

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Union-Buster Arnold

One of the most important developments in the trade union field in recent months has been the beginning of a nationwide campaign against the teamsters union by Thurman Arnold, United States Attorney General, under the charge that the truck drivers are violating the Sherman anti-trust law through certain kinds of contracts signed with employers.

John C. Haelele, attorney for truck drivers local 407, I.B.T., submitted to Arnold an outline of the procedure in Cleveland, which requires drivers for long distance hauling companies which have contracts with the union to turn over their loads at various terminals in the city for delivery within the city limits by local drivers.

Arnold, in a letter to the Indianapolis Central Labor Union, wrote that perhaps this kind of contract was a probable violation of the Sherman Act by a union as "unreasonable restraints designed to compel the hiring of useless and unnecessary labor."

"An example is the requirement that on each truck entering a city there be a member of the local teamsters union in addition to the driver who is already on the truck," Arnold wrote.

While indicating that he is not seeking to obtain a ruling on the legality of the procedure followed by the Cleveland teamsters union, Haelele wrote:

"It is the desire of the officers and members of local 407 to cooperate fully with the Department of Justice in supporting the laws of the United States of America. It is with this thought in mind that we are requesting a fuller interpretation of your statement in order to clarify, justify and determine the future acts on the part of the officers and members of local union 407."

Cleveland Contract

Haelele's brief describes a contract between local 407 and the Cleveland Group of Certified and Permit Motor Carriers, an organization of 71 operators in the Cleveland area, which includes a clause specifying that "drivers for member companies entering Cleveland must deliver directly to a terminal or may deliver or pick up a load within a one-mile radius of an employer's terminal, but that such truck drivers may not make deliveries or pick ups elsewhere in the Cleveland area."

"It has been the practice of both local trucking concerns and the union, in cases where a truck is operated into the Cleveland area from distant points, to have a local union member operate such truck from the terminal to the point of delivery," the brief states.

"We believe that it is to the public interest that a local man, who generally knows the city better and who has not just left a fast moving public highway, should complete the work of making delivery."

"The number of accidents on city streets involving long-distance motor transports has been drastically reduced since the system was adopted and consignees have found deliveries more rapid."

"Of course, our men do not begin from their service except at a terminal, unless the shipper designates otherwise, in which case our driver meets the truck on telephonic advice of the shipper," the brief continues.

"We have never required that an extra driver be hired in addition to the regular driver on a truck entering Cleveland on a terminal-to-terminal basis."

"Now then, it is our opinion that the hiring of men under the above statement of facts and by virtue of existing agreements does not come under the category of unreasonableness as defined by you as a violation of the anti-trust law."

"Immediately on the public announcement of your views on this matter our local union discontinued the use of a local driver to complete local deliveries for those who were not in contractual relationship with us, and we shall continue this policy until you have more fully informed us," the brief concludes.

Edward Murphy, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union, said that the procedure used in Cleveland was similar to that in many other cities; thereby giving the Cleveland situation a nationwide importance.

FDR SCUTTLES 'CASH-CARRY'; SHIPS 'SOLD'

(Continued from Page 1)

No Bones About It

In its latest application, the United States Line put the matter bluntly enough. The presidential proclamations issued under the Neutrality Act, it stated, had made it impossible to employ the ships on their former runs under the American flag, and there did not appear to be any other route in which they could be profitably operated. Therefore, the "sale" of the ships!

These ships and other American ships which are certain to follow into "foreign" registry are likely to be torpedoed by German U-boats as they carry war materials to England. That means a series of "incidents," such as happened in 1915 and 1916 under identical conditions, and which enabled Wilson to drag the country into war. Everybody understands this. That's why the one popular item in the Neutrality Act was the "cash and carry" clause which barred American shipping from the war zones.

Silent Since November

On Nov. 12, in ordering the Maritime Commission to hold up approval of the change to Panama registry, Roosevelt stated he was holding up final approval "until further investigation." Not another word has been heard about the matter, however, until the announcement of the Commission's approval of transfer to Norwegian registry. This bears out the prediction made by the Socialist Appeal in an editorial Nov. 17:

"In the face of the wide spread protests against the Maritime Commission's action, Roosevelt had to order the Commission to hold up final approval until further investigation. Or, more accurately, until Roosevelt thinks the storm has subsided."

During the debate on the Neutrality Act, the chief argument of the Roosevelt spokesmen was that the "cash and carry" clause would more than make up for any dangers of involvement caused by dropping the embargo on arms.

What They Promised

The "cash and carry" clause was put forward in these grandiose terms by Senator Barkley, the Democratic leader:

"Whether it be wheat, or corn, or tobacco, or shoes, or typewriters, or tanks . . . or anything that can be recalled by mind of man, it cannot be shipped to a belligerent nation or through a danger zone anywhere in the world in an American ship. . . . Because I want no war I am supporting and propose to vote for a measure which involves the greatest sacrifice ever made by any nation in the history of mankind in order to avoid war."

That got votes, and lulled a lot of people into illusory security. But if Senator Barkley had been telling the truth, he would have added:

"But of course the American ships can change their registry and thus continue to deal with the belligerents."

But if he had told the truth, it would have been impossible for Roosevelt to get a majority for lifting the embargo on arms.

After the passage of the Neutrality Act it became known that, in the midst of the Congressional debate, the Maritime Commission had quietly approved changes of registry for seventeen tankers and two freighters.

In a word, in order to get the Neutrality Act adopted, the Roosevelt administration had to pretend that the "cash and carry" clause would keep American ships out of the war zone, while knowing that a loophole was all ready to be used to violate the law, just as soon as it could be done without too much outcry.

Members Vainly Protest

The shop membership, composed of the new, young militant elements who have entered the needle trades in recent days, finally revolted against this autocratic procedure; they demanded to be informed of the progress of negotiations and what the union representatives were fighting for. They removed the old shop committee and elected a new shop committee composed of the most active and militant union men, whom they trusted and in whose judgment they had confidence.

Whereupon Wander refused to recognize the new committee and stopped all negotiations with the company. You play ball my way, said in effect this arrogant bureaucrat, or we won't play at all!

This group of new young union militants certainly got a baptism of fire in this fight. They were forced into the impossible position of having to battle their won supposed union leaders while they were engaged in a life and death struggle with their employer.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The new issue of UNSER WORT is just off the press, with W.H.'s article on the War in Finland, a commentary on the events in Bohemia, and the outstanding article by L. Trotsky, the U.S.S.R. in the War.

Send your subscription orders (one year 60c) to Dale Edwards, Box 173 Station D, N. Y. C.

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The members of the shop com-

'The Call' and Some of Its Friends on Finland

By FELIX MORROW

Norman Thomas' Call appears to be losing some of its original enthusiasm for the cause of Finland. The last two issues have been couched in a distinctly lower key than the clarion call for world aid to Finland with which the Call editor, Gerry Allard, greeted the events ("In that struggle every human being who cherishes freedom will support the heroic Finns."—Call, Dec. 9). The eight-column banner across the front page, "Finland's Fight: A World Cause" (Dec. 16) has not been repeated. It may be that Messrs. Thomas, Allard and Symes have been a little flabbergasted by the enthusiastic response—from the Allied Supreme War Council, Herbert Hoover, the Swedish nobility, and other democrats—to the Call's exhortations for aid to Finland.

The Jan. 6 Call reports that many letters have been received criticizing or commending its stand. It publishes a commendatory letter from the well-known millionaire socialist, Alfred Baker Lewis, which concludes: "The fact that Italy has, for her own national interests, supplied some limited support for Finland ought not to deter Socialists from urging full economic aid to Finland as the victim of totalitarian aggression."

A critical letter from the Debs circle of the Young Socialists of Los Angeles declares: "We are not only shocked but defiant as to the right of the editor to write such an article advocating that the Socialist party furnish the Finns with arms and munitions. We feel that such an idea is directly opposed to the Socialist stand on war. . . . A letter from Paul Jones says: 'But I do hate to see the Call taking a position right up close to the band in the march toward war. There is no place for a Socialist paper . . . for Pete's sake put on the brakes before you go any further.'"

Amazingly enough, these letters are printed without a word of editorial comment. The Call will maintain a dignified silence for a while, it appears.

It Depends Where You Stand

However, it should be added that from a certain vantage point the fundamental difference between the Trotskyist position and that of the Stalinists tends to be blurred. If someone stands far enough over on the right, two points which are actually distant from each other but are both to the left of that observer, may seem closer together, than they are in reality.

An instance of this perspective is Mr. Ferdinand Lundberg, the author, who is one of the sponsors of *Uncensored*. I sent him a copy of a letter I wrote to *Uncensored*, protesting its false statement of the Trotskyist position. He replied that "for the life of me I can't see wherein your position has been distorted"; and after one reads his letter, it becomes clear why he cannot make any distinction between the Stalinist position and that of the Trotskyists. For it is perfectly true that the Trotskyists are defenders of the Soviet Union, who will not defend a bourgeois Finland, although they would defend an independent Soviet Finland against Stalin. Whereas Mr. Lundberg thinks the Finns would be damn fools if they started a revolution. Mr. Lundberg writes:

"The important thing is not that Finland is bourgeois. One might say that it is of no importance at all except to hopelessly doctrinaire sectarian revolutionists who are wandering deeper and deeper into a blind alley. The important thing is that a small, hardworking, self-respecting, upright people has been set upon by a cowed, fear driven rabble. . . ."

"I certainly think the Finns are right in defending themselves against the bovine Stalinist hordes, who are the ones that should act upon Lenin's dictum and turn their guns against their own officers. The Finns would be damn fools if they started a 'socialist' revolution and Stalin would be glad. Personally, I hope the Finns give the precious Red Army a glancing it will never forget. And I sincerely hope that Soviet Russia is weakened by the invasion."

Mr. Lundberg's remarks have this value: they give, a little more incautiously than others, the real vantage point of all those who denounce the Trotskyist position as a concession to Stalinism: the vantage point of democratic-imperialist patriotism.

FIGHT IN ILGWU OVER BAYONNE PACT SHOWS NEED OF REFORMS

Local 160, affiliated with the out-of-town department of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, signed a new contract in December covering 1000 workers of the Maiden Form Brassiere Company, one of the most important out of town shops located at Bayonne, N. J.

Ignored Shop Demands

The contract negotiations were handled by Harry Wander, President of the Out-of-Town department, and his assistant, Israel Horowitz. These two great labor leaders chose to ignore completely the demands as well as the wishes of the shop membership, on whose behalf, presumably they were negotiating.

They were enabled to carry on in this highly autocratic manner because of the absence of all democracy in the out of town section of the International Union. The negotiations are conducted by the department; the local unions involved enjoy no autonomy or democratic rights.

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ANTI-LYNCHING BILL COMES UP FOR DEBATE

(Continued from Page 1)

More and more frequently the economic incentives for resorting to lynch terror are being recognized. In May of this year Joe Rodgers was tortured with hot irons, shot and hacked to pieces because he objected to having his lumbermill boss deduct \$5.50 from his wages as rent for a company shack in which he had never lived.

Nor is the practice confined to the South. In Cranbury, N. J., in August of this year eight white men assaulted a few Negro potato pickers imported from the South to work at substandard wages. After the trial which took place only because of outside pressure, they were given suspended sentences.

Experience has amply demonstrated that state or local agencies cannot be relied on to combat lynching. The governor of every Southern state during the last session of Congress affirmed his support of the status quo. The bill is particularly effective in applying pressure at the most vulnerable spot in the political make-up of the South—the county. Much more than in the North, the responsibility for law enforcement rests with the county sheriff. The power of the governor is limited under the law in these matters, a fact he is always happy to point out.

Fight For Bill

Both the Democratic and the Republican high command admit that the Negro vote in the North states can be decisive in the 1940 election. At the same time the Southern die-hards will invoke all their old tricks to defeat the bill. Only a national wave of militant support can secure the bill's passage through both houses and deal a body blow to the persecution of America's most oppressed minority.

Despite its many inadequacies, the Socialist Workers Party supports this bill, and wherever possible is taking and will take an active part in agitation on its behalf. It is a pressing obligation on all sections of the labor movement to do the same.

Speech of Leon Trotsky

recorded on two discs; made for the New York meeting celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Fourth International in this country.

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WORKERS' FORUM

MPLS. BRANCH LETTER IN THE DAILY PRESS

(The following letter appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune, Dec. 26)

Editor:

Soviet invasion of Finland has brought forth many protestations of horror from all sections of world opinion. People who now cry out against this invasion maintained smug silence when United States warships aided Machado in slaughtering thousands of Cuban workers and when "democratic" Great Britain stifled with bombs the protest in her slave-colony, India. Even Mussolini, France and the Mikado whose hands still drip with blood of the Abyssinian, Spanish and Chinese workers and peasants, express hypocritical horror.

The fact is that "moral" grounds in this situation are a subterfuge. For which among the governments of the world can throw the first stone? It is, therefore, necessary to analyze calmly and logically what kind of a war is being fought.

Finland is a capitalist nation whose rulers are fighting against Russia to retain their right to exploit their workers and peasants. That Finland is fighting for her national independence is a myth designed to attract the sympathy of the world, paralleling the myth of "poor little Belgium" in the last war. The Finnish workers cannot gain by such a war. If their own masters win, it simply means continued control by the bankers and landlords and their overlords, the imperialists of Britain and France.

Stalin's policy in the conflict with Finland must be condemned because his methods to gain military advantages repel the sympathy and support of the oppressed peoples of the world. The damage thus done to Socialist ideas far outweighs any immediate strategic advantage that he may gain. The Stalin bureaucracy in this situation continues as the main betrayer of Marxism while still heading the first workers' state.

American workers should regard Soviet Russia just as they would a legitimate trade union fallen into corrupt hands. The task is to save and regenerate the union—not to play into the hands of those who are opposed not only to the leaders but to the basic ideas of unionism.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, Minneapolis Branch

By Oscar Coover, Branch Organizer.

UNIONIST DEFENDS PARTY POLICY ON USSR.

Comrade Editor:

The assertion has been made that the Party's policy of unconditional defense of the Soviet Union is the reason why no proper explanation of Russia's invasion of Poland or Finland has been made, and that this policy leads only to equivocation in regards to these latter events.

Russia's invasion of Poland or Finland cannot determine the question of whether the U.S.S.R. is or is not a workers' state. So far as I am concerned, these countries were boss countries. The attack may be ill-advised, but I stand to defend the conquests of October even if "poor Finland" is wrongfully given the works.

A. R. "A Mid-Western Moujik," Omaha, Nebraska.

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HARLEM DANCE and Entertainment Saturday Night, Feb. 3 at 186 Lenox Ave. Music by the Savoy Bearcats. Subscription 49 cents. Sponsored by the Harlem branch of the S.W.P.

DESK URGENTLY NEEDED by the City Lit. Dept. Will be able to pay cartage. Any comrade who knows of a small desk please communicate with Harry Roberts, 116 University Place, New York, N. Y.

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The following new subscriptions were received during the week:

NEW YORK CITY	10
Minneapolis	5
Chicago	5
Columbus	2
Oakland	2
Los Angeles	2
Washington, D.C.	1
New Castle	1
Michigan	1
Boston	1
Total	50

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Fraternally, V. C.

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After finishing the talk contributions are solicited and many nickels and dimes are collected to aid in the anti-war fight.

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First, our party needs it to keep abreast of news events and our attitude towards them. To offset the terrific pressure of the bosses our comrades absolutely need the Appeal as frequently as we can publish it. We also need the twice-weekly to show our sympathizers and contacts that our Party takes a bold, fighting attitude in answer to the patriotic propaganda of the bosses.

The problem of raising the finances rests on the membership. We are young, aggressive and determined. We intend to overthrow the strongest capitalist system on the face of the earth. We can easily raise the necessary funds for the Appeal if we put our shoulders to the wheel in true Bolshevik fashion.

Here in Detroit we have already sent in \$34.90 in payment on our bill. We want to see every branch follow suit at once. Forward immediately to the Twice-a-Week Appeal!

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Dear Comrade:

The Detroit comrades have a fine technique in house-to-house canvassing with the Appeal.

They give it away and at the same time they give a short

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talk about our stand against the war. Nearly everyone wants the paper—from the very poorest triets to the so-called "middle class" areas. The talk is prefaced by saying that this is an anti-war paper and we are giving it away as part of a campaign against war.

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