a member of the executive board.

The union now has about 1,800 paid-up members. Until about ten weeks ago, the Local was paying per capita to the A.F.T. on 100 members.

Packing Attempted About a month ago the executive board was informed that several "Progressives"—i.e. Stalinist—locals had advised the union to send more delegates if possible.

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Teamsters Defy Court Order To Reveal Records

ganized labor. All they would have to do would be to plant a couple of stool pigeons in every union. The stools would then ask for an accounting of funds, the court would back them up, the press would use the event to smear labor, the unions would drain their resources defending themselves, the employers would compile a list of every unionist which would form the basis for all sorts of anti-union activities.

Judge Reed handed down his order on Thursday, the day after the Minneapolis Central Labor met, and the day after the Northwest Organizer went to press.

Further news of the Minneapolis fight in defense of the union movement will follow.

JURY IN HARLAN TRIAL DISMISSED

government attorney Welly Hopkins made an impassioned eight-hour plea for conviction, the defendants' women, dressed in the latest summer fashions, sat scattered through the courtroom. While they heard their men accused of resorting to almost every kind of vicious cruelty and petty meanness against union workers, the women made plans among themselves for a "victory-dinner."

Judging by the first trial the confidence of the Harlan bosses was well justified. Despite the efforts of the federal government, intent on implementing enforcement of the Wagner Labor Act with criminal penalties, the courts ground out the familiar kind of "justice." A court of "filthy, reeking privilege," as Attorney McMahon called the Harlan court, is not confined to Harlan County alone. In this case, "filthy, reeking privilege" walked into the little London, Ky., courtroom with just as confident a tread as they had across the county line in Harlan.

New York Local Leads Fund Drive

Returns from collection lists during the past week have pushed the Local New York Committee, with \$85, to the top of the list of contributors to the work of the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees.

The first in a series of educational and social evenings will be held by the Local Committee on Wednesday evening at 8:30 at the home of Laura Woods, 45 Charles St., at which George Novack, National Secretary of the American Fund, will speak on "The Right of Asylum."

All people who are interested in the terrible plight of the political prisoners and refugees in virtually every country of the world, and who are anxious to participate in the work of the Committee are invited to attend.

BUILDING TRADES LOSE CONTROL OF CLEVELAND LABOR

Teamsters Group In, After Bitter Fight

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—At a recent, bitterly fought, contest in the Cleveland Federation of Labor the whole former leadership, headed by Albert Dalton of the building trades, was ousted and the teamsters group, led by Edward Murphy, came into power.

One phase of this struggle disclosed more plainly than before the dual jurisdiction existing in some sections of the A. F. of L. One of Murphy's strongest supporters was Frank Converse, international representative of the Operating Engineers. Converse controls several locals of engineers and firemen, including Local 589A, stationary firemen.

Another factor in the Federation struggle was the distinctly anti-labor regime in the City Hall. While Mayor Burton is clever in assuming a "middle" position between Capital and Labor, his safety director, Elliot Ness, is strongly anti-labor and proves it every day.

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New Leaders to "Cooperate"

The teamsters will be less militant than the building trades appears from reports of a recent meeting between some of the newly elected Federation officials and the mayor (with his cabinet) in City Hall.

The Federation Committee promised the mayor they would not cause him any embarrassment if he would only let them organize "peacefully"—an attitude warmly welcomed by Director Ness.

Railroads Demand Wage Cuts

Fat From Years of Plunder, Rail Moguls Turn Guns On Workers

By DAVE COWLES

The railroad moguls have launched a 15 per cent wage cut proposal in order, they claim, "to save the railroads."

This is still pending. It hangs like a sword of Damocles over the wage standards of a million railroad workers. Should it fall, it would do more than weaken the railroad unions and cut railroad wages. It would start an avalanche of wage cuts that will crush beneath it general wage scales and undermine the rest of the labor movement.

Their claim that wage cuts are necessary "to save the railroads" is sheer fraud. Its one aim is to hide and justify their predatory attack on the workers. And this is but the latest of a long history of graft, corruption, and plunder by means of which the railroad dictators rose to power—a power which they now use against the workers.

The briefest sketch of railroad history tears the mask off their cant and deception. It strips them bare of pretension and exposes them for what they are: Robber barons and lords of plunder.

Plundering Public Lands From the very beginnings, the railroad barons sucked on plunder. One source was the public lands. The eminent historian Charles A. Beard bears witness that in the short quarter of a century of railroad building ending 1872, "a chart of the railway land grants in the West looms up like the map of the Roman Empire in the Age of Augustus."

The arbitrary slash perpetrated by Col. Brehon B. Somervell, local Works Progress Administrator, caught most of the project workers unaware. The Stalinist-controlled Workers Alliance, although well informed of the colonel's plans, did nothing to arouse a mass protest movement or to prepare for a adequate action against the cuts.

Instead of organizing the resistance of the W.P.A. workers, the Communist Party officials of the Alliance wasted weeks in futile gestures. Delegation after delegation was sent to Washington. Thousands of ineffective petitions were circulated. The only result of this kind of activity was lulling the workers into a false sense of security.

Now that the cut is here, the Workers Alliance is just as quiescent as before. Although grumbling on the projects is wide-spread, there has been no way of channeling the discontent into action. The project unions, once militant and in the forefront of the fight for the interests of the W.P.A. workers, have been reduced to impotence by the Stalinist leadership and its People's Front policies.

In place of fighting the government, the boss of the W.P.A. workers, the Stalinist leaders are engaged in a campaign to exterminate political opposition on the various projects. Under the cry of "Trotskyism," an attempt is being made to obtain the dismissal of all those who fail to conform to the party "line" on all the white collar projects.

Clearly, it is high time for all anti-Stalinist forces to unite. The bread-and-butter of all W.P.A. workers is involved. The unions on the projects must be revived and reorganized, if the W.P.A. workers are not to be shoved back on the relief rolls once more. The first prerequisite for such action is unity of the anti-Stalinists on a program of progressive, militant struggle.

they also spread nationwide the network of railroads. They robbed the farmers, wiped out stockholders, and oppressed the workers—but they did build the greatest railroad system in the world. The day of building is 20 years past. All that they now do is plunder and profit. The methods are the same as before. They squeeze out stockholders in bankruptcy after bankruptcy. They milk farmers and workers with increased rates for freight and passenger service. And they try to increase their profits still further by cutting wages 15 percent. And with all these profits, they are abandoning service on hundreds and thousands of miles of railroads.

This is characteristic of the decline of capitalism. Before, profits was the stimulus to railroad building. Today, with freight-loadings going down, and capitalism declining generally, profits can be kept up only by destroying railroads. That is the fact. Their claim that the 15 percent wage cut is intended to "save the railroads" is sheer fraud.

We have had enough of such deception and fraud. Let the government expropriate the railroads! Let the workers control the expropriated railroads! This will ensure union wages and union hours!

NEW WAGE CUTS HIT WPA WORKERS

(Continued from page 1)

themselves safe from the indignities and complications of home relief are now forced once more to resort to government charity. This time, their situation is, if anything, even worse than before the creation of W.P.A. For, in spite of having to work for a living, they are forced to spend precious time to cut through mazes of red tape to get supplementary grants in order to keep themselves and their families alive.

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Together Again?



ABE CAHAN



NORMAN THOMAS

Judging from the enthusiasm of the Socialist Call (See Editorial on page 4), it won't be long before Thomas' party returns to the fold of Cahhan's Old Guard.

Minneapolis Unions Back Fight For Jobless Youth

MINNEAPOLIS. — Concrete steps to fight for the rights of unemployed youth were taken last week in Minneapolis when General Drivers Local 544's powerful unemployed organization, Federal Workers Section, set up a Youth Committee and adopted a sweeping program of jobs for the youth.

The program is based on the right to work and demands W.P.A. jobs for those between the ages of 16 and 25, regardless of their relief status, and states that earnings of any individual youth are not to be deducted from the family budget.

Other demands of the program ask that all military funds be diverted to work relief and that the Civilian Conservation Camps be transformed into non-military youth projects.

As in the case with the Federal Workers Section, the Youth Committee will urge all jobless youth or those with grievances to avail themselves of the aid of the organization. The Federal Workers Section, backed by the trade union movement and using militant labor action, has established an enviable record in gaining decent relief for the unemployed.

The program, as adopted, is: 1. We call for the establishment of YOUTH W.P.A. PROJECTS, for those between the ages of 16 to 25. No youth shall be kept off because he or she is single and regard-

WANT ADS

TWO COMRADES WANT TO share all expenses with others who are making an auto trip or vacation in August. Write care of Socialist Appeal.

CAMPS

CAMP SEVEN OAKS, Eatontown, N.J. (Red Bank Station). Capacity 25, swimming pool, tennis court and other sports facilities, good food, comfortable housing. Daily \$2.75, week-end \$4.00. Free 80 cents. Free Cents. Zu beziehen vom Labor Book Shop, 28 East Twelfth St., N.Y.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before 6 o'clock Monday evening.

NEW YORK

Y.P.S.L. REGIONAL SCHOOL JAMBORÉE. Aug. 8, at 913 North Ave. (cor. 95th St.). Meet the comrades from Boston, Newark and Philadelphia in a good old-fashioned get-together. Games, Bathing Beauty Contest and Refreshments. Admission 20 cents.

PARTY CONTEST! GALA PARTY thrown by Wash. Hts. S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. Saturday, August 6 at 9 P.M., at home of V. Fox, 247 Wadsworth Ave., near 185th St. Admission 20c.

AN INFORMAL GATHERING OF ALL PEOPLE interested in the work of the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees will be held Wednesday evening Aug. 10 at 8:30 P.M., at the home of Laura Woods, 45 Charles St. George Novack, national secretary of the Fund, will speak on "The Right of Asylum" and on the work of the committee. Refreshments will follow the discussion.

POLISH WORKERS CLUB and S.W.P. COMBINE to offer you an evening at the Terrace Beer Garden, 1110 Second Ave. (59th St.). Band, Beer, Entertainment. Proceeds to be used to publish a Polish pamphlet, outlining a class-struggle program for the Polish workers' movement. Saturday eve, Aug. 13. Admission 25 cents.

Fight Against Fink Hall Forces Showdown In NMU

(Continued from page 1)

Mariners' Club Leaflet The speed with which these reactionaries will discredit themselves is shown by the example of the Mariners' Club, so-called "anti-Communist" grouping on the waterfront. Gathering support on the basis of a fight against the Communist Party stooges in the N.M.U. leadership, the Mariners' Club this week came out with a leaflet declaring they wanted to get rid of the Communists in order to better collaborate with the government.

Stalinists For Fink Hall The government hiring hall, although it means death to all marine unions, has proved no exception. Here the N.M.U. officials bend every effort toward getting the union membership to ship through the fink hall. "Pack the Fink Hall," is one slogan, coupled to its mate, "you can't fight the government." Resentment of the rank-and-file seamen in the N.M.U., stirred by the refusal of the Stalinist officials to join the united front against the fink hall and their brazen attempts to continue herding the seamen into the government hall, reached white heat last week and led to an assault on the union headquarters here. Provoked beyond restraint by the open betrayal of the union, made clear to every worker in the fight against the government, a crowd of N.M.U. members entered the headquarters and removed the Stalinist officials by physical force.

Anger Justified While class-conscious militants realize that a resort to physical force in inner union affairs usually acts as a boomerang, the resentment that found expression in this crude way certainly is understandable. With their union flooded with a horde of Stalinist stooges, their treasury milked by parasitic functionaries from Thirtieth Street, saddled with a constitution that places all power in the hands of the Communist party-dominated District Committee, and, above all, serving as the puppets of a union-wrecking political party whose main purpose is to bind the working class to the war chariot of American imperialism, there is no reason for wonder at the wrath that visited the union despoils one night last week.

While it may be true that certain reactionary elements on the waterfront attempt to turn the spontaneous movement of the ranks into the channels of reaction, such attempts are doomed to failure. The chance and episodic success of these reactionary plots reflect only the lack of conscious, militant leadership on the East Coast. Under no circumstances can it be argued that the more or less accidental presence of these reactionary currents should serve as an excuse to soften the struggle against the

Stalinist betrayers. The speed with which these reactionaries will discredit themselves is shown by the example of the Mariners' Club, so-called "anti-Communist" grouping on the waterfront. Gathering support on the basis of a fight against the Communist Party stooges in the N.M.U. leadership, the Mariners' Club this week came out with a leaflet declaring they wanted to get rid of the Communists in order to better collaborate with the government. This at a time when the whole membership of the N.M.U. is up in arms because the Stalinists openly collaborate with the government!

Other elements within the union (and without) would start a witch-hunt against "politicians" in general, believing that the betrayal of the Stalinists proves, in some manner or another that all politics are bad for unions. To concede for a moment that the Communist Party, with its international record of betrayal and its ever-growing record in the U.S. for union-wrecking, is a party only interested in the aims of the working class, is absurd. A party, whose only interest is in following the orders of a corrupt bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, is most certainly not a working class party. Nor is the struggle against Stalinism an argument against genuine, class struggle politics.

Against Stalinist Politics It is against the politics of the Communist Party that the workers in the N.M.U. must direct their resentment. To sweep out of their way the treacherous tool of the shipowners and the government is the task before the rank-and-file.

Every class-conscious militant in the labor movement must join hands in combating the plague of the union movement.

PHILADELPHIA WAREHOUSE CLOSED

The Warehouse Employees Union, A.F.L., has halted the shipping of drugs and serums from the plant of Sharpe & Dohme, Inc., Philadelphia. Truck drivers, members of Local 107, A.F.L., have refused to pass through the picket line. The workers are on strike because the firm has refused to deal with their union and insists on negotiating only with the Sharpe & Dohme Employees Organization, a company union.

Appeal Army

We are pleased to report that many more branches headed our emergency plea of a few weeks back and sent in funds which considerably reduced their debt to the Appeal and our debt to the printer. There is every reason to believe that the emergency is over for the time and that no more cries of help will be necessary for the rest of summer-period, providing branches do not lapse back into old habits and providing also that there is a pick-up in the number of new subscribers each week. We again want to thank all comrades and sympathizers who sent in individual contributions.

Notice: Watch for special announcements which will be of tremendous interest to all readers of the Socialist Appeal. They should appear a few weeks from now. We guarantee that they'll be good news to all!

Here is the list of new subs obtained last week. There is plenty of room for improvement:

Table with 2 columns: State/City and Number of Subscribers. Includes California, New York City, New York State, Pennsylvania, Chicago, New Jersey, Kansas, Canada, Boston, Indiana, Ohio, Total (324).

There are two new bundle order agents this week... A comrade in Maryland, California, and one in Tel-Aviv, Palestine. And in distant Johannesburg, South Africa, our comrades have increased their weekly bundle order from 45 to 60! These comrades in other countries can give real lessons to many of our own branches...

Send all subscriptions and communications to: SOCIALIST APPEAL, 116 University Place, New York City

THE SOCIALIST APPEAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING NEWSSTANDS

NEW YORK CITY MANHATTAN: Fourteenth St. at University Place, S. E.; at Broadway, S. E.; at Fourth Ave. S. W.; at Fourth Ave. N. E.; at Third Ave. S. E. (1 and 2); at Third Ave. S. W.; at Third Ave. N. W.; opp. Jefferson Theatre; at Second Ave. N. W.; at Sixth Ave. N. E.; Rand Book Store, 7 E. 15th St.; 12th St. and University Pl. N. E.; Candy Store, 75 Greenwich Ave.

Forty-second St. at Fifth Ave. S. W.; at Sixth Ave. S. E.; at Sixth Ave. S. W.; at Seventh Ave. S. W.; opposite Sterns; 103 W. 44th St.; 23rd St. & Fourth Ave. S. W. Essex and Delancy Sts.; Bookstore at Grand and Attorney Sts.; Candy Store, S. E. 9th St. and Second Ave.; Biederman's Book Store, 12th St. and Second Ave.; Wigerson, 145th St. and St. Nicholas Ave.; 110th St. and Columbus Ave.

BRONX: Jerome Ave. & 170th St.; Jerome Ave. and 167th St. (opp. Loew's Theatre); Sorokin, 206th St. and Bainbridge Ave.; Jerome and Burnside Ave.; 160th St. and Prospect Ave.; Allerton Ave. Station; Freeman Ave. and Southern Boulevard; 174th St. & Boston Rd.; Kingsbridge Rd. & Ave.; East Moshula Subway Sta.; 3397 Sedgwick Ave.

BROOKLYN: Havemeyer Avenue and South 4th St.; Pitkin Ave. and Strauss St.; Sutter and Van Sinderen Aves.

ROCHESTER, N. Y. 433-N. Clinton St. 287 N. Clinton St.

COR. CUMBERLAND & CLINTON STS. Cor. East Ave. & Chestnut St. S.E. cor. Main & Clinton Sts. S.W. Cor. Main & South Ave.

NEWARK, N. J. Reitman's, cor. Broad & William NEW HAVEN, Conn. Nodelman's Newsstand, 111 Church St., bet. Chapel & Center CHICAGO Cor. 67th & Blackstone Cor. 12th & Kedzie P. O. News, 37 W. Monroe Cashinsky Bookshop ALLENTOWN, PA. R. Zettlemeyer, 637 Hamilton St.

PHILADELPHIA 1806 North Franklin St. Cor. 13th and Market Sts. (N.W.) Cor. 11th and Market Sts. (N.W.) BOSTON, MASS. Andelman's, Tremont St. (opp Hotel Bradford) CAMBRIDGE, MASS. Felix's, Massachusetts Ave. at Harvard Square LYNN, Mass. Sam's Corner, Olympia Square ROXBURY, MASS. Friendly Variety, Warren St. (Grove Hall)

MINNEAPOLIS Shinder's, Sixth & Hennepin; Kroman's, Fourth & Nicollet. ST. LOUIS MO. Foster Book Company 410 Washington Blvd. YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio Nick's, Wick St. and Commerce SAN FRANCISCO MacDonald's Bookstore, 65 6th St. SAN DIEGO, CALIF. Universal News Co., 242 B'way