

# WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

## UNION PAPER PROVES BOSS PARTIES FAIL, BUT THEN STOPS!

EDITOR.

In a recent issue of the AFL organ here, the St. Paul Advocate, Aug. 1, there were two editorials, the one warning the workers about Roosevelt and his anti-labor policies, and the other characterizing the Republican party for what it really is. The editor pointed out that labor should not forget that Roosevelt sanctioned the WPA cuts, does not oppose the "anti-trust" anti-labor drive, and that it is the same Roosevelt who is speeding this country into war. The editor also proved, what all workers know, that the Republican party is still the party of Big Business; and he conclusively demonstrated that the two parties look so much alike that one needs a microscope to see the difference.

After having done this good job of demonstrating that the Democratic and Republican parties are the parties of the bosses, he concludes that we should quit this hollering for a third party because that would muddy up the waters.

Can you see any sense to such reasoning? To me it seems that the only answers that can be given after we discover that the two old parties are boss dominated, is that labor enter the political field and come out for that openly. Why this belly-crawling before these so-called "friends" or "enemies" in the old parties? J. A.

St. Paul, Minn.

## TEXT OF ST. PAUL "UNION ADVOCATE" EDITORIAL

The St. Paul Union Advocate's August 1 editorial on Roosevelt, referred to by J. A. in his letter, has been sent in by two other correspondents also. It is well worth reprinting. It is entitled "Let Labor Face the Facts." Its full text follows:

Labor is reluctant to give up its idols. Labor wants to go on believing that President Roosevelt is still the champion of the underprivileged; that he is still the advocate of peace; that he is Labor's friend.

Let Labor look at the record. Labor wanted the prevailing wage scale provision retained in the 1939-1940 WPA enactments. At no time did President Roosevelt indicate a like interest. As a matter of fact, Colonel Harrington, Mr. Roosevelt's personal appointee, appeared before the house and senate committee to demand that the prevailing wage clause be eliminated. Under the Woodrum amendment, which Mr. Roosevelt never protested, the prevail-

ing wage scale was eliminated and the sustenance wage scale substituted. Mr. Roosevelt signed the bill without comment.

When a lot of misguided WPA workers in Minneapolis struck against the wage cut authorized by the Woodrum amendment, a New Deal district attorney demanded and secured indictments against scores of the strikers. The FBI, under direction of a New Deal attorney general, rounded up the prisoners and paraded them in chains through the streets of Minneapolis. When Labor protested, Mr. Roosevelt revealed his lack of concern by declaring at a press interview "you can't strike against the government." When Labor leaders and central Labor bodies petitioned the government to temper its justice with mercy for the convicted strikers a personal representative of the President appeared in court and declared "you can't strike against the government." Scores went to jail and every plea for clemency was denied. Finally the President was asked to pardon the prisoners still remaining in cells and Mr. Roosevelt denied them clemency.

Let Labor face these facts and quit allbbling. Let Labor consider the fact that Mr. Roosevelt—and not congress—sought appropriations totalling two billions of dollars for preparedness and that within a year he has upped these demands to fourteen billions of dollars. Let Labor remember that it was Mr. Roosevelt who proposed the income tax increases and the sales taxes to pay for these war preparations. Let Labor remember that it was Mr. Roosevelt—and not congress—who suggested the conscription of boys and girls for military training. Let Labor remember that the so-called Burke-Wadsworth universal conscription proposal now before congress was written at the specific request of Mr. Roosevelt. And lastly, let Labor remember that at no time has Mr. Roosevelt raised his voice in condemnation of the M-Day plan which will give the United States a military dictatorship the day it is invoked by the President.

Let Labor remember that the first acts of Mussolini and Hitler were to destroy the trade union movements in those two nations. Dictators are opposed to union wage scales because union wage scales have a way of keeping up the morale of workers. A union man feels a lot more independent than a non-union worker. Let Labor remember that "you can't strike against Mussolini" in Italy. And let Labor remember all ways that conscription is the tool of totalitarian dictatorships and the forerunner of despotism. These are facts. Let Labor face them regardless of how much they cut human pride and shatter temporary idols.

## SPECIAL THIS WEEK

Two Books of Vital Interest TODAY

**LEON TROTSKY'S**  
*History of the Russian Revolution*  
(3 volumes in one — \$3.00)

**LENIN'S**  
*Imperialism: The Last Stag of Capitalism*

**BOTH FOR \$2.89**

MODERN BOOKSHOP  
27 University Place New York City

# CONVENTION OF CIO ELECTRICAL WORKERS SHOWS DECREASE OF STALINIST INFLUENCE

By AL MARTIN  
CLEVELAND—The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, potentially one of the most important and strategic unions in this country held its convention here over the Labor Day weekend. The U. E. is one of the CIO unions, that got its base and most important growth during the hey day of the CIO—1936-37. As a result of the tremendous impetus whole during that period by the steel workers, the U. E. was able to establish itself in its most important bases—General Electric and Westinghouse—relatively without a struggle.

In the period that followed, the U. E. was able to establish itself and grow without any of the great national struggles that characterized the development of the unions in Auto, Steel, Maritime, Rubber. Its struggles, while sometimes very bitter, such as in Maytag where the National Guard sent the workers back to work at the point of bayonets, have been, however, few and far between. In the past couple of years the union has been more dependent on pressure campaigns and the labor board than on strike action. Developing in such an atmosphere the union has not been able to generate anything like the rank and file enthusiasm of the United Auto Workers. Nor has it, in spite of the many contracts it has signed, been able to develop anything like the wage standards set in Auto and Steel.

In general then the average member has tended to be more or less apathetic to the union, except when a militant struggle has developed here or there. This situation worked out at first very well for the Stalinists. Coming into the union at its inception, and being the most experienced and articulate, the Stalinists found it quite easy to dominate the union. This, taken together with the fact that they were able to split the International Association of Machinists and come into the U. E. with a sizeable group in the east, placed them in a position of absolute hegemony over the U. E.

James Matles, the leader of the machinists, took the strategic post of organizational secretary which placed the Communist Party in a position of complete dominance of the organizational setup in the International. Emspack, another Stalinist, became secretary-treasurer. James Carey, puppet secretary of the CIO, duplicated that role in the U. E. as President, except in the one case he was and is a puppet for John L. Lewis. In the other he was the willing prisoner of the Stalinists.

Stalinists On Way Out  
Thus the Stalinists were in a position where they could have built a powerful citadel of strength in one of the most important industries of America. Yet nothing like this has taken place, and in this union where they had complete control, they are today facing a situation where their influence is definitely on the wane. They have thrown it all away by their false policies. The Stalinists are and have been always ready to cynically sign contracts which set standards lower than open shops and thereby make a hundred times more difficult the job organization. An example of this type of contract is one negotiated at the Mergenthaler Linotype corporation in New York, where in spite of the fact that the plant inevitably must receive millions of dollars in government contracts, they accepted a contract which actually calls for a wage cut, in spite of the fact that workers are paid higher wages for similar work in open shops.

But to organize on a militant basis is not only the way to go forward, it is the only way to preserve the union. The powerful T. E. Westinghouse, R.C.A. and large machine building plants fully intend to crush any and all unions whether they are militant or not. They have on their side the whole apparatus, the anti-trust laws, the labor board, the police and if need be the Army. Only militant action can save the U. E. as well as all other unions. War from preserving themselves by playing safe, the Stalinist bureaucrats have endangered the union's resistance.

It is with such a background that the U. E. convention had to meet and deliberate. Yet in spite of all the vast problems facing the union the answers were not there. The Stalinists in spite of the fact that they were only a small minority at this convention, were able to get by, chiefly because the opposition had no program or organization.

Opposition Still Confused  
The opposition leaders—Matthew Campbell of the powerful Springfield G. E. local, Al Coulthard of Lynn, Mass. of the R.C.A. plant in Camden—understand only one way to fight the Stalinists, that is super-patriotism and redbaiting; they lack an organization program that could expose the Stalinists; and so were in absolutely no position to make their opposition understood by the membership. And this in spite of the fact that they were op-

In the course of debate on this subject, the Stalinist Matles, labeled the reactionary Senator Walsh a great progressive because of his stand on conscription. Due to the insistence of the Massachusetts delegation, he was forced to retract his statement and apologize to the convention.

On the question of denouncing the aggressor nations a resolution was introduced denouncing the Soviet Union. The Stalinists succeeded in getting a substitute across denouncing all dictatorships, not naming any country. Similarly on the question of Roosevelt, due to pressure of Carey the Stalinists succeeded in a "compromise" leaving the question of endorsement to a committee of John L. Lewis and Philip Murray.

Stalinists Insecure  
Thus on all controversial questions the Stalinists outmaneuvered the opposition. Yet their victory wasn't real, because the convention clearly established one thing, that Stalinism in the U. E. is on the wane, that an opposition with a program could easily give them a knockout blow.

James Carey who has been taking pot shots at the C. P. in his column in the U. E. news kept silent at the convention, obviously waiting for a more favorable opportunity. Like any union bureaucrat he will take no chances unless he is absolutely sure he can win.

The period following the convention inevitably must see the crystallization of a real rank and file opposition in the U. E. R. & M. and the development of a new and better leadership coming from the ranks. An opposition based on a program of union accomplishment, a campaign for the 35 hour week, minimum wage scales, organization of the unorganized, aid in the development of rank and file leadership, an end to Stalinist domination.

## Trotsky Memorial Meetings In Detroit, Cleveland, Etc.

### Stevens Speaks In Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Sept. 6.—David Stevens, Secretary of the Ohio District of the S. W. P., was the main speaker at the Trotsky Memorial Meeting here tonight at the Hotel Allerton. Comrade Stevens described Trotsky's life from that day on which he assumed the presidency of the first Soviet in world history, the Petrograd Soviet of 1905. He urged every member of the audience to read the "confession" found on the murderer, as the best evidence that the crime was committed by the GPU.

Cleveland workers were very receptive to the several thousand copies of the memorial issues of the APPEAL which were distributed. During the Labor Day parade of the CIO unions, some Stalinists tried to rough up one of the girls distributing the APPEAL aloft and proclaimed: "God, these people are right!"

### Preis Speaks In Flint And Toledo

TOLEDO, Sept. 6.—Art Preis, well-known leader of the famous Toledo Unemployed League, spoke last night to a meeting in honor of Leon Trotsky at the Hotel Secor.

The well-attended meeting, one of the best ever held by the Toledo Branch of the S.W.P., also heard Trotsky's voice on a recording, and saw motion pictures revealing intimate details of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan.

### Detroit Meeting Success Despite Move To Block It

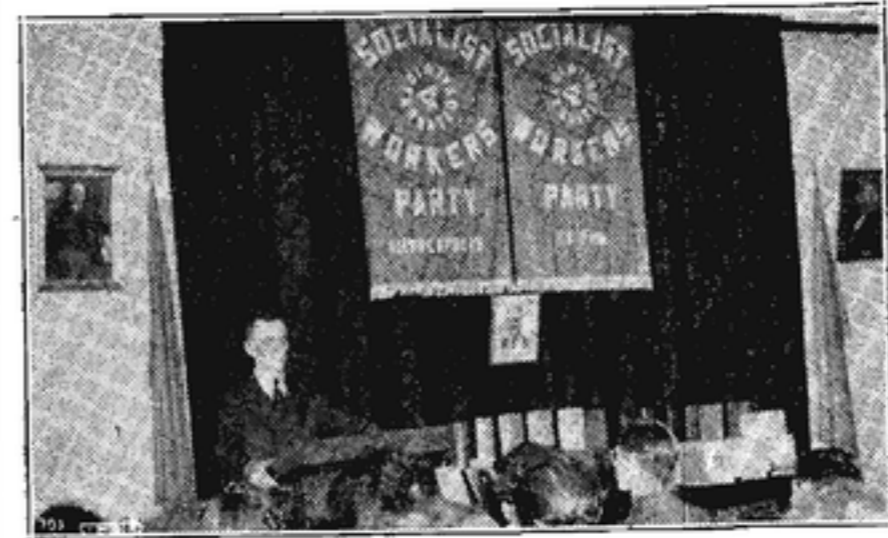
DETROIT, Sept. 4.—In spite of a "red scare" attempt to prevent the Trotsky Memorial Meeting here, a large and determined gathering met here tonight in Dedy Hall, as originally scheduled.

This afternoon the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party received a communication from the owners of the hall arbitrarily cancelling the renting of the hall because the meeting was for "reds". The afternoon paper carried this announcement of cancellation, so that many workers thought the meeting was not to be held.

However, with the aid of a prominent labor lawyer, the management was forced to live up to its agreement.

In spite of these obstacles, a large crowd of auto workers and other sympathizers met to hear Jules Geller, Secretary of the Michigan District of the S. W. P., deliver a moving address on the life of Leon Trotsky and its meaning for the working class. It was one of the most successful meetings yet held in Detroit. Fifteen thousand leaflets had been distributed previously at Detroit plant gates.

The recording of a speech by Trotsky was heard. Movies of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan were shown by one of his former bodyguards, Chris Andrews, who spoke briefly on that side of the great revolutionary's character which is little known—his loving personal qualities as revealed to those who lived in close con-



Vincent R. Dunne delivering the main address at the Minneapolis Trotsky Memorial Meeting.

tact with him in the house in Coyoacan.

FLINT, Michigan, Sept. 8.—A Memorial Meeting for Leon Trotsky was held last night in the Carpenters Hall in the Pencil Building. Flint auto workers, veterans of the great sit-down strikes, heard Art Preis of Toledo speak on the meaning of Trotsky's life, and point out that wherever a worker stood up against the oppression of the boss, wherever a striker stood firm and angry on the picket line, there Trotsky still lived.

While a stool-pigeon reporter for a local vigilante outfit hurriedly made copious notes, Preis emphasized the determination of the Fourth International, founded by Trotsky, to continue without interruption the struggle of the oppressed working class against the boss class.

Later, movies of Trotsky's life in Coyoacan were shown, during which the stool pigeon and his personal guard withdrew, evidently understanding the contempt and hatred which the class-conscious workers of Flint have for their kind.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Sept. 9.—Sixty persons were present at the Trotsky Memorial Meeting held here Sunday afternoon at the Central Auditorium. David Stevens, Ohio District Secretary of the S.W.P., delivered the main address. A large quantity of books and pamphlets by Trotsky were sold to a number of workers.

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 9.—In spite of the small size of the SWP branch here, a sizeable meeting was arranged which was addressed by D. Stevens. A fine spirit of determination was evident throughout the audience who were very attentive while the speakers outlined the great contributions that our fallen leader had made to the education of the workers.

### Charles Cooke

The Newark District of the Socialist Workers Party joins with his wife and children in mourning the death of comrade Charles Cooke, militant Negro steel worker and unionist, who saw in the party and the socialist re-organization of society the only solution for the problems of the working class and the Negro people.

His passing away means a genuine loss to the party, and one which will not soon be replaced. His willingness to learn, his desire to help, his disciplined attitude—all learned the hard way, over a period of many years in factories in which he sweated away his life to make profits for bosses—were an inspiration to all who knew him.

The party pledges to carry on the fight to which he devoted the last years of his life.

# SELLING THE APPEAL

Reports of nation-wide activity with the memorial issues of the APPEAL are only now beginning to reach the office. An excellent report from Boston gives a living example of how party strength can be mobilized around an issue, to bring the party's position to the workers. We quote: BOSTON, Mass.—"On the report on how we handled the 5000 APPEALS—

"On Monday, the branch meeting night, all comrades were told to be at the headquarters every night. Unemployed were told to be there at 11 a.m. every day. Every night during the week we covered house-to-house in the working-class districts, including Dorchester where the C. P. has a large section; Roxbury same as above and stronghold of the S. D. F. and S. P. for years; West End Boston (where we had good results in our house-to-house APPEAL campaigns, finding the workers more advanced than in other sections); North End Boston, where all the national groups are found—Arab, Jewish, Irish, Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, Greek, etc.; and the Negro Section of Boston, where almost 1000 papers reached this important section of the working class.

"Also we covered the waterfront, reaching seamen, longshoremen, Negro stewards, etc. We hit subway entrances where workers were on their way to their jobs.

"On street assignments, we yelled the headlines and added others ourselves. We picked one place where the C.P. headquarters are located, and saw many C.P.'ers, selling the APPEAL to some of them.

"We spread the APPEAL throughout the radical debating circles on Boston Common, and elsewhere. We reached workers

entering the factories, and everywhere on the streets.

"As an estimate we figure that with widespread leaflet distribution announcing the memorial meeting in addition to our special APPEAL work, about 15,000 people were directly contacted. We estimate that 40,000 people in Boston knew our position on the death of Comrade Trotsky and knew that Stalin was the killer. We received news stories in four Boston papers and many others heard of the APPEAL and the meeting, and the party was put in the limelight. We have spread our ideas and program to many new workers, and it may well bear fruit in the future."

## SUBS COMING IN

Subscriptions continue to come in, slowly, but steadily. Fifty-nine were received during the past six weeks, with Minneapolis, as usual, far in the lead. (We hope soon to publish a report from Minneapolis on how they do it.)

Here is the compilation: Minneapolis ..... 13  
New York City ..... 8  
Chicago ..... 7  
California (State) ..... 5  
Connecticut ..... 3  
Omaha ..... 3  
Pittsburgh ..... 2  
Youngstown ..... 2  
Lynn, Mass. .... 2  
St. Paul ..... 2  
Los Angeles ..... 2  
Philadelphia ..... 2

And one each from Quakertown, Washington, D. C., Detroit, Cleveland, Allentown, Rochester, Kentucky, Illinois, Idaho, and North Dakota.

## Join the Socialist Workers Party

# Argentina Land Scandal Exploited by Fascists

By QUEBRACHO

BUENOS AIRES, August 29 (by mail)—The latest events here, of which the cables must have informed the U. S. public, are nothing more than a new stage in the struggle between the two camps of the bourgeoisie linked to the two imperialist camps in the world war.

The fascist elements in the Senate began an investigation of the purchase of some land for the army in El Palomar, knowing that this purchase involved grave irregularities, which the fascists desired to utilize to eliminate from the cabinet the Ortiz group. President Ortiz represents the pro-Anglo-U.S. "democratic" group, and his removal would give vice-president Castillo the chance to reorganize the cabinet with the pro-Nazi-Fascist elements with whom he is connected.

And it produced the effect which its initiators desired, seeking as they were to discredit the democratic regime. In the land affair there appeared to be implicated important government functionaries and deputies of various parties, including the so-called popular parties, like the Radical party. The affair produced a profound impression in the country, and was utilized fully by the "nationalists" and the Nazi-fascists, who went into the streets calling for the resignation of Ortiz, crying, "Down with the thieves!", and with their chief, General Juan Bautista Molina at their head, announced every day a coup d'etat, in a veritable "war of nerves" designed to confound the masses of the country.

### "Democrats" Recover, Fight Back

But the result of the Senate's investigation, grave as it was, and which at the beginning left disconcerted the "democratic" Anglo-U.S. camp, did not suffice to force that camp to flee. It recovered after a while, and understanding the aim which the fascists were pursuing, also went into the streets to support Ortiz and to cry: "Long live democracy!" and "Democracy—yes, fascism—no!", etc.

Meanwhile President Ortiz, feeling himself involved by the Senate investigation and seeking to recover the prestige that he may have lost, sent a spectacular resignation to Congress; at the same time General Molina was arrested and, on the other hand, one of the popular deputies compromised by the land business committed suicide.

Ortiz' resignation produced among the people an impression even more profound than the Senate affair; and various demonstrations were organized by the Radical party, by the Anglophiles of "Argentine Action"—and by the Stalinists, who passed at this point over to the "democratic" group in one of those sudden turns ordered by their bureaucrats (they had been viciously anti-Ortiz until the day before, indistinguishable in their policies from the Nazis.)

These pro-Ortiz demonstrations continued during several days, demanding the refusal by Congress of the Ortiz resignation. Also the Confederation General del Trabajo (General Labor Federation General del Trabajo (General Labor Federation of workers in Argentina, with a membership of 300,000 and controlled by the railroad union heads (the railroads are owned by Eng-

land), organized a great meeting of "democratic affirmation and American solidarity" in support of Ortiz, at which appeared among the spectators the secretary of the U. S. Embassy, by special invitation.

As a result of all this, Ortiz came out strengthened; but this has been of little use to him, for he is ill (of diabetes, and had previously to all this turned over his executive powers to Castillo) and unlikely to return to take charge of the government.

So that in spite of everything his ministry felt itself obliged to resign and, now, vice-president Castillo, unquestionably inclined to the Nazi-fascists and who was largely responsible for the obstructive attitude of the Argentine delegation at the Havana Conference, and whom the Rome press says is planning to establish a government that will bring the country toward the totalitarian axis, is forming a new cabinet.

At the time of writing these lines, everything indicates that the cabinet will be a compromise between the two struggling camps. This, far from resolving the situation which is convulsing the country, does nothing but postpone the solution. It is evident that with Castillo in charge of the government, the "nationalist" and Nazi-fascist sector will have greater prerogatives, as can be seen by the freeing of General Molina, ordered by Castillo, as well as the freeing of the Nazi leaders recently arrived in Argentina and who had been arrested.

Castillo is certain to give greater freedom of action to the group called "Argentine Affirmation", organized in opposition to the pro-Anglo-U.S. "Argentine Action"; incidents between the two take place daily in the streets, in the schools and universities, and in theaters and other public places.

The present situation, therefore, signifies nothing more than a momentary truce in this battle. It leaves as real as ever, on the one side, the danger of a seizure of power by the "nationalists" together with the Nazi-fascist "fifth column" (which is particularly important in Argentina and is well armed), and on the other side, also a seizure of power carried out under "democratic" slogans, which would openly place the country in the imperialist war on the side of England and the United States.

Confronted by these two alternatives, the strategy and tactics of the revolutionary proletariat, we believe, should be the following: in case of an attempted seizure of power by the "nationalist"-Nazi-fascist sector, the working class should place itself, arms in hand, at the side of the "democratic" sector in the fight against the fascists.

When, however, the United States proceeds to disembark troops in our country—as it will certainly do and for which Roosevelt has just obtained U. S. Congressional authorization—ostensibly to collaborate in the fight against fascism but in actuality to turn Argentina into a battlefield of the inter-imperialist war, then the revolutionary workers should take a stand against both camps. For the North-American troops will not have come to liberate us from Hitler but to subjugate us to Wall Street.