

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM UPHELD BY CIO

AIRPLANE WORKERS GO ON STRIKE

Mass Picket Lines Call For Cut In Boss Profits

DOWNEY, Calif., Nov. 17.—3200 production workers of Vultee Aircraft, Inc., have struck the first major blow at the sub-human conditions in the air-craft industries.

Mass picket lines have had the huge Vultee plant shut tight since 5 A. M. Thursday, when the company declined further consideration of wage increases from the present 50 cent hourly minimum. The union committee of amalgamated aviation local 683, United Auto Workers—CIO, had conducted futile negotiations for nine weeks.

This is the first strike in any major aircraft plant working on government war orders. Vultee has a backlog of \$84,000,000 in orders for planes for both the U. S. and Great Britain.

In an effort to settle the dispute without strike, the union committee had reduced its original demand for a 75 cents hourly wage minimum to 65 cents. The company refused to budge from its present minimum of 50 cents.

The company had added the "generous" offer of a 5c raise for 6 months and another 5c raise after 6 months—for some men; 2½ cents raises for most. The company places all new employees on apprenticeship wages, regardless of skill and experience. As one worker in Dept. 37 stated, "Many of our fellows go to work at Vultee for 50 cents an hour and they are promised five cent raises at the end of three months. When that time comes, these men are transferred to another department." And start all over again as apprentices for 50 cents an hour!

THROUGH LIKE VULTURES
Government officials and conciliators, as well as representatives of the National Defense Commission, thronged to the Vultee scene like vultures at the first threat of strike. A member of the NDAC attempted to intimidate the workers into line by threatening that the government would take "vigorous action" if they went on strike "against national defense."

Union officials have pointed to the \$84,000,000 war contracts and asserted that the company will make \$12,000,000 net profit in the next year. The total amount of the increases asked is only \$1,000,000. Over half the production workers at Vultee earn between \$20 and \$22 a week, although the work is highly skilled. This is far below the average wage in the auto industry.

La Guardia Hits Right To Strike

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—The Board of Transportation and Mayor La Guardia are moving swiftly to forestall a possible walk-out of the Transport Workers Union CIO, with 50,000 members in the New York area, including 27,000 workers of the municipally owned subway, elevated, street-car and bus systems.

Stepping from a plane at La Guardia field, following his Pacific coast military inspection tour, the mayor today answered the TWU appeal to him to intervene in its favor against the continued violation of its contract with the Board of Transportation of its contract with the transport workers, with the threat, "There will be no interference with or interruption of service at any time."

This statement backed-up the strike-breaking notices posted by the Board Friday throughout the city-owned transportation systems terming any strike "illegal" and threatening to dismiss any strikers.

Unity---But Unity To Benefit Labor

AN EDITORIAL

The big push is on for unification of the trade union movement: loud are the voices raised for unity in Atlantic City and New Orleans this week at the CIO and AFL conventions, but loudest and most insistent of all is the voice of Roosevelt from Washington. And every labor-hating employer in the country and the capitalist press everywhere is seconding Roosevelt's demand for "labor unity."

The big push is on. Why all this pressure? Can all these people—including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, union-busting Thurman Arnold and, in a word, all the anti-union forces in the country—be demanding labor unity for the benefit of the workers? To ask this question is to answer it.

That means that there is one kind of "labor unity"—the kind the enemies of the workers want—that is worse than no unity at all!

A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Every serious trade unionist must ask himself this fundamental question: What kind of unity will be of most benefit to the labor movement, and what kind will hurt the labor movement?

Will the labor movement be benefitted by the idea of labor unity presented, for example, by Mr. John P. Frey, head of the AFL Metal Trades Department? Very cockily, Mr. Frey, at the convention of his department last week, dismissed the very possibility of the CIO and AFL joining as equals, and instead declared that "labor peace" will come "through the withdrawal of organizations from the CIO and their affiliation with the AFL."

In other words, Mr. Frey—and he talks for Green and the other AFL tops—want no other form of unity than one in which the present AFL leadership will emerge as undisputed masters. And that means that their kind of unionism will rule the roost—CRAFT UNIONISM.

CRAFTS CANNOT LEAD

But craft unionism cannot lead the labor movement. That was amply demonstrated during the last fifty years. Craft unionism has demonstrated its complete inability to organize the most exploited layers of the industrial proletariat, the most militant workers—the auto workers, the miners, the steel workers, the rubber and aluminum and packing-house workers, the transport workers, etc., etc. Only the industrial unions could organize these workers. The CIO made the first real start in organizing these mass production workers and to do it had to create its own organization independent of the AFL craft union moguls.

Nobody can erase what is indelibly written in the minds of the workers in the mass production industries: The new industrial unions were built during the past seven years in spite of and against the desires of the Greens, Wollis, Freys and other craft union chieftains. They did not lift a finger to build those unions. They directly aided the bosses on a hundred occasions in attempts to prevent those unions from being built or to destroy them when they were already built.

THEIR KIND OF "UNITY"

Nor have these craft union chieftains now changed their minds and become converts to the idea of industrial unionism. On the contrary, they are itching to put over their kind of "labor unity" precisely in order to deal more powerful blows than ever against industrial unionism in general and each industrial union in particular. Like the Bourbons, they never learn anything.

As for the worker-members of the AFL craft unions, let them ask themselves whether they would benefit in any way if the Wollis and Greens could be in a position to hurt industrial unionism. Every intelligent worker knows that a large part of the AFL gains since the split with the CIO have been achieved thanks to the establishment of the CIO industrial unions. In Detroit and the other auto cities, in the steel and rubber towns, etc., the AFL has grown considerably—because the industrial unions broke down the previous open-shop condition of these cities. In their blind hatred of the industrial unions, the AFL chiefs would also wreck the AFL unions.

DEMAND FULL GUARANTEES

We hold no brief for John L. Lewis and his Stalinist allies. On the contrary, we have warned that the Lewis-Stalinist combination and its false policies have done more damage to the industrial unions than could have been achieved by the open enemies of industrial unionism. But nobody should be so blind as to think that the turning of the control of the trade union movement over to the Greens and Wollis is the way to get rid of Lewis and the Stalinists.

Trade union unity must come only on the basis of full guarantees for the preservation and extension of the industrial union method of organization. Unity on any other basis would be a catastrophe for all the unions.

That is what every intelligent worker must keep clear in his mind in the midst of the din about labor unity.

G. P. U. Assassin of Trotsky



"Frank Jacson" alias "Jacques Mornard," the agent of Stalin who murdered Leon Trotsky on August 20. His real name has not yet been uncovered by the police. Anyone possessing clues to his identity should communicate immediately with the SOCIALIST APPEAL.



Siqueiros Held In Penitentiary

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 9.—David Alfaro Siqueiros, well-known Stalinist and agent of the GPU, who led the May 24 machine gun assault upon the bedroom of Leon and Natalia Trotsky, has been transferred to a penitentiary pending court decision as to his guilt.

Siqueiros' lawyer, Federico Sodi, has petitioned the court for the release of the Stalinist gunman on bail. The lawyer alleges that Siqueiros is not guilty of the murder of Robert Sheldon Harte, guard on duty who was kidnapped the night of the assault, and claims that Harte was left by Siqueiros in the hands of the Arenal brothers.

Harte's body was discovered a month after his murder, buried in a shallow grave lined with quicklime. There was a bullet wound at the base of the brain and in the left temple.

The lawyer also claims, as does Siqueiros who thus admits his guilt, that the assault was not made with "intent to kill Trotsky." He claims that the assault with revolvers, machine guns, bombs, was carried out to discover "proof" of Trotsky's alleged counter-revolutionary activities. He does not attempt to explain why Harte was kidnapped and murdered.

The lawyers brief maintains that despite Siqueiros admitting the assault "it is natural to think that the shots could have caused injuries on the person of Mr. Trotsky; however, it is an arbitrary supposition of the judge to say that the results would have been murder and not a few wounds that would have healed in less than fifteen days."

It is doubtful that the lawyer is an actual member of the GPU. However, his arguments sound as if they had been manufactured by the GPU itself. No one but the GPU would have the incredible audacity to maintain that firing several hundred rounds of machine gun slugs through a door into the victim's bed, was intended only to wound him. Like the murder of Harte, how would "wounding" Trotsky just a "little bit" uncover evidence of Trotsky's alleged "counter-revolutionary activities"?

"Frank Jacson" alias "Jacques Mornard" the GPU agent who plunged a pickaxe into the brain of Trotsky on August 20 upon orders of Stalin is still in the police hospital. The conditions he enjoys are so exceptional that considerable criticism is circulating throughout the city. He has not made the slightest indication that he intends to reveal his real identity or to tell the truth about his

MURDER, INC.

By DON DORE

Within one hour on November 12 a series of terrible blasts in three plants manufacturing explosives snuffed out the lives of 15 workers, including a number of women. A score of others were permanently mangled and maimed.

The first newspaper accounts of these disasters bore headlines screaming the sinister word "sabotage." The impression was sharply etched on the public mind that the explosions were part of a wide-spread plan of "foreign agents" to impede "national defense" production.

PRESS BECOMES SILENT

The day following the explosions, the press suddenly became quiet. Scarcely any further news was printed about the catastro-

phes. Editorial comment was reduced to a whisper, in which "sabotage" became mere innuendo, hedged around by innumerable "maybes" and "perhaps."

This sudden hush-up of the entire matter, as though by a calculated move, strikingly parallels the press treatment of the previous blast at the Hercules Powder Co. plant at Kenil, N. J., where 51 workers were blown to bits.

A number of veiled and obscure references, buried within the long newspaper accounts of the first day, gives a strong clue to the reason for this suddenly imposed silence.

WORKERS MURDERED

They reveal that the first investigations of the FBI and other police agencies have uncovered evidence of conditions which the

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Nov. 19.—If Sidney Hillman persists in moving toward the AFL, he is unlikely to take any other union along with him out of the CIO.

That was made clear this afternoon, when the Third Convention of the CIO voted unanimously in favor of a motion which meant, in effect, that the CIO would enter a united labor movement only when that movement represented the victory of industrial unionism.

More important than the formal victory of the motion was the clear-headed and militant spirit displayed by the convention delegates on this fundamental question. The table at which sat the Hillman supporters—from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Textile Workers Union—was like a piece of driftwood, buffeted about by a stormy sea of aroused delegates.

Every delegate in the room had been bombarded for months, and especially since election day, with

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GREEN FOR UNITY ON HIS TERMS

At the opening session of the American Federation of Labor convention in New Orleans, William Green told delegates that President Roosevelt wants committees from the two labor camps to meet with him and resume negotiations for unity.

Green did not explain that Roosevelt wishes this unity at the expense of the labor movement, that Roosevelt wishes to straitjacket the labor movement preventing it not only from jurisdictional conflicts which might interrupt the flow of profits, but more especially from genuine strikes against the bosses for higher wages, shorter hours, etc.

Bill Green declared that the

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boss class and its government prefer to leave buried.

For these workers were murdered—murdered just as surely as if they had been mowed down by direct artillery fire—murdered by the insatiable greed of the bosses for more and more profits!

UNSAFE PROCESS

The first hint of this was given two months ago in the *New York Herald-Tribune* account of the Hercules Powder disaster. After thousands of words devoted to planting the suspicion of "sabotage," one buried paragraph revealed that the real cause of the murderous explosion was the use of an unsafe process in the manufacture of nitroglycerine, a process which the company had been

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First Results of Our Military Policy

By JAMES P. CANNON

The military transitional program, unanimously accepted by our recent Chicago conference after two months of discussion in the party branches, has provided our comrades with a most effective approach and means of agitation among the workers. Numerous reports and letters from active comrades in

without any serious opposition whatever.

In the face of all these staggering facts it is a positive crime to lull the workers with a prospect of peace or to whine against universal military service which is already in operation. American imperialism has already entered with both feet on the path of war and militarism. This is the new reality, and abstract opposition cannot affect the course of events in any way whatever. It is the task of the proletarian vanguard to accept the new reality, to meet the imperialists on their own ground, the ground of militarism, and counterpose to their program the military program of the proletariat.

That is the task which our party, aided by the genius of Trotsky, has aimed to accomplish by the adoption of the Chicago resolution and the development of our agitation in accordance with it.

It is precisely because this resolution goes to the very heart of the problem of the day that it has aroused such wide-spread interest and discussion from the beginning. Our policy is realistic and profoundly revolutionary, but it strikes a new note and breaks sharply with the tradition of American radicalism which has been negative and essentially pacifist on the question of war. For that reason we devoted two months to internal discussion before publicly proclaiming our reso-

lution. The unanimity and enthusiasm with which our party adopted the resolution is evidence that its years of Marxist education under the direct instruction of Comrade Trotsky were not wasted.

We are now only at the beginning of our attempt to popularize the policy in the general labor movement. There is a long road ahead, but the first results give reassuring proof that we are on the right road. We seek, first of all, an approach to the militant workers whose patriotism—at least 99% of them are patriotic—is in large measure a confused expression of their hatred for fascism. These sentiments are now exploited by the imperialists. Our policy is designed to turn these sentiments in the direction of a struggle for their own class interests and liberation.

REPORTS DIVERSIFIED
The first reactions to our resolution have been widely diversified. Our reports from the field show that some workers are sympathetic, some sceptical. Many workers want to know how the policy will work out in practice. They raise acute and penetrating questions of application which have not yet been adequately answered in our press. In this series of articles I shall comment on these questions and objections and undertake to answer at the same time the criticism of the various radical political groups who, as was to be expected, neither understand nor agree with our policy. In some aspects of the question, the criticisms of our opponents provide an opportunity for the restatement and elucidation of our policy in a way to meet the objections of the workers and make our policy clearer

to them. This aim, I hope, will justify taking space for an answer to factional polemics which would otherwise be stale and profitless and out of place in our agitational paper.

A TACTICAL SUPPLEMENT

Our military resolution, it goes without saying, does not repeal the basic program of the party and the Fourth International, but is designed as a tactical supplement to it. It is not in itself a program of proletarian revolution, but a bridge toward it. It is designed to protect and develop the class independence of the workers who are dragged into the imperialist military machine. It is, in effect, a proposal for a united front with the workers as they are today, patriotic and anti-fascist, not ready for the socialist revolution, but concerned to protect themselves and their class interests. We offer them a program of joint struggle for practical and reasonable demands which will protect the interests of the workers, preserve their class independence and prepare the way, by the objective logic of their development, for the revolutionary show-down. That is why we call our military program a *transitional* program of agitation as distinct from our fundamental program of socialist revolution which we advance by *propaganda*. Once this distinction is understood—and no one who reads our resolution intelligently and conscientiously can misunderstand it—the criticisms of our political opponents, who accuse us of opportunism, fall of their own weight.

OEHLERITES ATTACK RESOLUTION

This is the case with the Oehlerites (Continued on Page 4)