

Flint Auto Workers Fight Bosses' Speed-Up

Angry Protests Meet Program Of Intimidation

FLINT, Mich.—Tension in the Flint auto plants increased and spread this week, as pressure from the corporation became so heavy that a delegation from the UAW locals left for Detroit today to demand action on the settlement of the rapidly accumulating grievances.

Under the weight of the corporation offensive—the speed-up and other tactics—the union militants are beginning to realize that the General Motors contract ratted down their throats by Walter Reuther has imprisoned the union in a strait-jacket.

The dangers of compulsory arbitration, the so-called "Impartial Umpire" and the 30-day strike clause, are now becoming obvious to all. This lesson is learned however, at bitter cost.

Last week a terrific speed-up drive was begun in the Buick and AC divisions of General Motors here. A wave of grumbling swept the plant, but outside of a few protest votes in plant meetings, the International succeeded in squelching the brewing revolt.

But only for a day. Immediately the Corporation followed up its advantage. It is the custom in the plants to leave the line a few minutes before lunch time to wash. In order to assert its power, the corporation tried to put a stop to this practice by sending whole shifts home at the noon hour, and at the night shift lunch hour, punishing them in that way for taking a few minutes to wash.

By this punishment the men lost four and five hours time.

Workers Fight Back!
But while the International Board members are impotent and fearful, the rank and file in the plants still have plenty on the ball. The next day the men returned to work, and stubbornly at the lunch hour AGAIN knocked off early to wash. AGAIN the bosses sent five hundred men or more home five hours before quitting time.

It was going to be a battle to the end. The Buick workers took the challenge. The next day, for the third time they refused to break their custom of washing before lunch. But by this time the company realized it was no use. Rank and file solidarity could not be defeated—that is, and still produce Buicks.

This little incident is of the utmost importance, and is symptomatic of the possible solidarity and strength of the workers in the auto industry.

Same In Other Plants
The same tactics were repeated by the corporation in Chevrolet and the Fisher Body plants.

In the Fisher Body plant a new device to terrorize the men was developed this week. On the production line, there is always a certain amount of defective stock that is scrapped. Bolts, nuts, sheet metal, various parts are often picked up by the man on the assembly line, found to be poor in quality, or actually defective, and tossed into scrap boxes which are placed here and there along the line for that purpose. This has been going on for years, and every auto worker knows it.

But now that the G-Men have the run of the plant, they thought up a swell way to introduce a feeling of suspicion, fear and intimidation. Every now and then, they mysteriously take one of these scrap boxes, and with elaborate show, photograph it.

It is later whispered around that this was done to get "evidence of sabotage".

Union Blasts This
The union has quickly nipped this farce in the bud. Men are instructed by committeemen to take each and every defective piece of stock to the foreman, report its condition, and ask authority to throw it into the scrap. This will undoubtedly cost the company so much in lost time that the photographing will soon stop.

These devices however are minor when compared to the company's latest anti-union attempt.

Attempt Wage Cuts
By a clever subterfuge the corporation is trying to effect wage cuts in all Flint plants. Now that new models are going into production many operations are somewhat altered—a piece of stock that last year was placed into position in one way, is now handled in a slightly different way, from a different angle; all along the line slight and unimportant changes in production have been made. There is absolutely no change in skill required, or in the general type of work being done.

But the corporation representatives have gone up and down the lines, using as an excuse the fact that the operation is somewhat changed, and RECLASSIFIED dozens of jobs. Of course the reclassification is always downward, with a resultant cut in hourly wages.

Arouses Workers' Anger
This easily discovered trick aroused a storm in the plants

Workers Want Union Control Of Military Training

By CARL O'SHEA

The Socialist Workers Party has advanced the proposal for trade union control of the workers' military training. The party put forward its sound reasons for this proposal.

What has impressed me is the readiness of trade union men—not at all Marxists—to accept the idea that some form of compulsory military training is inevitable, and that by all odds the most desirable system of military training is the system wherein the unions themselves control the training, the government furnishing the funds, the equipment and the expert instruction.

Many of these unionists have experienced both army life and union life. They are able to draw devastating contrasts between the two ways of life.

The worker in the army and the union worker in industry live lives as different as day and night.

Mr. Westbrook Pegler sarcastically suggests that union principles apply to the army. He jokes about this, but union men don't joke about it at all. It is their future that is concerned and they discuss it with the seriousness it merits.

Army Life Alien to Unionism

The army way of life that has hitherto been known in the United States is the very antithesis of the life that unionists strive for. Through their unions, workers in private industry have been able to restrict the hours they must give the employers. Through their unions, workers have been able in many industries to win a living wage—some measure of control over their own lives, over their union officials.

Not so in the army, the most anti-union force in American society. Army hours are about twice as long as union hours, with no possibility of the lower ranks of the army being able to decrease the number of hours. From early morn until taps, the U. S. army private must serve his superiors. Army wages for the lower ranks sink so far beneath what any union considers a decent living wage that no comparison can even be attempted. Again, there is nothing the lower ranks of the army can do to improve their lot. They are refused the right to organize, to draw up their demands and to present them to their employers.

Outside the army, union men have some measure of freedom and mobility. Not so in the army. There you are ordered when to arise, what to eat, what to wear, when to work, when to play, where to live, where to move. Your reading and your recreation are extremely limited.

You live in the barracks. The barracks are not union-built, they are scab built. You ride in trucks. The trucks are not union-driven, they are driven by non-unionists. The food you eat is prepared by non-union cooks, the articles you use are the products of non-union sweatshops in many cases. You dare not protest.

Outside the army it is possible for many workers to support their families, to have at least a small measure of family life. Not so if you are in the army. What sort of family life can an army private have, on \$21 (or \$30) a month? Today he may be stationed at Fort Snelling, tomorrow he may be ordered to Texas, or the Panama Canal zone or the Philippines.

Army "Discipline" a Slave's Life

Everyone knows what army discipline is. It is the discipline of the master over the slave, with no provision for the slave to protest deci-

sions that intimately concern his welfare, his very life. Protests and infractions are met with the court-martial.

There is discipline in a union too. The union membership will decide what hours are to be worked, what the wages and conditions are to be. Members who chisel on the hours, or "kick back" part of the wages, are disciplined by the union. They are fined or forced to quit work for a period. Protests of chiselers against the union law receive but scant sympathy.

But if bureaucratic union officials try to hand down unfair regulations and conditions to the membership, the membership has the opportunity to rise up and collectively remove the bureaucrats and place other members in the position of leadership to express the collective will. In the union movement the masses, if they don't now enjoy the democracy they need and should have, have always the possibility of fighting for and winning this democracy. Not so in the army.

Now for a still more decisive fact. The heads of the nation's union movement, no matter how bureaucratic they are, still have a vested interest in the continuation of unionism.

But the most anti-union group in the United States is the general staff of the army. It is concentrated reaction, tied by a hundred strings to the Sixty Families and the protection of property rights. Every time the army has intervened in national life, from the great railroad strike of 1877 on down the years, it has intervened AGAINST the unions and FOR the employers.

And it can not be otherwise, for the army is the military arm of the ruling class whose government the army supports. Even today the army is considering plans to put down labor. Not so long ago the magazine "Life" told that the general staff of the U. S. Army considered it more probable, that it would be used at home against the people rather than abroad in defense of "national" interests. From time to time columnists have observed that the staff officers in Washington are becoming more and more open and frank about their plans to regiment and run the nation, and more and more contemptuous towards ANY civilians who challenge their plans.

For the Union Way

Of the union men with whom I have discussed labor's attitude toward conscription and military training, most have not a class concept of life. Most feel it their duty to defend the country, to respect the government. Most feel that President Roosevelt has the same concepts of democracy and labor's welfare that they have. BUT EVERY LAST UNIONIST SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF UNION CONTROL OF MILITARY TRAINING AND BEARS A FEAR AND A HATRED FOR ARMY CONTROL OF SUCH TRAINING.

Can the union movement really succeed in gaining control of military training for the workers? This will be decided in the struggle for such a program. If enough workers, if enough unions enter the fight for control over their own military training, this can become a reality. The difference between the army way of life and the union way of life is tremendous. In the months to come it will have the very greatest meaning for every worker. Faced with the certain prospect of universal compulsory military training, every sensible worker will much prefer to take such training under the direction of his own union and his own officers, drawn from the union ranks and leadership.

Max Goldman Is Chicago Speaker

CHICAGO, Sept. 1.—Max Goldman, Minneapolis labor leader, just released from Sandstone Federal Prison, where he had served an eight-months' sentence as a leader of the famous WPA strike, was the principal speaker at a Trotsky Memorial Meeting here Friday night, at the Midland Hotel.

Over 200 attended the meeting. A representative of the Revolutionary Workers League extended his condolences at the meeting.

Cannon Speaks At Boston Meeting

BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 1.—Over 200 people heard James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, speak tonight at a memorial meeting for Leon Trotsky.

The solemnity of this Labor Day Eve meeting was testimony to the realization of loss by Boston's advanced workers. In addition to Comrade Cannon's stirring eulogy, the immortal voice of Trotsky himself was heard in the hall, through a recorded speech.

The meeting sent a telegram of condolence to Comrade Natalia Trotsky, and a telegram to President Cardenas, thanking him for the asylum which Mexico alone granted the leader of the world revolutionary movement.

In the five days preceding the meeting the whole city was made aware of the meaning of Trot-

sky's death. Thousands of SOCIALIST APPEALS were put into the hands of workers—on the waterfront docks, outside factories, at warehouses, in working class suburbs, etc. The main shopping and business districts rang with our comrades' accusation of Stalin the murderer as hundreds of APPEALS were sold. The black-bordered leaflet announcing the meeting was distributed and read in every nook and cranny of greater Boston.

Trotsky Memorial In Los Angeles Attended by 300

Close to three hundred people attended a memorial meeting for Leon Trotsky called by the Socialist Workers Party here August 25.

Opened by a color guard which placed four red banners before a brightly lighted portrait of Trotsky, the meeting paid tribute to the memory of this heroic fighter for socialism.

An address by Comrade Al Miller presented the background of the assassination, and laid bare the methods and aims of Stalin's GPU. The evidence presented left no doubt in the minds of the audience that responsibility for the murder lay at Stalin's door.

Comrade C. Charles spoke of Trotsky's life and work. He traced his political development from a young rebel to one of the greatest revolutionists of all time. He revealed the amazing parallel between the ideas and activity of Trotsky and those of that other great leader of the Russian Rev-

Newark Meeting

The Trotsky Memorial Meeting in Newark, New Jersey, was held at Workmen's Circle Hall, 190 Belmont Avenue, Friday evening, August 23.

Felix Morrow, editor of the SOCIALIST APPEAL, was the principal speaker.

Minneapolis And St. Paul Meeting

MINNEAPOLIS—A Memorial Meeting for Leon Trotsky was arranged jointly by the Minneapolis and St. Paul branches of the Socialist Workers Party here Thursday evening, August 29.

V. R. Dunne gave the Memorial Address to a filled hall. A feature of the meeting was the printed program, which included a biography of Trotsky and a lengthy list of his works.

Other meetings held during the week, from which reports were not received at press time, were held in San Francisco, Detroit, Allentown, Toledo, Cleveland, and Flint.

Red-Baiting Drive Dominates New York AFL Convention

The N. Y. State convention of the AFL, in session August 21-23 at Niagara Falls, adopted a resolution opposing the passage of the Burke-Wadsworth Bill "in its present form" and opposing conscription until such time that it is proved that voluntary enlistments fail to fulfill the needs of national defense.

The convention's position was based on the views expressed by William Green in an address made at the opening session, in which he declared that the bill "was not well-thought out" and failed to properly pace the draft with arms production. Green had previously in his speech demanded the preservation of social legislation favorable to labor and union standards.

In the same breath, however, he pleaded with his constituents for "peace in industry"—"negotiations, not strikes"—and the application of "common sense" and the principle of justice in industrial disputes. He reassured the White House that the Executive Council had already adopted a

stand for co-operation with the administration in all matters pertaining to national defense.

Debate On Roosevelt
The climax of the convention occurred at a special evening session on the second day, when the resolutions committee reported concurrence in a resolution endorsing Roosevelt's third candidacy.

A few belated cheers and a smattering of applause greeted the announcement; the boss press unanimously reported that it was a wild ovation. Dan McSpadden of Local 3, I.B.E.W., took the floor to remind the delegates of the union-busting adventures of F. D. R.'s flunkies, Jackson and Arnold.

Halfway through McSpadden's speech, the microphone mysteriously went dead. His associate and business manager of Local 3, Harry Van Arsdale arose and played the perpetrators of the deed. Van Arsdale went on to state his opposition to the proposed endorsement of Roosevelt on the grounds that the administration had, in addition to sponsoring Professor Arnold, cut the prevailing wage in W.P.A.

Larry Phillips Speaks
A near-riot ensued when Larry Phillips, delegate of Local 302, Cafeteria Union, charged gross inconsistency in the support of Roosevelt, silent partner of the F.B.I.'s anti-labor crusade. He berated the Federation for enslaving the AFL to the Democratic Party. In the midst of his call for independent political action and a labor party based on the trade unions, a barrage of Bronx cheers from the I.L.G.W.U. delegation unloosed itself upon him.

President Lyons recovered long enough to demand that Phillips apologize for remarking that the AFL had become the "vassal" of a political party. The latter complied, but requested to be recorded in opposition to the resolution which was carried by an "aye" vote of the delegates, their friends and families, and casual observers.

Stalinists Yellow
The Communist Party, well represented at the convention, was conspicuous in its utter silence on all questions before the body. Many Stalinist delegates were seen hastily seeking refuge in the barrooms and lavatories when the third term fracas took place.

This, notwithstanding the highly relevant words of New York State's Solicitor-General, Henry Epstein, in the best speech of the convention, to the effect that neither the Democratic nor Republican parties had adopted a position on the Department of Justice's union-smashing drive. He had concluded with the suggestion that the state leaders present their legislator "friends" with a questionnaire on that burning issue.

Red-Baiting Drive
From the first word uttered to the last, the tenor of the convention was "oust the reds."

"Subversive Nazi-Communist activities will not be tolerated," belittled his excellency, the banker-governor Lehman.

"Internal subversive forces contribute a greater menace than invasion," was Lieutenant-Governor Poletti's contribution.

Bill Green obliged: "We must fight infiltration of subversive elements—Communist, Nazi, and all 'isms'."

"Only Communists and Nazis are for unpreparedness," parroted Meany.

On this question, Tom Lyons was quite expansive. "We will not allow the injection of foreign ideas into our movement," he foamed.

To climax the orgy, Joe Ryan's constitutional committee recommended the adoption of the convention's first resolution, introduced by the Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 2, New York City, to wit: "Henceforth, no member of a political party advocating the overthrow of our democratic form of government shall be permitted to hold any office in the State Federation of Labor."

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Behind the Lines

Partitioning of Rumania Done Without Stalin's Consent

by GEORGE STERN

The further partitioning of Rumania summarily ordered last week by the Axis powers at the Vienna conference gives fresh evidence of the actual position now occupied by the Stalin government in Adolf Hitler's constellation.

Bessarabia and Bukovina had evidently been part of the same Hitler-Stalin bargain which operated in Poland, in the Baltic and in Finland. But the Vienna conference showed quite clearly that Hitler regards himself as the sole arbiter of the new order in the Balkans and that Stalin recognizes his overlordship.

The dismemberment of Rumania has obviously been an essential part of Hitler's schedule for assuring himself an undisturbed Balkan granary. Bessarabia and Bukovina were assigned to Stalin. Hungary was assured of the return of Transylvania and no doubt before long Bulgaria will be presented with Dobruja. What remains of Rumania itself has already become in effect a German protectorate, along the lines of Slovakia.

The orders were handed out to Rumania without benefit of consultation with the Kremlin. Hitler was demonstrating who was boss and Stalin, by dutifully exerting convenient pressure on the Carol government, showed that he knew his part was to carry out the commands of the Berghof oracle. While all the journalistic wiseacres

are still putting chips on Stalin's card in Southeastern Europe, Stalin is still playing his hand at Hitler's nod.

The operation of the Stalin-Hitler pact in the first year of the war has shown sufficiently that as far as Stalin is concerned he is going to play along with Hitler as long as Hitler continues his winning streak. British success in holding off the first aerial attacks on England will not in itself be enough to shake Stalin loose from Hitler's tail. Only the United States will be able to do that, and Stalin knows that the United States will be in no position to start doing it for some time to come.

So for the present the "reorganization" of the Balkans is proceeding under Hitler's direction and with Stalin's full if not overjoyous compliance.

After Rumania, it is quite obvious, Greece is to be laid on the carving table. Here too the Kremlin is vitally involved. The advance of Italy at Greek expense will force Turkey to another hour of decision such as that it faced when Italy entered the war. At that time, under the influence of the collapse of France and the pressure of Moscow, Turkey let its pledges to England pass and stayed neutral. In the coming period of pressure on Greece, the Turks will have to decide whether they must accept a new German-Italian order of things in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The chances are they will.

TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETINGS THIS WEEK

PHILADELPHIA MEMORIAL MEETING

Speaker: FELIX MORROW

Editor of the SOCIALIST APPEAL

Phonograph Recording of Trotsky Speech

Friday, Sept. 6 Institute Auditorium 8 P. M. 810 Locust St., Phila.

YOUNGSTOWN MEMORIAL MEETING

Sunday, September 8 Central Auditorium 2:30 P. M. 225 W. Boardman St. Youngstown, Ohio

Recording of Trotsky's Speech

Motion Pictures of Trotsky in Mexico

CLEVELAND MEMORIAL MEETING

Friday, September 6 Hotel Allerton 8 P. M. Cleveland, Ohio

Speaker: DAVID STEVENS,

District Secretary S. W. P.

Motion Picture Film of Trotsky

Phonograph Record of Trotsky Speech

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1 Stake My Life	.05	24 pages
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Leon Sedov (In memory of his son)	.10	32 pages

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Grace Carlson Is Full-Time Party Worker Now



Grace Carlson has announced her resignation from the office of vocational rehabilitation counselor of the Minnesota Department of Education, to devote her full time to the Socialist Workers Party.

Comrade Carlson made the announcement on the eve of presiding as chairman of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Memorial Meeting for Leon Trotsky last Thursday.

She had been in the State Department of Education for five years, and previous to that an instructor in psychology and a vocational counselor at the University of Minnesota, receiving her Ph. D. in psychology in 1933.

Comrade Carlson's announcement that she was taking up full time party work was the subject of indignant newspaper comment. The reactionary St. Paul PIONEER PRESS, though conceding that she had not concealed her party membership, demanded an investigation of the Department of Education.

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