

Union Busters Peril U.A.W.

FDR Aligns Forces In Primary Battles; Labor Acts As Pawn

DEMOCRATS ARE PREPARED FOR MAJOR SCHISM

LNPL Tail-ends Democrats, Depends on "Labor's Friends"

Fortified by Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley's decisive victory over Governor "Happy" Chandler in Kentucky, President Roosevelt last week took his most daring step of the current primaries campaign when he came into the open with a direct attack on Senator George of Georgia. Disregarding the advice of the "moderates" within his own party, in particular of his chief strategist, Postmaster-General Farley, Roosevelt went down the line against Senator George, and called for the nomination of George's opponent, Federal Attorney Lawrence Camp.



F. D. ROOSEVELT

STEEL WORKERS WIN L. A. STRIKE

Strikers Backed by New Trade Union Conference

LOS ANGELES.—Backed by the new Los Angeles Trade Union Conference, workers of the Dura Steel Products Co. won a short and effective strike last week, gaining 100 per cent union recognition and wresting many concessions from the company.

The strike was called after the company refused to recognize the union organized by the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, despite the fact that a vigorous campaign had succeeded within a month in destroying the old company union set-up.

New Group Aids

A major factor in the victory of the strikers was the invaluable aid given the union by the new central body of C.I.O. unions that recently left the Bridges-controlled Industrial Union Council and formed the Trade Union Conference. In line with their announced policy of aid to all unions struggling to win concessions from the employers the strength of the major C.I.O. unions in Los Angeles was thrown behind the new union.

Encouraged by the victory over Dura Steel, one of the most notable (Continued on page 2)

It Might Have Happened!

1,000,000 Nazi troops maneuver on the Czech border. A clash occurs between a detachment of Czech border guards and a company of German soldiers. A German soldier is dropped by a bullet fired presumably by a Czech—but in all likelihood by a German instructed to fire the wrong way. The command is given and German infantry marches over the border while German artillery opens fire on Czech fortifications. The Czechs bring up their picked troops and dig in on the frontier while bombing planes pour a hail of shells from the skies. The French General Staff orders a mobilization of its army on the Rhine. Great Britain delivers an ultimatum. Mussolini brings his army into fighting position. Screaming headlines announce the beginning of the new world war.

It didn't happen this way. While the European and American press, accustomed to Hitler acting by bold strokes with time-clock precision, freely appointed August 15th as "Der Tag" for the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Nazi mobilization of its war-time army was confined to a grandiose military maneuver.

But it might have happened! There isn't an intelligent person alive today who doesn't have the fatalistic feeling that almost any morning or night will find him face to face with a series of "incidents" that wind up in a general war. And the feeling is no less universal that nothing can be done about it except sit anxiously by and speculate on the date and place of the war's beginning.

Is there any doubt that this is a true description of the mentality of millions of trembling people in the world today? Look at the newspaper reports. No one doubted the possibility of an outbreak when Hitler announced his maneuvers. Yet no one acted.

Thousands of angry workmen did not gather in the streets to thunder their protest at being dragged into a blood bath to protect the maps of the imperialist Versailles treaty or to re-draft them according to the Hitler conception. They did not threaten to cast all the maps into the garbage heap and together with them the conniving diplomats, the profit-hungry merchants of death and the whole racket-system called capitalism. Certainly there were no demonstrations in the prison-hells of Germany, Austria or Italy. But in the great "democracies" of England and France, the same tombstone quiet, the same tremors of fear ran through a passive population. Why?

Fourteen years before Hitler ground the German workers into a regimented Nazi army, the preparation for the present tragedy was carefully laid in the Treaty of Versailles. The League of Nations and the World Court would compose the differences between nations. Disarmament conferences and arms limitations conclaves would draw the teeth from the war god. And peace put the seal of honest purpose and solemn intention on the flowery speeches of the diplomats and the politicians. The working class did not see behind the sham and the fraud to the real maneuvers of the British and French imperialists, angling to keep their world empires away from the hungry lean defeated powers. Pacifism gave the masses a straw of hope and they grasped it eagerly.

The masses trusted the lying spokesmen of capitalism—until Adolf Hitler kicked the props out from under the rotten, hypocritical edifice of imperialist pacifism; broke out of the League of Nations, tore up the Versailles Treaty, rebuilt the German army, occupied the Rhineland, terrorized the Saar plebiscite, invaded Austria and now stands on the Czech border and once again rattles his saber.

Then the diplomats dropped the peace conferences, buried the League of Nations and began to talk of a more "forceful policy." They called the policy "collective security." With this collective action they would police the world, perhaps enforce a little boycott and by sheer show of force hold the "war-makers" in line. It would never come to war—that they promised with all the sanctimonious fervor they could summon up. They failed to say what every foreign office in the world knew as a simple axiom: collective security meant war—meant new line-ups when war came to protect the old booty.

The Stalinists beat the drums for the new angel of peace, decked out in the uniform of a cop—a collective security cop. The workers waited again, trusting no more in the sweet dove of peace but now in the blackjack of the self-appointed keeper of law and order. Until one day they saw the amazing spectacle of

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Where Does He Stand?



JOHN L. LEWIS

TENUOUS TRUCE REACHED IN SIBERIAN CONFLICT

Japanese Back Down But Threaten to Resume War

Less than a week after Japanese diplomacy requested and obtained a truce with the Soviet Union in the fighting around the Changkufeng sector of the Siberian-Manchukuoan frontier, indications are at hand that the Mikado's troops are once again bent on resuming hostilities.

On Wednesday, August 10, Ambassador Shigemitsu called on the Foreign Office in Moscow. The call resulted in an agreement for a "mutual cessation of military operations at noon Thursday." At the hour set, Japanese and Soviet buglers trumpeted a "cease firing" command. Thus one month's increasingly heavy fighting, resulting from the most serious Russian-Japanese border clash to date, was ended with a definite retreat on the part of the Tokyo government.

Under the agreement, the Tokyo government accepted the principle of a bi-partite border commission to settle all frontier disputes, finally giving up the pretense of Manchukuoan independence and the consequent demand for a border commission in which it would have undisputed sway. It also agreed to consider, along with "other material," the Soviet claim on the demarcation of the Manchukuo-Siberian frontier as set forth in documents relating to a Sino-Russian treaty dating back to 1886.

Japan in Weak Position As previously established in these columns, the events around the Changkufeng struggle are notable insofar as they make clear:

1. That Japan has been so debilitated by her Chinese war as to offset any weakness in the Soviet domestic position which she may have counted upon as advantageous to her interests.

2. That the Red Army, after a fearful loss in morale and personnel due to the continued Stalinist purge, has sufficiently recuperated to be more than a

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Plan Rump Convention To Split Auto Union

Frankenstein Claims Support of Lewis as Locals Are Advised to Throttle Int'l by Sending Funds to National C.I.O.

LEWIS MAINTAINS SILENCE

DETROIT.—The hit-and-run drivers at the wheel of the Communist Party automobile are now careening wildly through the auto workers union. The mad drive, which recognizes only green lights, is headed straight for a smash-up of the biggest and most powerful C.I.O. International, the United Automobile Workers of America.

Meeting in Toledo, presidents of Stalinist-inspired or dominated locals adopted a plan that will make a split an early reality in the U.A.W. Leading features of the wrecking plan follow:

- 1. Call a rump convention in the near future under the guise of a "National Auto Conference." 2. Tighten the financial noose around the neck of the International by sending all union funds and per capita payments to national C.I.O. headquarters.

Line Changed Again

The now-or-never campaign launched by the Communist Party marks a third or fourth switch in line since the faction fight broke loose in full fury in the auto union. Just to describe the ragged outline shows where the drive is headed.

Early in May, the alliance with Frankenstein was finally sealed, stamped and delivered. The program of drive-the-factionists-out-of-the-union found no takers, and the May 9 meeting of the Executive Board saw a unanimous adoption of the 20-point program presented by President Martin. The Stalinists scurried back to their holes.

But only for a month, when seizing upon a favorable opportunity created by Martin's absence from the board meeting in June, they turned their guns on the 20-point program. They were rewarded for their pains by a transference of the board meeting to Washington, D. C., and the suspension of Frankenstein, Hall, Mortimer and Addes. That marked the end of Strategy Number One: the attempt to sneak up on the board and seize control by a sleight-of-hand maneuver.

C.I.O. Calls Meet

A meeting called by the C.I.O. organizing committee for W.P.A. workers was held last week, despite sabotage of the Stalinists who spread false rumors that the organizing campaign was called off.

An apparently reliable report was received here from Washington that John L. Lewis had definitely vetoed the proposal advanced by leaders of the Workers Alliance to give them an international C.I.O. charter. The word is being passed along in C.I.O. circles that Lewis wants to organize the unemployed and the W.P.A. people but is anxious to exclude the Stalinist leadership.

The effect of the C.I.O. council action in Akron is to place the Stalinists in the position of fighting a progressive proposal of the labor movement to make the battle of the unemployed its own, and they are meeting the opposition of most of the prominent Akron labor leaders.

Dual Set-Up Tried

Then in a twinkle of the eye, the strategy veered sharply in the opposite direction. Locals were instructed to withhold per capita payments. A dual financial office at the home of George Addes was established. A dual international was set up. First steps were taken to tie up International funds in litigation and to redirect mail from the Griswold Building office to private homes. The hell-raisers ran riot through the local unions and a split impended with deadly imminence. But Strategy Number Two depended on bluff . . . and John L. Lewis, Martin refused to be

bluffed, and John L. Lewis hesitated to intervene because Dubinsky of the I.L.G.W.U. threatened to march out of the C.I.O. if the auto workers' union was throttled by a Lewis-C. P. dictatorship.

Then acting either in agreement with Lewis or at any rate banking on his subsequent support, the Stalinists put on their sheep's clothing. Locals were instructed (at least publicly) to turn over per capita to the International; Addes surrendered his funds; the call for a rump convention was shelved at least for the time being. The fight was to be directed along constitutional lines with a special convention as the goal in view.

Strategy Number 3 came to an abrupt end after the expulsion of the three suspended officers about a week ago. Why? Is it likely that the Stalinists believed that the riotous prelude to the trial staged by their stooges and the attendant publicity would save their officials from the certain fate of expulsion—expected and predicted by all and sundry? Is it possible they believed that the lurid exposure through burglarized documents of connections between the administration and Jay Lovestone, which has been a known fact to every child in the labor movement for more than a year, would stave off the inevitable expulsions or create a change

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Gov't Hiring Halls or Seamen's Unions?

Plans of Maritime Commission to Regiment Seamen in Preparation for War Spell Death to Unions

On all waterfronts the major problem confronting seamen interested in building and preserving their unions is the question of government interference with the proper functioning of those unions.

On the West Coast, where the sea-faring organizations are already committed to an uncompromising struggle against government hiring halls, the seamen view with forboding the constant efforts of the Maritime Commission to impose upon the marine industry the Sea Service Bureaus, justly called "fink halls" by all workers. There, where the right of the unions to control the hiring halls was won after months of terror and bloodshed in two great strikes, the seamen consider the right to run their own hiring halls a precious one, earned through heroic struggle and not to be relinquished without even greater battles.

On the East Coast and Gulf, where the largest group of organized men is in the National Maritime Union, the picture is considerably different. The industry is far from being completely organized, and closed shops with union control of hiring are the exception. While the rank-and-file movement that broke away from the reac-

tionary International Seamen's Union was forced in the beginning to wage a bitter struggle against both the shipowners and the scab-herding officialdom of the old union, the new union quickly fell under the sway of the Communist Party, and, under the fictitious guise of support from the government, a program of organizing through National Labor Relations Board elections was inaugurated.

Stalinists Prevent Fight The Stalinists, whose greatest political aim is to harness the workers to the war chariot of American imperialism, and thus to fulfill the promises of the Soviet foreign office, could not be expected to fight the government's plans to regiment the American seamen, for that regimentation is a necessary prerequisite for the waging of war by the Roosevelt administration. Rather, by teaching the workers

to rely on N.L.R.B., the "friendly" wing of the New Deal, they made it impossible for the seamen to seriously combat their immediate enemy, the Maritime Commission.

In New York, where West Coast unions, aided by seamen belonging to the I.W.W., established a picket line around the fink halls, the spontaneous sympathy of the rank and file members of the N.M.U. proved that they, too, were willing and ready to fight in defense of the right of union control of hiring. The Stalinists, still completely dominating the district committee of the N.M.U., were able to keep the union from taking official action.

Since then a new group, headed by Jerry King, wields a majority in the leading committees of the N.M.U. It could be reasonably expected by many of the rank and file who put the new men into office that they would

immediately put the union on a true course, the course of aggressive defense of the right of the union to ship all seamen through their own hiring halls.

Old Policy Prevails So far, these men have been disappointed. Two weeks have elapsed and still the union persists in the Stalinist policy of shipping through the fink halls. Still the N.L.R.B. is asked to "save" the union from another arm of the government, the Maritime Commission.

West Coast Unions Prepared to Defend Right to Control Hiring, But New N.M.U. Leaders Remain Silent

Already the men in the N.M.U., and in all marine unions, who see clearly the tremendous threat to the very existence of any unions if hiring is relegated to government halls, as it was in the days of the

old Shipping Board, are beginning to ask Jerry King and his associates what they propose to do in defense of the right of union control of hiring.

Leaders of the Communist Party and followers of the Stalinist line are, of course, not primarily interested in preserving a union. Their primary purpose is political, and it is dictated by Stalin. That purpose is to enlist the American workers behind American imperialism in the coming war, in exchange for a military alliance with the Soviet Union. Rather than endanger the possibility of such an alliance, they will ruthlessly destroy any organization that stands in the

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