

Fight For Action In 30-Hour Week Drive Is Main Issue For U. A. W.

This Must Be Keynote of Forthcoming Auto Workers Convention

DETROIT—Emil Mazey was re-elected President of the large militant Briggs local of the United Automobile Workers, this week by a narrow margin. The final count showed 3,565 votes for Mazey, 2,546 for Henry McMillan and 396 for Fred Dinkelmann. The re-election of Mazey by the smallest margin he ever received is a matter for serious study by every union militant.

Mazey was originally swept into office on a huge wave of personal popularity which he earned by a successful struggle against the reactionaries. He maintained this popularity by organizing his local on a militant basis and fighting tooth and nail with the corporation over every grievance of the workers.

Mazey's first serious setback came after what was apparently a brilliant victory in the strike against the corporation last spring. Most of the union's demands were won in that strike. The real problem however remained unsettled—the union had not even referred to it in its demands to the corporation. That problem was unemployment. The only possible answer the union could give was: thirty hours work for forty hours pay.

UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUE IN SENIORITY FORM

Soon after the strike had ended this issue began to plague the union heads and reappeared at meeting after meeting. It took the form of a struggle over the question of seniority. The younger, more militant men, the backbone of the Briggs local, wanted plant-wide seniority. The strongest demand for plant-wide seniority came from the men at the Mack Avenue plant, the largest and most productive unit of the five Briggs divisions in the city. The Mack Ave. plant supplies bodies for the Chrysler Plymouth plant. Mazey backed the Mack Ave. unionists. In that position he was right—but only partially right.

Violent opposition to this form of seniority and a demand for corporation-wide tenure was voiced in most of the other plants and principally in the Highland Park unit. The men in the opposition are the old-timers of Briggs, with long years of seniority behind them, the least militant and the most conservative. Most of those who had worked at the Highland Park are unemployed because this plant has been practically shut down since Ford began making some of his car bodies himself and took the others elsewhere. If seniority were organized on a corporation-wide basis, most of the younger militants would be pushed out of their jobs mainly at the Mack Ave. plant by the old-timers. No union leader could afford to allow this to happen except at peril of making it a house-broken institution for the management. After a long period of drawn-out discussion, the plant-wide seniority system carried in a Local referendum.

VOTES DON'T SETTLE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

Yet the problem persisted as did the opposition. But Mazey and his leading group did little or nothing to attempt a solution. The more they failed to outline a positive program of action, the more complicated and difficult their problem became. At the same time the workers became more restive and began to view this failure to act as a sign of bureaucracy.

Most of the 2,900 votes cast against Mazey in the election were cast by men who saw no other way to express their discontent with continued unemployment. Only 30 out of 800 votes cast at the Highland Park Plant went to Mazey.

What next? That is the question most militant and progressive unionists in the Briggs local are asking. To look further for an answer to the union's problem in a new wrinkle of the seniority question, is like trying to put a jig-saw puzzle together with the main pieces missing.

THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION

The answer is outside the seniority issue—and inside the issue of the work-week. Cut down the number of hours to thirty, keep the wages at the present forty hours pay, and the seniority question will be at least partially solved by putting most of the unemployed back on the job.

Otherwise the present opposition will continue to grow as a reactionary force until they succeed in ousting the young men from their jobs. The struggle between employed and unemployed union men will supersede the struggle of all union men against

the corporation. In that struggle there is only one winner: the corporation.

But, it is objected, Briggs cannot act alone without Chrysler, without General Motors. Yes, but why don't Chrysler and General Motors act? The convention of the U.A.W. went on record last year by unanimous vote for the "Thirty-hour week at forty-hours pay." Why have the Thomas-Reuther leadership buried this program and exhumed it only from time to time on holiday occasions? Why did they ignore this program in the Chrysler strike? Why are they relegating it to the point of "basic demands"—which mean no demands at all—in negotiating with General Motors?

Why, in other words, is the Thomas-Reuther leadership violating the solemn decision of the last convention?

Why? Because they are frightened by the real struggle with the corporation. In their secret moments they think how wonderful the union could be if only its one-third of unemployed could be driven out of the industry. Then they could settle down, they think, to calm enjoyment of their steady salaries in a stabilized union situation. They don't dare say that openly and directly. But they do say it indirectly. They said it at their last Board meeting where the only real decision was one loud shriek against "unauthorized strikes." They said it again in the Chrysler strike. They are saying it again in the G.M. negotiations.

The militants must demand an accounting from this crowd at the coming convention. They can't alibi about Martin any more—he's a dead horse in the auto industry now. The United Automobile Workers needs a firm leadership which will fight for the union program the day after the convention. In the center of this program must be the demand for the THIRTY HOUR WEEK AT FORTY HOURS PAY.

Mazey claims to be a progressive. Good. Let the Briggs workers put him through the real test: what will he do for this program at the next convention? Briggs Local 212 has a delegation of almost 100 to the U.A.W. convention. It can be a powerful force for a progressive program. The Briggs militants will judge Mazey by his actions not his speeches. Meanwhile, the auto workers can best serve themselves by organizing the forces of the rank and file independently.

SEEK TO TAKE VOTE FROM JERSEY JOBLESS

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

NEWARK, N. J.—Living up to the New Jersey state motto of "Everything for Business"—(and nothing for labor), a state legislative committee report, recommending that the unemployed who have been on relief for three years or more be formally designated as paupers, has been made public. This despicable proposal is only one of several included in the report by Col. G. Barret Glover, a retired Army officer, who has been conducting a state relief inquiry for a joint Senate-Assembly committee.

Some of the other proposals included in the report are that cash relief payments be abolished and that licensed stores be set up to handle clients' needs at which they would be forbidden to receive tobacco, candy, and food for pets. Col. Glover also complained that too much money is being allowed to the relief clients for milk, gas electricity, special diets, and other similar luxuries.

Committee Members For It State Senator Homer Zink, chairman of the Joint Legislature committee, said that members of the committee concurred with Glover's suggestions and are ready to submit bills to make them into laws.

Sailors Fight Fink Plan Which Would Bar Strikes

(Continued from Page 1)

Daily Worker and the rest of the Stalinist ballyhoo machinery. Harry Bridges has managed to retain a reputation as a radical unionist on the East Coast.

Crashed Picket Lines

But not in his own bailiwick on the West Coast. The fact is that here for years Bridges' name has been mud to all the real militants. When, last year, he tried to send his goon squads crashing through Sailors Union strike picket lines on the docks, his last bit of standing went.

The growing opposition to Bridges finally spurred John L. Lewis to demote him from West Coast Director of the CIO to California director and, with the growing gap between the Stalinists and Lewis, Bridges may be eased out of his CIO post altogether. But, meanwhile, thanks to the Stalinist machine, men and money, Bridges continues to keep up an imposing front. And right now he is doing yeomen's work for the shipowners.

Ballyhooed By Times

In his present role, Bridges rated a full-dress, two-page interview, pictures and all, in the New York Times Magazine, Sunday, Feb. 25. Militant labor leaders don't get that kind of elaborate interview in the magazines of Big Business spokesmen. It wasn't a bit friendly to him.

"The Riddle of Bridges," it was called. Is he "dangerous revolutionary" or "white hope of labor"? it asked. "Here is what he says about himself," was its subtitle.

The reader who might be puzzled why Bridges was getting such a hand had only to read the article closely, and he would see why. In the heart of the article it tells of the waterfront "Peace

Plan" which Bridges is sponsoring. The "peace plan" lists six points for the bosses to accept—good enough points, we'll say for argument's sake. Then comes the joker:

"He (Bridges) wants the employers to agree that all these items shall remain untouched and that all new questions be referred to arbitration, WITH STRIKES FORBIDDEN BY AGREEMENT."

That's the key to Bridges' "peace plan" and the explanation why he rates two-page interviews in employers' magazines.

The Stalinist Alibi

In their attempts to justify this finky policy, Bridges and the Stalinists have invented a fantastic theory. The "Voice of the Federation" has published an editorial entitled: "We must fight the enemy where the enemy is." And where is that? Not on the waterfront! "The shipowners," says the editorial, "fight the waterfront at the point of production—in the agricultural areas, in the press. They don't fight on the waterfront any more."

Therefore Bridges proposes to spend his time—and the other unions should do likewise—up and down the agricultural valleys "in a campaign to convince inland farmers that unions offer stability instead of turmoil" (N. Y. Times interview).

Sailors Are Sarcastic

West Coast Sailors, organ of the Sailors Union, has been having a lot of fun with this phoney theory of Bridges: "Isn't it the utmost stupidity for seamen to 'fight the enemy where the enemy isn't and tie up a ship on the waterfront in a beef with the shipowners? The proper thing to do is to really put the heat on the shipowners by dashing into the Sacramento Valley—and organizing the cotton pickers! . . . The 'peace plan' will eliminate all beefs on the waterfront ('where the enemy isn't anyway') while Bridges hounds the shipowners from pillars to post all over the agricultural areas of the West Coast."

When Bridges' goon squads were thrown back by the Sailors Union picket lines last year, Bridges never recovered the distance he was pushed back. In this present fight he may break his back altogether. The issues can be made clear to every decent union man. An old timer in the Marine Firemen summed it up in a few words:

"I've been working since I was eight years old—that's a matter of over 45 years now. In that time I don't think I've had more than five minutes peace. They always wanted me to do a little more work for my wages, and I always wanted bigger wages. That's why we can't have any peace. It ain't that the boss was always a heel; it wasn't that I was an agitator or something. It's just the way things are—we want more dough; they want to give us as little as possible. As long as things are that way, peace is impossible."

That old-timer's words put the issue straight. Measure Bridges' "peace plan" by them and you get the answer: peace at the expense of the workers, at the cost of their working conditions, by surrender of their hard-won union victories.

NEGRO LEADER IN CHALLENGE ON DEMOCRACY

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

By HAROLD SWANSON

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 16.—A. L. Foster, head of the Chicago Urban League, speaking before a mass meeting at the local Y.W.C.A., urged his listeners to seek the extension of democratic rights to America's 13,000,000 Negroes as a defense against the growth of Nazism here. The meeting, sponsored by the Minneapolis Urban League, closed the eighth annual observance of Interracial Week.

Judge Lars Rue, who presided at the meeting, adhered to what is fast becoming a familiar pattern for professional democrats these days. He announced the singing of the Finnish national anthem, poured out his venom on the Soviet Union for invading "poor little democratic Finland," and promised that should America be threatened by some foreign tyrant, we would certainly fight as hard as the brave Finns to defend this "wonderful democracy of ours."

He showed that racial prejudice stems from economic roots. Unsound theories of racial inequality develop when Man's livelihood is at stake in a highly competitive social order. He analyzed the treatment of the Negro in the South and in Chicago, where he has first-hand knowledge of the facts. Quoting from authentic sources, he revealed a shocking picture of the denial of democratic rights to his people. A study of wages in four states showed the average wage of Negro workers to be about half that for white workers. Jim Crow segregation, injustice, poverty, wretched housing, and discrimination have made life for the southern Negro all but unbearable.

In concluding his talk, Foster hurled defiance at the professional defenders of America's capitalist democracy: "Until we have granted more democracy to the Negro in America, we are in no position to denounce the governments of Germany, Russia, Japan, or any other nation!"

The judge was visibly perturbed as he closed the meeting. We could hear his voice trail off into an almost inaudible murmur as we left the hall before the singing of "America."

Jamaica Relievers Acquitted But are Urged to be Good

Judge Solomon Doesn't Dare Assume Risk Of Convictions In Case of Sitdowners

"Not Guilty," was the verdict of the court in the trial of the thirteen workmen and women who were arrested for a sit-down strike in the Jamaica Relief Bureau on Van Wyck Avenue three weeks ago. One defendant after another had testified in court to the brutality and contempt with which the Bureau authorities treated the poor and hungry people who came seeking relief, and the run-around given to all the workers, no matter how great their need.

It was clear that Judge Charles Solomon, who heard the case in the Flushing Second Magistrates Court, February 21, could not bring himself to take the responsibility of sending to jail thirteen workmen and women among whom was Massimo DiBernardo, father of a family of sixteen. Natalie of Mrs. Bruno, parents of six children, Guiseppe Pace, a sixty-three year old shoemaker, Richard Hicks, a worker of 64 years, and the others, most of them middle-aged people whose only crime was that they were unemployed and hungry.

Defended By A.L.A. The workers were defended in court by a lawyer furnished them free of charge by the American Labor Aid, 125 West 23rd Street, New York City. Before the trial members of the Unemployed and Relief Workers' League distributed leaflets through Jamaica, denouncing the arrests and the scandalous conditions at the Relief Bureau. A mass meeting was held at the Jamaica Labor Center, 151-06 Beaver Road under the auspices of the League and the American Labor Aid, Tuesday night, day before the trial.

Action Gets Results Since the sit-down the Bureau has given an allowance for food to the Bruno family and found a WPA job for Bruno. However, the Bureau still denies relief to the others. Pace, who is sick and absolutely destitute, has now been forced to fill out three different applications, and has been sent on tiresome journeys to former employers and landlords for letters, documents, and so on. Pace and the others had to listen, however, with silent anger to Judge Solomon's lecture to them not to use sit-downs or "such il-

SWP FIGHTS AGAINST WAR IN ELECTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

It is denying WPA appropriations and increasing war appropriations; it already has given Mr. Roosevelt more powers than Mr. Wilson ever enjoyed; it is preparing to curtail the operation of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, while the Department of Justice wages war on international unions under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law. While professing neutrality it is considering giving approval to a huge loan to Finland; while protesting English seizures of mail destined for delivery to Germany, Congress makes no effort to block shipments of arms and war materials consigned to Japan, knowing that such materials are to be used to continue an undeclared war on China.

Conditions today are parallel with conditions existing in the U.S. in 1916 when President Wilson was threatening Germany with one hand and emphasizing his appeals for peace and neutrality with the other. Then as now, domestic problems of unemployment were ignored by Congress, which was too absorbed with matters relating to re-election in 1916. Then as now, folks wandered like Alice in Wonderland under the strange delusion that Mr. Wilson would keep America out of the war his secretaries had been planning for more than a year.

After these authoritative and fundamental condemnations of the policy of Roosevelt and the Democrats, it is indefensible that the Labor-Progressive Association should endorse a Democrat for mayor.

FOR DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION

The Socialist Workers Party's election statement singles out for special attention the question of the Soviet Union. Making clear its irreconcilable hostility to the Stalinist bureaucracy, it emphasizes the fundamental distinction between the bureaucracy and the Soviet Union.

"We bitterly condemn Stalin's invasion of Finland, not because it encroaches upon private property relations in Finland and not because it opposes a non-existent Finnish 'democracy,' but because it besmirches the name and ideal of socialism, because the invasion was carried out against the will and without the consent of the world's workers. . . .

"Soviet Russia is, after all, a gigantic trade union, fallen into the hands of corrupt leaders. We oppose the corrupt Stalinist leadership and seek to overthrow it. But we will defend that trade union when it is attacked by the bosses. Is this so hard for any trade unionist to understand and agree with?"

"The time is growing short," the statement warns, "workers of St. Paul. This may be the last municipal campaign in which you will have the opportunity to express yourself. Show that you are opposed to capitalist war by voting for Henry Rutzick for mayor."

ANNOUNCEMENT

GRAND LEAP YEAR SOCIAL. The YPSL unit does it again with another novel social, this Saturday night, March 1 at 1334 Wilkins Avenue, Bronx. A beautiful female stag—or should we say doe—line is assured.

Upper West Side RENT & RIOT PARTY you'll always have fun at 916 9th Ave. (59th St.)

Saturday, March 2 Candid Camera Specialists will catch you at your best and worst—Free photos for best poses—The Works—25c

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WORKERS' FORUM

Editor: A strike is in progress in Toledo. It is a very small strike waged by a handful of workers. Perhaps sixty or seventy all told. There is nothing spectacular about the picketing—no valiant crowds, no violent clashes with brutal police, no fervent denunciation in the vested press. But this isolated and tiny skirmish of the great class war is of tremendous significance and import.

Here the sheer stamina, tenacity of purpose and class loyalty and courage of those who must toil for their very bread is mutely but most eloquently expressed. For a period of many wintry weeks the picket line has been on rigid duty. Early, from long before sunup till after nightfall, the resolute little band of men and women have paced the frozen ground carrying their battered banners defiantly.

They are paper mill employees and they receive perhaps twenty dollars a week. The women even less. They have been out on strike for a long time and they have little money for food.

On several days the thermometer fell far below zero. And on these bleak, grim mornings when the last vestige of cheer had been removed from the jagged black factory fronts and a mantle of icy, hopeless gloom held back the very dawn—on these mornings as on all the others the same little band, swathed in homely sweaters and shapeless, wretchedly poor coats and jackets, without so much as a fire, shouldered their banners and fought their masters in the only way they knew how. This is courage! This is unswerving heroism!

God help those who stand before such as these—on the opposite side of the barricades! Toledo, Ohio Doyle Clark

Editor:

I didn't like the idea of Sumner Welles travelling to Europe in the first place. When they start sticking our nose into every war-torn country in Europe in OFFICIAL capacity it sure looks like there'll be many more Yanks travelling over there very soon after Welles gets back.

But what I'm particularly insulted about as a citizen of a so-called democracy is the secrecy of the whole trip. I'd like to know what President Roosevelt is whispering into Mussolini's ear via his stooge Welles. Haven't the people the right to know the contents of the official messages sent to those countries? And don't forget, this isn't just an ordinary message. This is a visit by a high official in the State Department accompanied by all the fanfare and ballyhoo of a World Series.

I had the feeling that President Roosevelt must feel us to be a lot of full-blown dumplings when I saw the headlines in the papers the other day, "Welles gives Roosevelt's message to Mussolini" and couldn't find in the article an inkling of what the message is all about.

One of your planks says "no secret diplomacy." That's OK with me. If Roosevelt's working for the money interests it's time we poor people said something about it.

We may be poor but even poor people would rather live than die 'over there.' H. S. Bridgeport

Editor:

The enclosed item comes from the Sept. 30 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, page 22.

I think you can just print it without any comment!

New York M. Lerner (ENCLOSURE)

WASHINGTON: On next Armistice Day, American veterans of the World War will not be so strong numerically as were the veterans of the Civil War in 1906, forty-one years after Appomattox. World War veterans are dying 12 per cent faster than other citizens of the same age. More than 500,000 veterans died from the close of the war to last Armistice Day, and another 33,000 will have died by November eleventh next. Membership in the American Legion has fallen to 874,637, from its peak of 1,053,909 in 1931. There were 4,088,784 living ex-service men of 1917-18 on last November eleventh.



WHAT ABOUT THE RED SUNDAYS?

From all reports, everybody seems interested in Red Sundays. But as far as actual results are concerned, in most places this interest is much more Platonic than active. That is revealed on the scoreboard which shows only a few branches hitting the ball on Sunday mornings. The others are either having a late Sunday morning snooze or are finding the million-and-one perfectly good reasons for stalling from week to week.

Nobody can possibly argue against these "alibis" except by saying: "If you drop all your alibis in the ashean and mobilize even one handful of comrades on Sunday mornings you would miraculously find yourself engaged in Red Sundays and the sale of papers shooting up beyond all expectations."

One more thing: if we printed one extra paper for every alibi given for not selling the Appeal, we'd be printing 100,000 copies per issue at a minimum.

FLINT: "The Flint Branch has taken up your challenge, and has launched with great success the plan of Sunday mobilizations for door to door sale of Appeals. Our first attempt was a gratifying success. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE APPEAL BUNDLE HAS BEEN PAID FOR COMPLETELY BY SALE TO WORKERS!"

"We have also adopted a special plan of our own in this connection which we would like to pass on to other branches as a suggestion. As you know, Flint has a great preponderance of workers active in mass organizations, as members in the party. But we do have a few comrades, able and devoted who are not fortunate enough to be in the unions. These comrades have been drafted to take all responsibility for the Sunday sales. It is obligatory for them to do this in our branch, since they have little else they can do.

"This plan has many fine results. First of all it gets the paper out, and puts Appeal sales on a sound basis. Second, and possibly even more important, every time these white-collar comrades enter a workers home, talk about conditions, it is a vaccination against the maledy of petty-bourgeois pessimism and vacillation. The warm and friendly reception accorded these comrades by the workers has built up understanding and

belief in the working class. In addition it gives them an opportunity to make worker-contacts for the party. I suggest that other branches follow suit. Turn the Red Sundays over to the comrades who are not able to function in the mass organizations. It can have only the most beneficial results."

—Julius Geller, Organizer, Flint Branch.

LYNN, Mass.: "For the past several weeks, the Lynn comrades have been making serious attempts for 'Red Sunday' distribution. Each Sunday has shown a steady increase in distribution and revenue. With more concerted efforts, I can foresee further increases not only in revenue but in the influence of the 'Trotskyites' in this area.—F.D.

Akron is still promising to go out Red Sundays. Promises are good, comrades, but they can't print the Appeal. Philadelphia says they like the idea, but many of the comrades won't go out for this or that reason. A suggestion: don't waste your time with those who won't work. Get two, three, four comrades and make a beginning. The others will soon come around and hop on the bandwagon. And those who don't, won't come around out of sheer embarrassment.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs have taken a real tailspin in the past period as you will see from the following scoreboard. They have dropped by four subs in the last two weeks below the low figure of the previous two weeks. This number is one-half the amount of subs we received not many months earlier. If you want to know why we have financial difficulties just read these figures. But don't read 'em and weep. Go out and get subs. Next week we will announce the beginning of a large-scale sub campaign with very attractive prizes for real sub-getters. Watch for it. And when it comes, put your shoulder to the wheel.

Subs for the last two weeks: New York City... 1 Akron... 2 Milwaukee... 1 Foreign... 2 Rochester... 2 Detroit... 2 California... 1 Boston... 3 Phila... 1 Newark... 2 Chicago... 3 Not very grand total 20