

UAW FIGHTS LEWIS INVASION

Drivers Sign Pact Covering 11 States, 250,000 Workers

Tentative Agreement Will Affect 2,000 Operators, Make Teamsters Largest U.S. Union

CHICAGO.—One of the major advances in the history of organized labor in the United States took place last week in Chicago when a union contract covering a quarter of a million men and two thousand operating companies in an area of more than eleven states was signed by union and operators' committees.

The signing of the contract marked the successful conclusion of almost a year's effort by the powerful teamsters' group, the North Central Area Negotiating Committee, to completely organize the trucking industry of more than 11 states. As defined by the contract the North Central area includes Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and the territory contiguous to the south bank of the Ohio River between Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky.

MORE SHIPS TO BE RUN BY GOV'T

Commission Extends Hiring Control Over More Seamen

NEW YORK.—Continuing its drive against union-controlled hiring, the Maritime Commission last week announced further increases in merchant shipping under its direction.

These ships, whose crews were discharged several months ago when they were laid up for repairs, will be manned by seamen shipped through the Sea Service Bureaus, government hiring halls maintained by the Commission, now being picketed by union seamen in New York and Baltimore.

Another large line, the Dollar, has virtually come under the control of the Maritime Commission, but it remains problematical whether the hiring for the Dollar fleet will be done through the fink halls, as the Sea Service Bureaus are known, or whether the West Coast unions, who have contracts, will continue to man the ships through union halls.

The unwavering opposition of the West Coast unions to government fink halls may force the Commission to find a legal excuse for temporarily abandoning their announced principle of government-controlled hiring.

Move to West Coast An announcement that the Maritime Commission was considering reviving shipping between Seattle and the Orient would squarely place the question of control of hiring before the West Coast unions, as the ships on that run would be government-owned.

The two principal seamen's unions of the West Coast, the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen, are not waiting for the issue to be brought to their doorstep, but rather have initiated and supported the fight against the fink hall on the East Coast. Realizing that success in the government's effort to rob the unions of the hard-earned right to control hiring means sure death to all seafaring unions, the two militant unions have urged that a fighting united front against the fink halls be formed by all seamen's unions.

On the East Coast, where the fink halls are already well established, the National Maritime (Continued on page 2)

Seattle Council Hits Fink Halls SEATTLE, Wash.—In a strongly-worded resolution the Seattle Central Labor Council condemned the establishment of hiring halls and training ships by the Maritime Commission and completely endorsed the struggle being waged by the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Marine Firemen against the fink halls.

Declaring that the union hiring hall is the only possible method of maintaining unionism in the merchant marine, and that history has proved government control operates to regiment the seamen and in favor of the shipowners, the council sent copies to other labor bodies asking that the resolution be concurred in and supported.

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War Nears in Europe

Czechoslovakia Vital To German Plans For Expansion

One overpowering fact emerges from all the foreign news: Europe is on the brink of war. If war breaks out in Europe, it will encircle the world with a new conflagration.

The actions of all the capitalist powers serve to enforce this truth. Fortifications are being pushed at a feverish pace. Armaments are being piled up at inhuman speed. Opposing armies are maneuvering simultaneously and citizens are being mobilized in "test" mobilizations. Full cabinet meetings are taking place, with all eyes fixed upon one country—Czechoslovakia—and within that country upon only one issue—the Sudeten issue.

German Plans at Stake

The Sudeten issue is not just another ticklish minority problem. It is far more important than that. The Sudeten issue is the weathervane of Germany's foreign policy. The direction it takes will indicate the direction of German imperialism and German war plans. It will decide definitely and irrevocably whether the coming world war will be primarily a struggle between conflicting imperialist blocs in which the Soviet Union will participate as an ally of one of them, or if it will subside into a four-power treaty that will settle conflicting interests in Europe by giving Germany a free hand in the Soviet Union, with the blessings of England and France.

In this, Germany is the moving figure and Germany must move soon. A new depression has just set in, and the need for foreign markets grows. Unless these are seized, economic decline will be accompanied by declining morale, accentuating the dire straits of German capitalism and pressing down still further the living standards of the masses. And economic straits and flagging faith will undermine the strength of Hitler's backing. Waiting cannot bring a solution nearer. Waiting simply gives England and France more time to rearm. Waiting makes Germany relatively weaker for the impending conflict. Failure to move would cut away at the very foundations of Hitler's regime. Making a move is accompanied by the prospects of defeat and destruction.

Caught in the dilemma of German imperialism, Hitler must move—even if it is to his own destruction. And he must move soon.

Whichever the choice, the chaotic character of decaying capitalism will continue and become aggravated. Whatever the actions, wars and revolutions are certain to be sown.

Drive to Southeast A four-power treaty at the present time is a purely academic alternative.

The second alternative is a drive into southeastern Europe, regardless of the consequences. The consequences, however, are certain war in which the rival imperialist blocs would fight for hegemony not only over Europe but over the entire world.

Were such a drive definitely begun, the crucial point for Germany would be Czechoslovakia. This is true for economic, strategic and military reasons. Economically, Czechoslovakia could supply to a large degree the needs of Germany. Germany imports foodstuffs. Czechoslovakia exports them. Germany needs iron ore and other minerals. Czechoslovakia has them. Germany needs more facilities for speeding up her giant armaments program. Czechoslovakia has the world-famous Skoda armaments firm, with its more than 40,000 workers. The three provinces of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, which are compactly grouped within the maw of Germany, also form one of the most highly industrialized areas in Europe. Czechoslovakia, in short, fits excellently with the economic needs of Germany.

Vital War Factor For military and strategic reasons, too, Czechoslovakia is central in German expansion. An untouchable Czechoslovakia would jut like a Roman blade towards the vitals of the German economy (Continued on page 3)

"Der Führer" Gives Europe the "Jitters"



ADOLF HITLER

Klement Reported Killed, Body Found

Headless and Legless Body Tentatively Identified as Fourth Victim of G.P.U. in Europe

As we go to press the newspapers carry a despatch from Paris that a headless and legless body has been tentatively identified by two members of the International Workers' Party (Trotskyist) as the body of Rudolph Klement who was kidnapped by the G.P.U. on July 13th last. Klement, at the time he was kidnapped, was Secretary of the Fourth International and some years before he was secretary to Leon Trotsky.

Should it even turn out that the body is not that of our comrade Klement it would make no material difference. All the available evidence points to his having been murdered by the G.P.U.

Fourth to Die

Klement is the fourth of the adherents of the Fourth International kidnapped and murdered by the G.P.U., outside of Russia.

Ignace Reiss, a member of the G.P.U. who came over to the Fourth International after the Moscow frame-up trials, was murdered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Erwin Wolfe and Moulou were kidnapped by the G.P.U. in Spain. Nothing has been heard from them. Their death must be taken for granted.

Leon Sedov, Trotsky's son, died in a hospital under circumstances that can be adequately explained only on the hypothesis of foul play at the hands of the G.P.U.

Killings Without Precedent

Never in the history of the labor movement has the revolutionary section been hounded as the Fourth Internationalists are now hounded by the Stalinist bureaucrats. The Tsar's police, even the fascists are merciful in comparison with the murderous gang guarding the rule of Stalin in the Soviet Union.

While the Fourth Internationalists bear the brunt of their hatred, no honest opponent of Stalinism is safe. Socialist, anarchist, any member of a group fighting against the policies of Stalinism is in danger of his life. To save the militants of the labor movement from extermination at the hands of degenerate Stalinist bureaucrats it is essential to drive the vicious murderers out of the labor movement. A united and open struggle against them is absolutely necessary. Nothing will avail the Stalinist gangsters. The working class in

its struggle for its own democracy and for freedom will destroy them root and branch. The revolutionary march forward may be retarded but it will not be stopped by Stalinist assassins.

New York Faces Crisis in Relief

NEW YORK.—The Department of Public Welfare announced early this week that the relief allotment of \$9,308,000 for the month of August had been completely depleted, and issued orders at once to all district offices not to accept any more cases, emergency or otherwise.

The relief appropriations voted each month by LaGuardia's "progressive" Board of Estimate, have been declining each succeeding month, with the last allotment cut by more than \$200,000, while the army of applicants continue to increase steadily.

Instead of mobilizing the Workers Alliance membership for immediate and effective action against this latest attack on the unemployed, the Stalinist chieftains have turned the Alliance into an adjunct of the Roosevelt political machine. Meanwhile Progressive locals in the Alliance have decided to take steps for militant demonstrations at the relief bureaus, to fight the ruling of the Welfare Department in not accepting new applicants for relief.

UNION-SMASHING DRIVE OPENS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Warehouse Lockout Begins Campaign Against Unions

SAN FRANCISCO.—The bosses' offensive against the workers moved toward a showdown last week in San Francisco, with 120 of the 200 warehouses in the Bay Area closed down, locking out more than 2,500 warehouse workers. On two other fronts the employers became bold, with San Francisco's major retail stores refusing to renew contracts with the A.F. of L. retail clerks union, organized last year, and shipowners demanding extreme modifications of the longshoremen's agreement expiring Sept. 30.

The lock-out started a week ago when warehouse workers, members of Harry Bridges' C.I.O. International Longshoremen & Warehousemen's Union, refused to handle cargo loaded into a box car by strike-breakers at the F. W. Woolworth warehouse. In a deliberately planned maneuver, the car containing the "hot cargo" was shunted from warehouse to warehouse, with the workers being locked out as soon as they refused to unload it.

Committee of 43

In the forefront of the employers is the San Francisco Distributors Association, warehouse operators closely allied to the Waterfront Employers Association, which will deal with the longshoremen. Fighting the retail clerks is San Francisco Retailers Council, denying union conditions to the store employees. Lurking behind all the boss committees, and furnishing strategy and coordination to all, is the notorious Committee of 43, successor to San Francisco's infamous strong-arm Industrial Association.

The end of the old Industrial Association came two years ago when the waterfront unions successfully withstood a 100-day lock-out and turned it into a victorious strike. Supplanting T. G. Plant, whose gangs and clubs only roused the workers into a more militant solidarity, the Committee of 43 came to practise a more insidious brand of union-wrecking. Mouthful genial phrases and appealing to the public's sense of "fair play," the new committee asked only that the unions be "reasonable" and "respectable."

The new committee found strange allies in the labor movement itself: Harry Bridges and the rest of the Communist Party leaders of the West Coast C.I.O., who were already trying to become "respectable" and "reasonable." Under the joint sponsorship of the Stalinists and the Committee, "Town Meetings" were held where the forum attempted to take the place of the picket line. Under the influence of soft words and pleasant meetings, the vigilance of the workers relaxed, and concessions were made. Bridges even found it possible to send longshoremen and warehousemen through the picket lines of other unions, such as the Sailors Union of the Pacific.

News to Class Line

In spite of all past "cooperation," cooperation that the A.F. of L. Central Labor Council consistently refused to the bosses, it is the unions under the control of Bridges that feel the first blows from the employers. Roger Lapham, leader of the Committee of 43 and chairman of the American-Hawaiian Steamship line, drops his false cloak of friendliness and backs the ultimatum delivered by the warehouse operators.

Under the guise of demanding a uniform contract, the distributors' association is determined to strip the warehouse workers of the wages and conditions gained after nearly four years of struggle. By a uniform contract the bosses mean reducing the workers of the whole industry to the scale of the lowest-paid group of workers.

In reply to demands for a decent wage scale and a shorter work week for the retail clerks, the store owners refuse even to meet with union representatives (Continued on page 2)

Locals Condemn Plan To Set Up Dictatorship

Lewis Acts as Foil for Union-Wreckers; Would End Auto Union Autonomy and Hand Control to Stalinists

LEWIS IN SPLITTERS ROLE

DETROIT.—John L. Lewis is invading the auto union under the banner of "peace" and "harmony." He is bringing war and schism into the ranks of the U.A.W. in order to settle a gang of union-busters in the top positions of the union. But it takes two to make a fight, and Lewis is already discovering that the militant auto workers will not prostrate themselves before him like Ghandi's loincloth brigade. He'll get all the fight he wants—more than he can handle.

After consulting or rather conspiring for weeks, and probably months, with the crew of officers thrown out of the U.A.W. as disrupters, Lewis finally came forward with his "plan." This bed of roses for factionalists to lie in is full of sharp thorns.

STRIKERS FORCE PARLEY ON PLAN TO MOVE PLANT

Quick Act Prevents Entry of Scabs; Leader Praised

DETROIT, August 30.—As we go to press, negotiations were resumed in the three weeks old strike at the plants of the McCord Radiator Co. to prevent movement of machinery to a non-union shop in Ohio. Local 210, U.A.W.A., was confident of victory. The company was forced to negotiate after the able generalship of N. J. Moskun, Local President, frustrated a major attempt to run scabs into the plant.

On Wednesday morning about 50 men crossed the picket line and entered the plant. Moskun immediately gathered about 125 strikers and, presenting their badges at the gate, marched in behind the strikebreakers. Once inside Moskun's men surrounded the smaller group and took possession of the plant.

Quick Action Wins

The men who had attempted to go to work were members of an independent union set up last week to break the strike. A council was held and the members of 210 won the company union men over. The result was that they left the plant and ten minutes later Moskun withdrew his forces (Continued on page 2)

COPS SURROUND N. Y. RELIEF SIT-IN

Protesting Jobless Denied Food As Bureau Closes

NEW YORK.—New York's largest relief sit-in of the past two years was in progress Tuesday night as members of Workers Alliance Local 15 occupied the Bleecker Street bureau, holding on grimly as a cordon of 50 police kept food from the protesting unemployed.

Members of Local 15, most militant local in New York W. A., came to the bureau to demand the reopening of the case of a married woman denied relief by the authorities. The woman, living with her husband for the past seven years, was, after several weeks of evasions by the relief officials, told to return to her parents for support. This is the first time that such a dodge has been attempted, as any married couple constitute a family unit and are entitled to relief as such.

Doors Locked Early

When her case was explained to the membership of Local 15 at their regular Monday night meeting, a motion was passed to give mass support to her claim for relief. The next morning more than 40 Alliance members appeared at the bureau, and the crowd continued to grow during the day. At 4 P. M. a committee of three was sent out for food for the sit-in crowd. As soon as they left the building the doors were shut and (Continued on page 4)

Plan Not New

"Maintain the status quo . . . as existing after the adjournment of the last U.A.W. Convention . . . Homer Martin put his finger on this dodge when he declared: 'We could have gotten that in the beginning. We were given that offer by the expelled officers themselves before the trial started.'"

Lewis wants to reinstate Mortimer, Ades, Hall and Frankenstein under the conditions of September, 1937. As if nothing had happened since then! Leaving aside for a moment the long series of vicious practices that brought on their expulsion, how can any man who pretends to be "concerned for the welfare of the U.A.W." call for the reinstatement of officers who violated every trust and broke every pledge in the few short weeks following their suspension?

They declared a dues strike to bankrupt the union and starve its officers to capitulation. They commenced court action to tie up union funds in litigation. They set up a dual International office. They made gangster attempts to break up the trial. They issued vile slanderous statements in the public press against all the union officials. Their G.P.U. friends burglarized the home of one of their opponents. And that doesn't begin to record their crimes. If reinstating these gentlemen shows "concern for the welfare of the U.A.W.," then Henry Ford must be the best friend of the auto workers.

Just contemplate the reinstatement of George Ades to the Secretary-Treasurership. With the purse strings in his hands the U.A.W. would be easy pickings for every Stalinist racketeer, and every legitimate union enterprise would go to smash. The Socialist Appeal has already reported how Mr. Ades by his sabotage came very near wrecking the magnificent auto union's W.P.A. auxiliary because the Stalinists would not have a competitor to their hat-in-hand begging outfit known as the Workers Alliance. Similar instances can be cited by the score. Lewis may want Ades back—but you can bet your bottom dollar that the auto workers don't!

Year of Turnout "All appeals in the controversy . . . shall go to the next convention of the U.A.W." The next convention of the union is scheduled for August, 1939. That will give the Stalinist machinators one year to keep the union in incessant turmoil, to drive out every honest union man and in the meanwhile to build their fences, so they can pack the next convention with phony delegates from paper locals. And Mr. Ades as Secretary-Treasurer will supervise the per capita representation to the convention! This is called an "impartial" proposal. The Communist Party thrives on this kind of "impartiality" and labor unions die under it.

"The officers . . . reaffirm their desire to adhere to the 20-point treaty." Does John L. Lewis believe the U.A.W. has so soon forgotten that the 20-point program was once proposed to "end factionalism." That the expelled officers not only "affirmed their desire to adhere" but signed their names to the program. That before the ink was dry on their signatures, they were using the program as a door mat. No, they have not forgotten. And they are not likely to follow the double (Continued on page 2)