

'NATIONAL UNITY' HIDES BLOW AT LABOR

MINNESOTA VOTE 5,743 FOR CARLSON

Anti-War Stand Gains Lead Among Minorities

By CARL O'SHEA
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Socialist Workers Party, on the basis of the November 5 election returns, has become the leading party appealing to the radical industrial proletariat of Minnesota.

The state's metropolitan area, comprising Ramsey and Hennepin counties, gave Grace Carlson, our senatorial candidate running on the Trotskyist Anti-war Party ticket, 2,782 votes. Thomas trailed with 2,090. The Browder-Ford ticket could get only 842 votes, and Aiken-Orange of the SLP sect obtained 1,338. Thus, running against traditional candidates of long-established parties, the Fourth International candidate and program clearly outdistanced its rivals.

VOTED FOR TROTSKYISM

Returns on a state scale are no less encouraging. With a hundred precincts yet to be tallied, Carlson got 5,743; Thomas-Kruger, 5,946; Browder-Ford, 2,520; and Aiken-Orange, 2,417. Inasmuch as our party confined its election campaign almost exclusively to the Twin Cities, it is extremely gratifying to have obtained over 3,000 votes from the rural areas for a candidate listed on the ballot as the Trotskyist Anti-war Party candidate, with all that name implies.

The state candidates of the other radical parties obtained but an infinitesimal vote, the largest being a few hundred.

The state's combined radical vote more than doubled that of 1936 when it hit bottom following a comparatively high vote in 1932.

The combined vote in 1932 was 31,577 (Thomas, 25,476; Foster, 6,101). In 1936 the radical candidates obtained only 6,407 votes (Thomas, 2,872; Browder, 2,574; Aiken, 961).

In 1940 the combined radical vote is 16,626, a gain of ten thousand over 1936. Despite the fairly wide newspaper and radio publicity obtained by the Norman Thomas pacifist sect, his group has now been passed by the city workers here in favor of the Socialist Workers Party. That's one milestone on our road.

REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM

The Socialist Workers Party made its appeal to the voters on a straight revolutionary program: A ringing call to the workers of Minnesota, the United States and the world to stop the war by overthrowing capitalism and instituting the dictatorship of the proletariat and world socialism. For the first time, the words of Lenin and Trotsky were heard over the radio in the Twin Cities. The people who voted for us voted for the revolutionary solution of the horrible crisis.

The SWP in 1940 has conducted the finest revolutionary electoral campaign in the history of the Minnesota revolutionary movement. Ten thousand copies of a Minnesota edition of the *Socialist Appeal* were distributed. Three 15-minute radio talks were given by the candidate. Many mass meetings were held. Scores of new people have come up to party headquarters in Minneapolis and St. Paul, party recruiting has quickened.

APPEALS HELPED

Cursor examination of the ward and precinct vote in the Twin Cities reveals a very positive correlation with the *Socialist Appeals* distributed. The workers in the wards where we have concentrated our *Appeal* distribution during the past year have answered us by giving the Socialist Workers Party their vote of confidence. The returns from the Negro precincts have been extraordinarily encouraging.

Flint, 1937 --- It's Still the Only Answer



Flint G. M. Conflict Halted

UAW Officials Sanction Reprisals Upon Union Militants

FLINT, Mich., Nov. 8.—An agreement was reached this week in the 9-week fight between the Fisher Body Local No. 581, United Auto Workers—CIO, and the General Motors Corporation. The agreement provides for re-employment of 17 suspended Fisher Body militants, but without back pay and with severe company reprisals forced on six of the most militant union men involved.

According to the agreement, 11 of the suspended union men were put back to work at Fisher Body without back pay. Six men, however, singled out as the best union fighters, were refused employment at the Fisher plant. The union negotiating committee was forced to accept a deal whereby these six men would be put to work at the Buick plant here instead.

Deprived of their accumulated seniority at the Fisher plant, and working at Buick with the status of new workers on probation, the six are now subject to dismissal without recourse.

The struggle broke out after a long campaign of provocation and speed-up by the company. As a climax to this campaign, the company began to negotiate with the AFL-CIO stogees in the plant in violation of the GM agreement with the UAW-CIO, which had the vast majority in the plant.

The CIO men took action to eliminate the AFL company stogees from the plant. This was countered by the company with a shut-down and lock-out. In addition, 17 key union men were then suspended from the plant.

The jurisdictional issue proved to be a company trap. Instead of a concentrated fight against the company on the real issues of speed-up, wage cuts and violations of the union contract, the Fisher local was maneuvered into what the company could play up as another AFL-CIO jurisdictional scrap.

Once the 17 men were fired, however, it was the elementary duty of the CIO-UAW to fight to restore them to their jobs. The local union met the issue by taking a strike vote.

At this point, the International officers, Thomas, Reuther & Co., stepped in, refused to sanction strike action and publicly denounced the local union as being in the wrong. What was in reality a lock-out by the company was termed by Reuther "an out-law strike." This was an open invitation to the company to do its worst.

This thoroughly disloyal blow to the local union by the UAW International Executive Board led to the long drawn-out negotiations and the final severe settlement.

The situation demanded a strong union leadership which would have faced the company with an immovable front and have made an uncompromising demand that the fired men be re-employed without reprisals. Such a stand would have resulted undoubtedly in a real union victory.

The local leadership, due to inexperience and the pressure of the International officers, failed to take the best advantage of the situation. They did not make clear the real issues at stake. The attacks of the International board members were met with silence or useless outbursts of anger in the local meetings. No real program of action was developed.

That the local came out of the fight even with some gains salvaged is due to the consistently militant attitude of the rank and file of the local.

There is no question that, despite their mistakes, the Local Fisher leadership was honest and militant throughout the struggle.

What was and is required is a clear perspective and well-planned program of action, which will take into consideration not only the plant problems but the entire national picture. This will enable the ranks to foresee the conservative, do-nothing, and even traitorous acts of Reuther, Thomas, Frankenstein & Co., who have capitulated to the "national defense" policies of the government.

Information that "Goodwin and Johnson were put in prison for standing up for their rights and all the rest of us can't leave the ship . . . I hope the people of my race will not stand up and see men tell the truth and go to prison."

The other, also unsigned, explains that the "Commanding Officer of the ship is holding all of us for an investigation trying to force the boys to tell who is the brains of that letter."

It is plain from this that the officers of the Philadelphia are determined to put an end to any protests to public opinion against Jim Crowism. They have arrested two of the men and are grilling the others to find out who the "agitators" and "instigators" are. It is inconceivable to them that men can be driven just so far and then they revolt without the help of "agitators" because they just can't stand the torment and insult to which they are subjected.

But it is equally plain that so far they have had no success. The boys are sticking together and, in the face of intensified inquisition, are still appealing to the public for help.

Already they are being joined by men from other ships, coming to their aid, helping as much as they can under the circumstances.

One of these, a mess man from the far-away Naval Air Base at Opa Locha, Florida, helps to break through the wall of silence surrounding the case by passing on to the *Courier* a letter he had received from Byron Johnson, who has since been thrown into prison.

Johnson, in answering a question from him on the results of their letter's publication, wrote: "We are now P.A.L. (prisoners-at-large). Of course, we can't do much since they have us restricted until the outcome of the case. As it is now, we are unable to do anything since we can't make any outside contacts. So it is up to you to carry on where we left

off . . . The boys of the Philadelphia are depending on everyone to buck us up."

The sailor who received this letter signed his name, saying: "If you publish anything about this letter, you may publish my name if you feel it necessary to do so. That, of course, would probably mean that I would meet the same fate Byron Johnson and his friends met. But I am fanatical enough about it all to allow that to happen to me too, if necessary." The *Courier* did not print his name.

This is followed by a long letter signed by Richard C. Watts, Donald Moran and William Scarborough, of the U.S.S. Sampson, stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, in which, after paying tribute to the courage of the Philadelphia men they proceed to uncover a system of Jim Crow conditions on board their ship that easily rivals for viciousness the story told about the Philadelphia.

These conditions exist not only in the every day life of the ship, but on Sunday too, for as they say: "The Constitution clearly provides that all men are created equal, yet in our Naval churches—both Protestant and Catholic—discrimination is openly practiced. When conditions are so bad that people who say they are believers of God, are choicy about who sits beside them, then it is time that we pray and start to do something about it."

"We (colored) men in the Navy are just flunkies, disguised in a uniform . . . It'll be found that on the smaller ships in the Navy, the mess boys really do not have a place to eat their food properly. He either has to stand up or sit down on the deck to eat, while the rest of the crew have designated tables, where they may sit, talk, properly masticate and enjoy their food."

SENT TO BRIG
"We are subjected to be roughly spoken to three-fourths of the time, cursed at sometimes, with

Ford Gets Big War Order Day After FDR's Re-Election

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6.—As a result of the recent decision of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the Ford Motor Co. is guilty of "an outright violation" of the National Labor Relations Act, the Roosevelt administration is now giving it to Henry Ford hot and heavy—well, heavy!

Today the War Dept. announced the awarding of a contract of \$123,323,020 worth of aircraft engines to the Ford Motor Co. It may have been simple good will on the part of the Administration to show there was no hard feelings over the fact that Henry Ford, in his elation over a conference he held with Willkie, had absent-mindedly left a \$46 tip to a waitress. And the award occurred symbolically the day after Roosevelt's re-election.

Gone is the memory of Ford's refusal to manufacture planes for Great Britain. And 25 United Auto Workers union members are still facing jail for passing out pro-union leaflets at the great River Rouge Ford plant gates last week.

Australian Munitions Workers Call Quickie Strike

LITHGOW, Australia.—The Lithgow branch of the Arms, Explosives, and Munition Workers Federation, recently called a "stop-work meeting" of 2,000 workers at the Commonwealth Small Arms Factory.

The half day strike protested "irritating delays in paying compensation claims, the imposition of fines on employees who are alleged not to have clocked in and out, and other matters."

Getting Big-Hearted

The Navy Dept. announces that pay increases amounting to \$3,800,000 annually will be given 44,000 civilian employees of the department in order to bring their salaries and wages into conformity with prevailing standards. No mention is made of paying to these employees the millions in back wages due them for the years they have worked at the below standard scales.

From Binghamton, N. Y., comes a story of similar generosity. The Endicott-Johnson Corporation, which employs 20,000 workers making shoes, just announced a 5 percent wage increase effective November 12. The increase balances a 5 percent deduction for "medical costs" taken from the pay envelopes in the Spring of 1938.

Anyway, it's white of you bosses—mighty white!

Stalinists Change Hammer and Sickle For Spade and Hoe

Lost in the hurly-burly of the election campaign was the fact that the Communist Party is quietly dropping its traditional hammer and sickle symbol.

With its usual casualness in tossing over-board every remnant of its revolutionary past, the first notification of the change was made on its pre-election petitions.

A long-handled spade crossed upon a hoe blossomed forth in place of the symbol borrowed from the October Revolution.

We mention this simply in passing. Everything the hammer and sickle represented has long since been abandoned by the parties of the Third International. Why not the symbol itself?

Molotov Pays Courtesy Call On Hitlerites

All the diplomatic chancelleries of the world are watching the visit of Stalin's flunkie Vyacheslav Molotov to Berlin for a conference with Hitler.

The State department in Washington is particularly interested, since vigorous efforts have been made by Hull to break Stalin from his pact with Hitler.

A threat to Japan from the Russian flank coincides with the imperialist interests of the United States in the Far East, particularly in relation with the rich booty of the colonial possessions of Holland, France, and Great Britain.

Stalin, on the other hand, fearful of involvement in the world war and the internal repercussions involved which would unseat him whether it came from a progressive revolution of the workers against his regime, or from a successful attack by the Hitler military machine, has been following his traditional course of licking the boots of his most threatening enemy.

Until Hitler finds himself confronted with a tremendous military catastrophe, Stalin will revolve as a satellite to the Nazi chief.

The development of the war thus each day further weakens the positions of the Soviet Union under the policies of Stalin. The assassination of Trotsky by Stalin was one of the most terrible blows he has dealt the Soviet Union. We can expect such blows on the part of Stalin to continue in the future. Only the crushing of the Stalinist bureaucracy by the workers can ensure the continued existence of the Soviet Union.

War Drive Pushed "Full Speed" Ahead

Wall Street Urges "National Unity" At Labor Expense

"National Unity" has become the chief battle-cry of the third-term Roosevelt administration. With this slogan, Roosevelt hopes to harness the labor movement to the war chariot of American imperialism and, incidentally, to silence his opponents of the extreme right-wing Wall Street camp now mobilized behind Wendell Willkie.

The "National Unity" campaign has come as a whirlwind following of the election. It was initiated in a big way Wednesday evening after the election at Carnegie Hall, when leading Roosevelt supporters made a symbolic alliance with their Republican opponents, represented by Alf Landon, who delivered a radio plea for unity from Kansas, and Howard Cooney, chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, who spoke in person.

CHAIN GANG UNITY

On the same day as this meeting, 18,000 movie theatres throughout the country began the showing of a short film calling on the American people to "forget their political differences" and unite behind the President in the interests of "national defense" and in the face of the "greatest menace to our democratic way of life."

Paramount objective of the "unity" campaign is to regiment labor behind the war drive of the American ruling class. While divided still on matters of domestic policy, which take on a completely secondary character in view of the primary international objectives of American imperialism, the capitalist class, as represented by both its political wings, the Democratic and Republican parties, is solidly united on the questions of foreign policy. And this requires for its successful realization a completely docile working class.

In his first interview following his re-election, Roosevelt stressed that his first task will be to intervene in the split between the AFL and CIO to effect a united labor movement. This unity, however, is not dictated so far as Roosevelt is concerned, by the needs of labor itself in its conflict with the boss class; but in the interests of "national defense."

FIGHT FOR SPOILS

Even the most reactionary spokesmen for Wall Street have voiced their complete accord with this aim. They are all for labor "unity"—the unity of a prison chain gang shackled together. But they insist on the preservation

(Continued on Page 4)

War Crisis Brings FDR Intervention In Latin America

With the third term nailed over his fireside, Roosevelt has returned to Washington to represent American capitalism for another four years. He immediately accelerated his drive toward war, markets, colonies, plunder, regimentation of the labor movement. Wall Street reacted with great activity on the stock exchange, steels, chemicals, and government securities leading.

On the home front, Roosevelt launched a drive for "national unity" at the expense of the labor movement to back up the "defense measures." Not a capitalist paper last week failed to carry editorials and headlines on the need for "national unity." The Republicans also backed the drive to a man—Willkie, Landon, Fish, etc. Some of them suggested burning campaign literature in bonfires like so many campaign promises as a gesture of "national unity." At the same time the Republicans demanded for themselves the right of "loyal opposition."

Roosevelt indicated that he would push for "unity" through the CIO and the AFL. Pressure from the White House to unite at the expense of industrial unionism is already being felt among the delegates to the two trade union conventions at Atlantic City and New Orleans. There was talk of appointing Mayor La Guardia as Secretary of Labor to replace Secretary Perkins.

On the question of increasing taxes, especially the indirect taxes which pick the pockets of the workers, and increasing the national debt to 65 billion dollars to take care of loans to finance construction of the greatest military machine in the world, Roosevelt conferred with Democratic leaders. It was undecided whether to do this job now or wait until around Christmas time.

ON THE WAR FRONT
On the war front foreign diplomats and foreign governments along with Secretary of Navy Knox correctly interpreted Roosevelt's re-election as indicating that war preparations on the part of Washington would be speeded up. It was intimated in circles near the White House that Roosevelt might ask the next Congress to repeal the Johnson Act prohibiting loans to nations in default of past debts and to repeal the cash-and-carry provision of the Neutrality Act in view of the present strain on the capitalists of Great Britain.

On the day following Roosevelt's re-election, the British launched a propaganda campaign to bring the United States into the war as a direct military participant, declaring that the idea the USA can keep out is "just so much bunk." The British argue that Britain can't possibly out-produce Germany in war materials, that Britain alone can't pay the expense of fighting Hitler—the burden must be shifted onto the backs of the American public too, that they can use at this time some navy units, some pilots and some aircraft with guns to go along with the pilots, and that a declaration of war by Washington would "turn the tide of morale" in favor of Great Britain.

LATIN AMERICAN EXPANSION
The Latin-American countries read the election returns as a go-ahead signal for US expansion in their direction. Just as Hitler first swallowed Austria, Sudeten, Czechoslovakia, the greater part of Poland, then Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium before really turning loose on his major foe, France and Britain, so it is expected that the thoroughly hated "El Tio" Sam will move in on the weak semi-colonial Latin-American countries. The agents

(Continued on Page 3)

Negro Sailors Are Still in the Brig

By ALBERT PARKER

Because they bravely exposed the hypocritical nature of the slogans about a "war for democracy," and because they warned other Negroes about the falsity of the promises of the recruiting sergeants about "joining the Navy, seeing the world and learning a trade," two of the fifteen Negro mess boys on the U.S.S. Philadelphia, stationed at Long Beach, California, are in prison awaiting court-martial, and the others are prisoners-at-large, forbidden to leave the ship, held for "further investigation."

Letters from two of the men on the ship, sent to the *Pittsburgh Courier* this week appeal to that paper to publicize the fact that the officer caste is attempting to terrorize them because they dared to sign their names to the previous letter.

AFRAID TO SIGN
One of them, ending "I am afraid to sign my name. One of the Philadelphia Boys," sends the

information that "Goodwin and Johnson were put in prison for standing up for their rights and all the rest of us can't leave the ship . . . I hope the people of my race will not stand up and see men tell the truth and go to prison."

The other, also unsigned, explains that the "Commanding Officer of the ship is holding all of us for an investigation trying to force the boys to tell who is the brains of that letter."

It is plain from this that the officers of the Philadelphia are determined to put an end to any protests to public opinion against Jim Crowism. They have arrested two of the men and are grilling the others to find out who the "agitators" and "instigators" are. It is inconceivable to them that men can be driven just so far and then they revolt without the help of "agitators" because they just can't stand the torment and insult to which they are subjected.

But it is equally plain that so far they have had no success. The boys are sticking together and, in the face of intensified inquisition, are still appealing to the public for help.

Already they are being joined by men from other ships, coming to their aid, helping as much as they can under the circumstances.

One of these, a mess man from the far-away Naval Air Base at Opa Locha, Florida, helps to break through the wall of silence surrounding the case by passing on to the *Courier* a letter he had received from Byron Johnson, who has since been thrown into prison.

Johnson, in answering a question from him on the results of their letter's publication, wrote: "We are now P.A.L. (prisoners-at-large). Of course, we can't do much since they have us restricted until the outcome of the case. As it is now, we are unable to do anything since we can't make any outside contacts. So it is up to you to carry on where we left

off . . . The boys of the Philadelphia are depending on everyone to buck us up."

The sailor who received this letter signed his name, saying: "If you publish anything about this letter, you may publish my name if you feel it necessary to do so. That, of course, would probably mean that I would meet the same fate Byron Johnson and his friends met. But I am fanatical enough about it all to allow that to happen to me too, if necessary." The *Courier* did not print his name.

This is followed by a long letter signed by Richard C. Watts, Donald Moran and William Scarborough, of the U.S.S. Sampson, stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, in which, after paying tribute to the courage of the Philadelphia men they proceed to uncover a system of Jim Crow conditions on board their ship that easily rivals for viciousness the story told about the Philadelphia.

These conditions exist not only

in the every day life of the ship, but on Sunday too, for as they say: "The Constitution clearly provides that all men are created equal, yet in our Naval churches—both Protestant and Catholic—discrimination is openly practiced. When conditions are so bad that people who say they are believers of God, are choicy about who sits beside them, then it is time that we pray and start to do something about it."

"We (colored) men in the Navy are just flunkies, disguised in a uniform . . . It'll be found that on the smaller ships in the Navy, the mess boys really do not have a place to eat their food properly. He either has to stand up or sit down on the deck to eat, while the rest of the crew have designated tables, where they may sit, talk, properly masticate and enjoy their food."

SENT TO BRIG
"We are subjected to be roughly spoken to three-fourths of the time, cursed at sometimes, with

out a murmur of resentment coming from us. In case of resentment we are put on report, restricted, fined, or sent to the brig for being insubordinate to a superior officer. etc. . . .

"Wherever we turn we hear the words, 'Don't do this' or 'Don't do that,' or you don't get liberty for a week. We are not wanted to talk to each other when an officer is around, and in general, an officer is to be treated as though he were a god or king."

SHIPS ARE JAILS
"Literally speaking, the Negro is in jail under observation but somebody thought it would sound nicer to call it the Navy . . .

"The majority of officers seem to think that we Negroes are just a race of illiterates who have to have someone standing over them with a whip all the time and tell them what to do . . .

"We are allowed thirty days leave each year, which we rarely

(Continued on Page 3)