

Workers Of The World Unite!

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Stalinist Union Wreckers Hit Hard By NMU Elections; 20,000 L.A. Workers Quit Bridges' C.I.O. Council

Labor in Northwest Rallies To Local 544 in Court Defy

Militant Stand of Drivers Union Wins Thirty-Day Stay of Court Order to Open Books for Bosses

By FELIX MORROW

MINNEAPOLIS.—On Thursday, July 28, District Court Judge Frank E. Reed ordered General Drivers Union Local 544 to surrender all its records for inspection, photographing, etc. to five finks who, having brought suit against the union, petitioned the court to enable them to examine all records the better to prepare their case.

On Friday, August 5, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Andrew Holt signed a writ of certiorari, automatically holding up execution of Judge Reed's order for thirty days. At the end of that time, the Supreme Court will decide whether or not it will review Judge Reed's order.

Judge Holt is one of the most reactionary figures on the Minnesota Supreme Court. That he signed the writ is to be explained by what happened in the eight days after Judge Reed's order was issued.

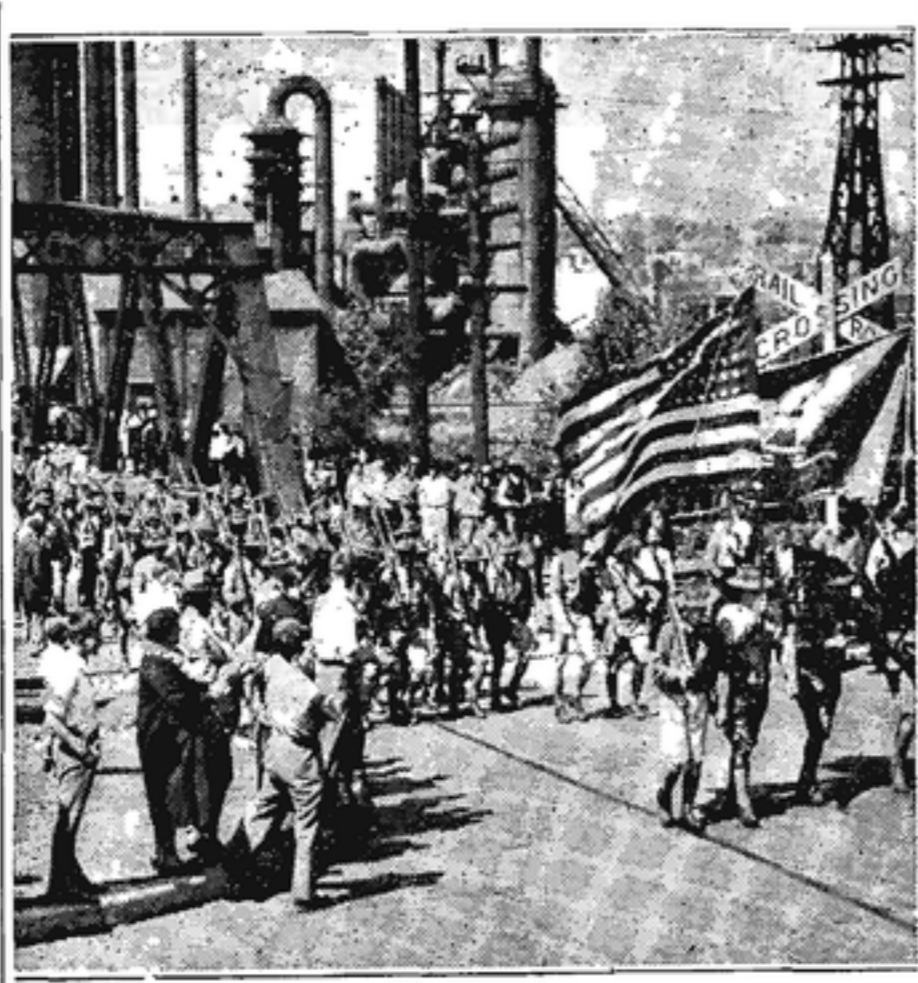
The timing of the issuance of Judge Reed's order was shrewdly calculated. Since it appeared in the morning papers, it must have been in the editorial offices Wednesday night—the night of the bi-weekly meeting of the Central Labor Union and the night when the two labor papers, the Northwest Organizer, organ of the Teamsters Joint Council, and the Labor Review, organ of the central labor body, go to press. Publication of Judge Reed's order on Thursday morning gave the reactionaries the longest possible time before the labor movement would swing into action.

Wave of Reaction Judge Reed's decision could only be understood, not as an isolated incident, but as one aspect of a growing wave of reaction in Minnesota. During the past year, the signs have multiplied of growing desperation on the part of Minnesota's employers and bankers; and the seeds of reaction they are sowing have found fertile soil. Big Business hates the Farmer-Labor administration of Governor Benson and threw support to Hjalmar Peterson in the vain hope that he would defeat Benson in the primaries, split the Farmer - Labor forces and assure a reactionary Republican victory. Vile anti-Semitic propaganda about Benson's "Jewish advisers" as well as portraying Benson as dominated by racketeering labor leaders.

Germany Key The key to Japan's shift to a conciliatory attitude was the fact that Germany apparently advised its Tokyo ally that it was still too early to proceed with their common plans for an attack on the Soviet Union. The well-informed correspondent in Tokyo of the New York Herald Tribune wrote that Major Eugen Ott, the German ambassador there, had urged a moderate course, and that his advice had been seconded by the Italian ambassador. On Aug. 8 in Berlin the Japanese ambassador conferred with Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and apparently asked for German assurances of support against Russia. What he got was cautious advice to proceed slowly.

Thus if the Japanese militarists who started the fighting calculated on hastening a general con-

"Peace" Parade Expels Pacifist In typical Moscow fashion, the Stalinist "peace" parade in New York last Saturday started with a "purge." Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, noted liberal pacifist, was scheduled to speak. Before the parade, Dr. Barnes was asked to show his speech to the Stalinist officials of the American League for Peace and Democracy. The speech contained, even according to Dr. Barnes, nothing new, but it did contain the usual condemnation of war mongers. The C. P., however, could not tolerate this. Barnes was excluded from the "broad" united front for peace, while the Stalinists marched down the streets singing Roosevelt's war song "Quarantine the Aggressors."



National Guard -- Strikebreaker!

The breaking of the strike against the Maytag Company of Newton, Iowa, by the National Guard should convince every American worker that to rely on the National Guard, called out by a "friendly" governor, to win a strike is utterly folly.

Governor Kraschel called out the guards ostensibly to prevent violence. He ordered the plant closed, and this maneuver fooled some workers who had an idea that the Governor would win the strike for them.

The same thing happened in the Little Steel Strike of last year when the governors of Ohio and Indiana called out the troops and at first ordered the mills closed. At that time the leaders of the C.I.O. were jubilant at the action of the governors. But they reckoned without their host. Not long after the Guard came on the scene, the steel mills were opened and scabs worked under the protection of bayonets.

It should be clear to every worker that the tactic of ordering the troops to close a factory and disperse the picket line is only a preparatory step to breaking the strike. The governors want to show how "fair and impartial" they are. They order the factories closed for a few days; they prohibit picketing on the pretext that no picketing is necessary when the factories are closed. And then they are in an excellent position to command the workers to accept a settlement or see the factories opened under protection of the Guards.

The strikers trusting the governor and his National Guard relax their vigilance, call off the picket line and are left helpless when the order comes that the terms worked out by the company with the assistance of the governor must be accepted.

That is what happened in the Little Steel Strike and that is what happened in Newton, Iowa.

One of the leaders of the strike advised the workers to accept the terms offered by the company because "the union could not fight bayonets."

That is absolutely false. It has been proved many times that a union can fight and win against the bayonets of the National Guard. It was proved in the famous Toledo Auto-Lite strike. It was proved in the strike of the Truck Drivers of Minneapolis in 1934. The militant leaders of that strike refused to give up picketing when the state troops were called out by the late Governor Olson, who was a Farmer-Labor governor and not a mere New Deal Democrat. Both Olson and the officers of the National Guard knew that the truck drivers would not submit to any order against the interests of the union without putting up the fiercest kind of struggle. A favorable settlement for the union was the result.

No reliance on "friendly" governors; no illusions on the role of the National Guard! Reliance only upon the solidarity, the strength, the militancy of the workers themselves!

Political Refugees Face Hunger In All Europe

Regulations Deny Worker-Refugees Right to Work

By JAMES BURNHAM In spite of all that has been said and written during the past few years, I do not think that we in this country yet comprehend the condition of the political refugees in Europe. There has been nothing comparable to it in the whole history of mankind. A friend of mine, recently returned from two years in Switzerland, last week described to me what was happening in that country. Since the 16th Century, Switzerland has had the glory of offering hospitality and freedom to un-

RANK & FILE WIN CONTROL IN FIRST N. M. U. ELECTION

Get 5 to 4 Majority On New Executive Committee

NEW YORK.—The rising tide of revolt against Stalinism in the National Maritime Union, apparent in recent events on the waterfront, showed its true strength last week when results of the first general election gave rank-and-file candidates five out of nine posts on the national executive council.

Jerry King, rank-and-file leader of the engine department and principal figure in the fight against the Stalinists, decisively defeated Jack Lawrenson for the post of secretary-treasurer. Lawrenson, dubbed "Rasputin, the Mad Monk" by the seamen, is a Communist party stooge active in union affairs since the union's founding more than a year ago.

Curran Elected Rank and filers won the majority of offices in all districts, and the old officials, who held their jobs through appointment, are in a decided minority. Joe Curran and Ferdinand Smith were elected president and vice-president, respectively, as they were unopposed.

One of the first acts of the incoming officers was to clean out the office staff and the editorial offices of the Pilot, the union's newspaper. These technical jobs had been filled almost exclusively by members of the Communist Party.

The victory of the progressives over the Stalinists, who have had complete control of the union since its founding in the spring of 1937, came after a campaign of several months. While many elements in the union have opposed the wrecking policies of the Stalinists, the group around the Rank-and-File Pilot, an opposition newspaper, played the leading role in the fight.

Program Incomplete Despite the fact that their program has dodged important issues facing the union, notably the issue of government interference in union affairs, the group secured the backing of seamen in building a union capable and willing to fight the shipowners.

The chief charge of the Stalinists against King and his followers were that they were tools of Joseph P. Ryan, longshoremen's head, and were backed by A. F. of L. reactionaries. This tale, concocted to frighten the seamen with the bugaboo of William Green, has been denied by King, and none of his actions point in the direction.

The whole picture on the A. F. of L. question has been changed by another development of last week, when Green agreed to issue a national charter for union-

Appeal Refused In Russell Case

In an obvious attempt to avoid trying the case on its merits the District Judge of Omaha before whom the appeal of Al Russell was to be heard, dismissed the appeal on the ground that Russell's sentence had been suspended and consequently there was nothing to appeal from.

Russell was arrested at the headquarters of the Omaha Local of the Truck Drivers where he had been working for the last eight months. He was charged with vagrancy and given a suspended sentence of 90 days, with orders to get out of town.

According to the ruling of the honorable Judge of Omaha a man can be convicted as a vagrant without the right of appealing the sentence if it was suspended. In other words, brand a man a vagrant and give him no chance to defend himself.

An appeal to a higher court has been authorized by the local union.

A Welcome Sign!

An Editorial

A fresh wind is blowing through the American Labor Movement. Within the past week, its invigorating force has been felt in three major trade union centers and the results should be an occasion for rejoicing among militant and progressive workers the country over.

In Los Angeles, four major C.I.O. unions, representing 20,000 workers, bolted the Bridges-dominated C.I.O. Council.

In New York, the rank-and-file slate in the National Maritime Union swept the Stalinist majority out of office.

In Detroit, three of the suspended officers—stooges of the Communist Party—of the United Automobile Workers were expelled from the union.

With these actions, the labor movement is beginning the long delayed but much needed job of cleansing its system of the Stalinist virus that was poisoning its entire body and driving it to certain doom.

In each case the union wreckers had sorely tried the patience of the honest and progressive workers who constitute the great majority of organized labor until the only solution was a ruthless severing of all ties. The blow delivered took different forms in the three cities, but in each case the unions involved parted company with this unsavory gang tearing the vitals out of the unions.

The grievances and charges leveled against the war-mongering Stalinist clique graphically depict the sickness which has gripped the trade unions for years and especially since the Stalinists have risen to prominence in the C.I.O.; arbitrary and dictatorial methods; the appointment of all important officials; packing conventions with paper unions; disrupting strikes; walking through picket lines; using the unions as a foil for Stalinist propaganda and draining the treasuries for a million-and-one "good causes"—all the crimes in the book and done far more thoroughly than any Chamber of Commerce could deliberately plan to do.

The coup de grace to Harry Bridges on the West Coast marks the beginning of the end to a dictatorial regime modeled after the fashion of Stalin's own totalitarian state. Auto workers, rubber workers, steel lodges, the I.L.G.W.U. have quit his concentration camp and have set out on the road of democratic and progressive unionism. This is only a sequel to the actions recently taken by the militant Sailors Union of the Pacific and other unionized maritime crafts. Only the longshoremen still remain under the thumb of Bridges, and trouble is undoubtedly brewing in that camp as well. Now the West Coast labor movement can free itself of the turmoil and the terror and take a huge leap forward.

But let no one get intoxicated with this victory. It is only a beginning. The Stalinist danger is far from eliminated.

In the National Maritime Union, the rank-and-file slate

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Auto Union Strikes As Boss Moves Machinery

Will Force Company to Keep Work In Detroit

DETROIT, Aug. 9.—Detroit and Wyandotte plants of the McCord Radiator and Manufacturing Co. have been shut down tight by a strike call from Local 210, United Automobile Workers of America, in an effort to block the removal of machinery and equipment to London, Ohio.

N. J. Moskun, President of Local 210, announced that plans had been drawn to close down the Plymouth, Indiana, division of the McCord Company and that an appeal had been sent to the U.A.W. local unions at the Hudson, Packard and Studebaker Motor Companies, requesting them to refuse to work on McCord radiators and gaskets for the duration of the strike.

Hostility Year Old The current effort of the McCord management to evade union conditions and ultimately to smash the powerful automobile workers union in their plants is merely the culmination of a series of hostile actions begun more than a year ago.

With the establishment of union conditions and the signing of a contract with the management, the company from the very first day undertook to undermine the union. Minimum rates set by the agreement were probably the highest in the industry. They ranged from a minimum of 67 cents for women and 75 cents for men per hour. A strict seniority system was installed among other significant improvements of plant conditions.

Wages Slashed Three months later, the McCord management removed part of its equipment to London, Ohio, where it began the fabrication of

FIVE BIG UNIONS DENOUNCE C.P. WRECKING POLICY

Form New Central Body to Build Labor Unity

LOS ANGELES.—Union wreckers on the West Coast, led by Harry Bridges, West Coast C.I.O. director, received a smashing setback last week, when five major C.I.O. unions, representing 20,000 workers in the Los Angeles area, voted to withdraw from the Bridges-controlled Industrial Union Council and to set up their own central body.

After a week-end conference of the International Ladies Garment Workers, the United Automobile Workers, the United Rubber Workers, the United Shoe Workers and several locals of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, a statement enumerating the grievances of organized labor against Bridges and the Communist Party leadership in the West Coast C.I.O. was issued.

Six-Point Program At the same time the conference laid down a program to be followed by the new central body. In brief, it covers the following six points:

- 1. Solidarity between employed and unemployed, and aid to any union, whether C.I.O., A. F. of L. or independent, in any struggle to better the conditions of the workers.
2. Continue the drive to organize the unorganized.
3. Strong defense of industrial unionism, but no raids on existing unions.
4. For trade union democracy in practice as well as in words.
5. Opposition to anti-labor legislation and government interference, "whether through the courts, the National Guard, the police or otherwise."
6. For independent political action, to supplement trade union activity on the economic front.

Opposition Howled Down Two recent incidents served to set the spark to the smoldering resentment in the ranks of the Los Angeles C.I.O. Tommy Lawrence, I.L.G.W.U. business agent, wrote an article in Justice, national organ of the I.L.G.W.U., criticizing Bridges' policies. For this he was continually attacked in the Bridges council and howled down whenever he attempted to defend himself.

The other was Bridges' plan to call a state convention to set up a state C.I.O. body, a body sure to be another Communist Party puppet, as the votes of innumerable "paper" unions assured the Stalinists of a packed convention.

But while these incidents are the most recent provocations, behind them lies a year of defeats and "do-nothing" wrangling, inaugurated when the Communists were put in power by the appointment of Bridges as West Coast C.I.O. director. This deal, put through by John Brophy, liaison man for the Stalinists on John L. Lewis' general staff, was made against the wishes of Los Angeles C.I.O. leaders, who had already seen the bad effects of Bridges' wrecking policies in the ranks of West Coast maritime unions.

C.I.O. Isolated Faced with the onslaught of the bosses, who kept Los Angeles for twenty years an "open shop" town, the C.I.O. unions find themselves isolated from the

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Poster Shop Open

Opening of the APPEAL POSTER SHOP, operated by the party, will make it possible for locals and branches to obtain poster work at a minimum price. Using the silk-screen process, large numbers of colored posters can be turned out cheaply and speedily. Single hand-made posters will also be made at the shop. Locals and branches are asked to give adequate time for their orders to be filled. Address all inquiries and orders to S. Stanley, 116 University Place, New York City.