

# Wrecking Crew Regime Tottering In Painters Union

## Clique Admits Bankruptcy; Asks For Opposition's Aid

### At End of Their Rope, Weinstock & Co. Try to Trick Opponents Into Okay of New Tax

NEW YORK.—In complete disarray as a result of the severe touncing they received in the recent referendum on the "\$5 Work Tax," the Stalinist administration of the New York Painters Union, District Council No. 9, is grasping at straws to save its hold upon the union. According to spokesmen of the Progressives in the union, nothing can save them, however. The membership, they say, is thoroughly fed up with the misrule of Chief Stogee Louis Weinstock and his crowd.

The Weinstock strategy, if it may be dignified as such, of saving control of the union for the G.P.U. was revealed at what purported to be a caucus of administration supporters but really was a plain and simple "fraction" meeting of Communist Party members in Painters District Council No. 9. The meeting was held on Wednesday Sept. 14, at Irving Plaza.

#### Administration Bankrupt

At this "fraction" meeting, the Thirteenth Street boys openly admitted that the union was in a state of bankruptcy. An accounting of their squandering of painters' monies disclosed that they could not, even by illegal methods, divert \$5,000 from the treasury of the Council to pay the "legal" expenses for their deal with the General Executive Board of the union, by means of which the expulsion of Weinstock was repealed.

Weinstock had been expelled by the G.E.B. two days before the last general elections in New York. At that time, we reported that this "expulsion" in actuality served to bring about the narrowly squeezed-out election victory of the Stalinists by giving the latter a chance to appeal to the membership on the slogan that they were being martyred. Rumors, still persistent, have maintained that the original "expulsion" was a cooked-up affair between the G.E.B. and the Weinstock gang.

#### Want Payment For Deal

In any case, \$5,000 is now being demanded of the District Council in payment for Weinstock's reinstatement, an unheard-of arrangement for such a procedure. Naturally, the whole thing smells to high heaven and the members are not in a mood to pay even a plug nickel for the reinstatement of the Stalinist worthy, as evidenced by their reaction to the latest referendum.

Having maneuvered themselves into such a tight spot by draining the treasury of the union for all kinds of phoney "party" rackets and for the upkeep of scores of appointed stooges on the payroll, the Thirteenth Street boys now find that they are not in a position to run the union even if they should get the most optimistic yield in dues, initiation fees, etc. during the coming year.

Defeated in the referendum for a work tax which was to rook the membership for the sum the administration needs, the Stalinists at the "fraction" meeting decided to call upon the progressive opposition to "join" with them in a conference to save the union. Naturally, this appeal for "unity" was to be carried out in the usual Thirteenth Street manner—as a cheap maneuver.

#### How Deal Was "Planned"

The "unity" maneuver was to consist in a deal with the opposition leaders for the putting over of a new tax under the camouflage of another of the administration's famous "organizing drives." In return for okaying the tax, opposition leaders were to be given half of the 24 organizers' jobs at \$40 per week. At the "fraction" meeting referred to it was claimed that some of the opposition leaders were ready to accept such a "deal." Of course, as we shall show later, they were only deceiving themselves. By this means, they hoped to divide the opposition forces and break up the progressives. They prepared to do so at a joint meeting of administration and opposition forces held a week ago last Tuesday.

At that Tuesday meeting they threatened and cajoled and in general used every conceivable method in an attempt to browbeat the opposition into accepting their trick. The opposition, firmly organized, had selected Lewis J. Stevens, progressive candidate for Secretary-Treasurer in the last general elections, as their spokesman. The Weinstock crowd heaped abuse on Stevens and appealed to other leaders of the opposition. Not one of the latter, however, failed to make it clear that they would reject any kind of a phoney deal.

#### Exposes C.P. Hand

At one point, a Weinstock henchman by the name of Jacobs, after a lot of froth and fury wound up: "Let's let by-gones be by-gones and get together to put over the tax." A big heehaw arose

from the opposition members of the conference. "So that's what you want unity for?" many of them shouted at the Stalinists in derision. The latter had given their hand away entirely. While rejecting any proposal for an additional drain of the membership, the opposition leaders nevertheless declared their readiness to aid in bolstering up the union. For this purpose, they demanded an account of the budget and an opportunity to study it and bring in concrete proposals to a joint meeting that was scheduled for two weeks from that night. After a good deal of fuss, the Weinstock crowd finally agreed.

#### Begin Double-Cross

No sooner were they out of the conference, however, than they proceeded with the usual double-crossing tactics that characterize all their "united fronts." They proceeded to initiate an "organization drive" without consulting the opposition in the least and instructed the locals affiliated with the District Council to nominate and elect "organizers." At the meetings of the locals the progressives and all the other opposition members boycotted these elections to a man. It was pointed out that with the methods employed by the Stalinist administration, it was no use organizing shops, because the union could not hold them. On the floor of Local 51, Business Agent Passini, a Weinstock henchman elected on the administration's ticket last June, himself admitted that of some 60 shops he has organized in recent months, only 15 remain union shops today.

The opposition, organized into an Inter-Local Conference for Progressive Clubs, is preparing a plan of action to really save the union, concrete in every detail, which they will soon present to the membership. The Stalinists, in the meantime, furious at their inability to bribe or browbeat the opposition and desperate because of the constant rebuffs from the membership, is resorting to impotent slander and calumny. Here is an example of what these "rank and filers" (they call their caucus the "Rank and File Painters Social Clubs") heap on the heads of the real rank and file membership of the union because they refuse to be fooled by them any longer:

#### Rail at Membership

"Those members who voted against the tax (that is, the overwhelming majority in the last referendum; see the Socialist Appeal of Sept. 24 —Ed.) were deliberately or innocently playing into the hands of the employers."

It is all very plain. Whoever is opposed to the Communist Party "line" of wrecking the union is a boss' man. And if it is the overwhelming majority of the membership, so much the worse for them!

But the members of the Painters Union know who has really played into the hands of the bosses, they have read Weinstock's yellow dog contract and they know of every dirty little deal with the bosses. And they are just about ready to do something about it.

## Jamaica Militant Hits C.P. Lies

JAMAICA, L. I.—Hurling the lies of the Daily Worker back into the teeth of the Stalinists, Otto Popovich, leader of the Jamaica Unemployed and Relief Workers League, stated that the local had retained almost its complete membership after the split with the Workers Alliance and that its meetings were better attended than ever.

In reply to a news story printed in the Daily Worker, Popovich stated: "There were 84 and not 18 members at the last meeting of our local. We do not have time to fight with the leaders of the Workers Alliance and the Communist Party. All I have to say to them is that if they really have a membership of 400,000 in the Workers Alliance as Lasser claims there must be something vitally wrong if they cannot harness that power to get clothes and more relief for the unemployed. Lasser says that the Workers Alliance is in politics with both feet. We of the new and militant organization of the unemployed are marching, as Lenin said, with both feet for bread."

## SUBWAY UNION HITS WAGE CUT

### Demand Increase In Counter Proposal

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The Transport Workers Union, representing 55,000 workers on every major subway, elevated, trolley and bus line in the city except the Independent Subway—where Mayor LaGuardia refuses to allow civil service workers the right to organize—announced yesterday that it would not only resist any attempt to reduce wages for transit employees, but would insist upon an "appreciable" increase for 1939.

This statement was issued in reply to the announcement by Thomas E. Murray Jr., Federal receiver for the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, that the wages of its 14,000 workers would be reduced to the May 1937 level. At that time the company signed an agreement, with the union granting a 10 percent wage increase and many improved working conditions.

This contract expires December 31, 1938, along with similar contracts with other New York transit lines. Now the transit bosses are preparing to "gang-up" on the union. The first attack comes in the form of this announcement which is made public a full two months before negotiations are scheduled.

The stockholders of the I.R.T. have bled the company dry. They invested a little over \$21,000,000 and in fifteen years have received from the treasury more than \$65,000,000 in dividends. This generosity on the part of the officials was not extended to the workers of the company. On the contrary, wages were kept at the lowest possible levels, even in the most prosperous years. Conditions for workers were notoriously bad and the whole transit system in constant need of repair. The present wages, hours and conditions for employees are still far below what they should be.

The Transport Workers Union will have a real fight on its hands in the coming struggle and if the union officials live up to their promises New York should see at last, a genuine step toward decent transportation for the millions of workers who daily ride the subways, busses and trolleys.

## For Independent Labor Politics in Elections

(Continued from page 1)  
We have, ourselves, the sharpest disagreements with the present programs, leaders and methods of these organizations. With the aim of supporting and furthering every actual step toward independent labor politics, we nevertheless believe that the genuinely independent candidates of these organizations should be supported on Election Day.

But such support on the part of militant workers would be nothing less than sabotage of the movement for independent labor political action if it were not accompanied by the sternest criticism of the errors of the leaders of these organizations, the demand for an end to all deals with boss parties and boss candidates, and the call for a fighting program instead of the liberal and New Deal muddle of their present platforms.

Such support cannot extend to the candidates of boss parties which have been endorsed by these organizations. On the contrary, workers must show their protest against the deals with the boss parties by refusing to go along with the endorsements of Democrats and Republicans, and by writing-in the names of genuine worker-candidates.

In particular the workers must register their protest against the shameful deal whereby the A. L. P. has endorsed the leading Democratic candidates for State-wide office. Since no independent candidates for Governor and Senator supported by the organized labor movement will appear on the New York ballot, we propose to accomplish this by writing-in the names of James P. Cannon for Governor and of Ernest R. McKinney for the regular-term Senator. No self-respecting and class-conscious worker should permit himself to vote for Lehman and Wagner, the nominees of the party of Boss Crump, Cotton Ed Smith, and Mayor Frank Hague.

The problems of the workers are not solved by what happens on this or any other Election Day. But if this campaign period sees a real advance in the extent and clarity with which the need for genuine, fighting, independent working-class political activity is understood by the workers themselves, it will be a victory, and a lasting one.

## Sailors Slated To Get National AFL Charter

(Continued from page 1)  
default. After formal establishment of the N.M.U. and the affiliation of that organization to the C.I.O., the A.F. of L. began a new set-up under a federal charter. For the past year discredited representatives of the former I.S.U. have been attempting to garner seamen into the A.F. of L. Seamen's Union. They have had a limited success, organized about 7,500 men in the deck, engine-room and stewards departments. The N.M.U. boasts 30,000 members in these three divisions.

#### The Fink Book Issue

Since the Government began a concerted drive against all unions in the maritime field when the Copeland Act of 1936 was adopted, spokesmen for west coast seamen have attempted to reach a common understanding with east coast representatives to fight against regimentation. Under the guise of "national union" Stalinist leadership in the N.M.U. has shied away from the main issue facing all American seamen today.

Immediately after the 1936-37 strike which was fought on both coasts, and out of which grew the N.M.U., shipping commissioners in every American port demanded that seamen signing articles produce a continuous discharge book. More than one hundred thousand seamen had signed pledge cards, stating they would never under any circumstances carry the discharge (Fink) book. Under pressure from the Government, Joseph Curran—then C.P.-appointed leader of East Coast seamen—told his followers: "Take the Fink book! We'll burn it on May Day!"

But not on the west coast. Union men there gave a different answer to the Shipping Commissioners. Every vessel under west coast agreement was tied up until cleared and permitted to sail with full crews who had remained true to their pledge and refused to carry Discharge Books. Subsequently the newly-created Maritime Commission made the Continuous Discharge Book optional, but only after the united resistance of west coast seamen.

#### Training Ships

Part of the Copeland Act was a provision for the establishment of training ships for seamen. All seamen have condemned these training ships. They see no reason why men who have been following the sea for ten and twelve years and more, must be trained. And they see no reason for training more men for the sea when there is at present a serious unemployment problem in the industry. And even if there were no unemployment, seamen contend that the best place for a man to learn seamanship is on the job—not in a "school." But while answering these superficial excuses offered by the Maritime Commission for its training ship program, organized seamen have demonstrated that they are well aware of the real reason for the Training ships.

#### The Hiring Hall

As if afraid there would be some mistake about its true pur-

## NEW JERSEY C.I.O. CALLS FOR UNITY

(Continued from page 1)  
to the convention. These ideas were embodied in a recommendation to the incoming executive board.

The confidence of the workers in the battle to organize Jersey City, Hague's strong-hold, was strikingly revealed in the action to hold the next convention in that city.

W. J. Carney, New Jersey C.I.O. director, was unanimously elected president of the state organization.

Using the provision that all international unions at the convention be represented on the executive board, the Stalinists were able to pack a majority on that body through inclusion of men from unions like the architects, office workers etc. However, the executive officers are nearly all non-Stalinist.

Real power in the new set-up is the Hillman group from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the national C.I.O. through W. J. Carney.

The main line of division in the convention came over the question of either appointing or electing an executive secretary who will naturally head the work of the state organization.

A bloc between the progressive steel workers and the delegates from the Dyers Federation ably led by Joseph Knapiak, their president, fought for election of that officer. The Stalinists wanted appointment since they hoped to squeeze in Len Goldsmith, of the Newspaper Guild, who had acted as convention secretary. The Amalgamated delegates wanted appointment because they knew that Hillman has a candidate in mind.

#### Force Apology

After a stupid and provocative speech by Al Barkin, Stalinist from the textile workers, that turned the convention into an uproar when he hinted that the steel-dyers bloc was using "Hague arguments about democracy," quiet was restored and a good discussion followed with a majority voting for appointment. The Stalinist was forced to apologize. It remains to be seen if a qualified unionist will obtain the post or if the Stalinists will put in a stooge.

Although two unions presented resolutions calling for the transformation of Labor's Non-Partisan League into a Labor party now, parliamentary rules were used to break off serious discussion and a resolution endorsing the present League policy passed by a large majority.

#### Discuss War Question

Lengthiest discussion came on the war question. The resolutions committee recommended a Stalinist "Endorse the Kellogg-Peace pact" resolution. Two unions introduced an anti-imperialist war resolution that also called for a popular referendum on war.

Attempts of the Stalinists to heckle and boo the opposition were quickly stopped by Carney who insisted on democratic discussion, and debate followed. The Stalinists had a large majority in the vote.

Soon after the convention opened and a progressive delegate fought against a Stalinist measure, under their guidance, voted to unseat him. The bloc of steel and dyers delegates along with all other non-Stalinists got ready to expose this maneuver if the credentials committee went through with its plan, so Carney and other top C.I.O. officials squelched the C.P. move.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW YORK

HERE'S A CHANCE to demonstrate your ingenuity. City-wide Masquerade Ball at Irving Plaza on November 5th. Prizes for the most original and beautiful costumes. Start planning your costume now—those without costume will pay more admission. Watch the paper for further details. Meanwhile hold the date open . . . The dance of the year . . . Swing band, entertainment, competition and prizes. Note: October 15th dance called off.

OTTO POPOVICH invites you to social at new headquarters. This Sat., Oct. 15, 8 P.M. Admission free. Beer, sandwiches 5c. 106-17 Waltham St., Jamaica Line to Sutphin Blvd.

icy pursued by the officialdom of the union against the threat of government legislation as well as against constance encroachments on living and working conditions by the shipowners, many east coast seamen are reported to favor a new organization here. A.F. of L. representatives believe that Harry Lundberg, because of his aggressive attitude toward the boss and government interference, has the answer east coast seamen have been seeking. With the 7,500 A.F. of L. seamen here he will have a good start.

## Appeal Army

### World Congress Issue Appears Next Week

The long-awaited special issue of the Socialist Appeal devoted to the founding Congress of the Fourth International and the 10th anniversary of the American Trotskyist movement will be of the press next week. We have decided to increase the size of this issue from the original 8 pages to 12 pages. There will be feature articles by comrades describing the history of the Trotskyist movement in America, in addition to the most important resolutions adopted at the recently held World Congress. No comrade, sympathizer or friend will want to miss this extraordinary issue of the Appeal—not only the largest, but the most significant ever published by us.

There are still some branches that have failed to send in their extra orders to us. They must act now because our press-run will be based solely on extra orders received prior to publication. We have already received orders for thousands of extra copies, but the following branches are still absent: Oakland, San Francisco, Hartford, Louisville, Baltimore, Lynn, Minneapolis, Rochester, Akron, Youngstown, Allentown, Philadelphia and Reading. These branches must be heard from immediately! If they wait until after publication of the World Congress issue, they will be too late.

### Results of Special Anti-War Issues

The following are typical remarks we've been receiving every day for the past week. Everything indicates an overwhelming success for our Appeal campaign:

"The APPEAL is certainly an excellent paper in revolutionary content, typographically and in every respect. It is doing a wonderfully good and indispensable work in behalf of the working class and all other suppressed people . . ." Wakefield, Kansas.

"We received the first special two page issue of the APPEAL. If it is possible, send us 500 copies of all the anti-war issues for distribution . . ."—Detroit, Michigan.

"The St. Paul branch greets with loud acclaim the announcement that the APPEAL will come out three times weekly. But since greeting with loud acclaim doesn't solve the important financial problem, we are sending the enclosed ten bucks . . ."—St. Paul, Minn.

"I don't know how to start, things are so good! Your art-

icle on the New York sales will surely let me get the needed enthusiasm from the comrades . . . Everyone is wild about our success! We have unlimited possibilities . . . We are having a big social Saturday (to raise money for the APPEAL)." —Karl. Marx. Shier, Chicago, Ill.

### New York City Shows the Way!

We want to take this opportunity to offer our special thanks and congratulations to the New York section of the Party. Not only did they do a splendid job of distributing and selling the anti-war Appeals, but they provided the entire financial backing to our undertaking! The N. Y. party and Y.P.S.L. turned in \$200 in cold cash and made it possible for us to carry on. For special mention we select Abe Miller who directed distribution work; Ted Bekos who was the super-star salesman for Appeals; Comrade (Mac) McKinney who was instrumental in raising the money; Comrade R. who made a set of splendid posters which greatly aided in selling papers and each and every comrade of the S.W.P. and Y.P.S.L. who contributed towards our success.

But now that the special drive is over, New York City is not letting up in its activity. Abe Miller, New York's literature director, is launching a subscription drive whose aim is to obtain 100 new subscribers during the next few weeks. Prizes are being offered to those comrades getting the most new subs. This is a direct follow-up on the campaign just concluded and we urge all other branches to follow suit. Watch this column for announcements on the successes of this sub-drive.

The following list contains new subscription for the past two weeks. Bundle orders are also picking up nicely:

NEW YORK CITY	28
Chicago, Ill.	9
California	6
Minnesota	4
Massachusetts	3
New Jersey	3
Michigan	2
Indiana	1
Washington, D. C.	1
New Mexico	1
Connecticut	1
New York State	1
Wisconsin	1
Iowa	1
Foreign	1
Total	64

In addition, the following increases in bundle-orders came in: (1) Allentown, Pa.—An increase of 35; thanks to the fine work of Ruth Querio.

(2) Ithaca, N. Y.—The Y.P.S.L. circle has resumed its bundle-order, starting with 5 and promising to shoot up soon.

(3) Los Angeles, Calif.—John Murphy has increased his order by 60 per week since he assumed charge.

(4) Washington, D. C.—The new literature agent for the branch is starting with a modest 5 per week.

(5) Henry Schnautz of Evansville, Indiana, has increased his bundle by 35 copies.

Send all contributions and subs to:

SOCIALIST APPEAL  
116 University Place  
New York, N. Y.

Last Reminder:  
Send in your extra orders for the World Congress issue of the Socialist Appeal, out next week!

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## Grand Celebration Mass Meeting

The Foundation Congress of the Fourth International  
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Just arrived—Eight page issue of "UNSER WORT," organ of the German section of Fourth International. Articles by Trotsky, Walter Held, Johr, etc. — 5c each.

ALSO: La Lutte Ouvriere (French section) 5c.  
De Enige Weg (Dutch section) 5c  
Bulletin of the Opposition (Russian section) 20c  
Add 1 1/2c per copy for postage

### LABOR BOOK SHOP

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