

# WORKERS' FORUM

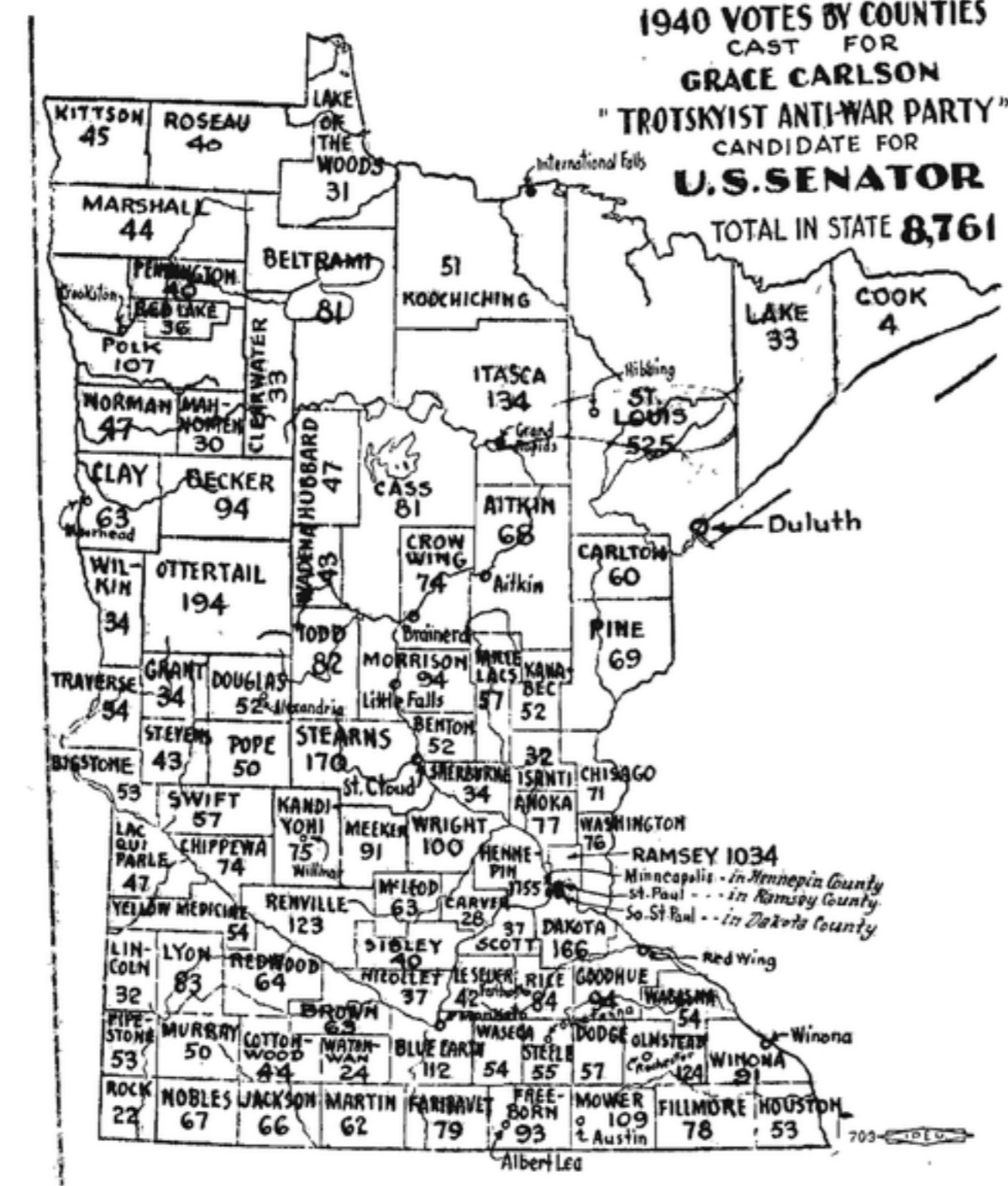
Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about!—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are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

## Briggs Worker Tells Story of Shutdowns At Briggs-Plymouth

The grievance which provoked the strike of eighteen workers in the panel division of the Briggs Manufacturing Co. here in Detroit, on November 29 and which led to a one-day shut down involving 10,000 Briggs workers and 10,000 Plymouth workers, is a typical example of the crummy way the auto bosses are dealing with the auto workers.

18 men were turning out only 24 panels per hour (1 1/3 per man). This company excuse is a downright lie. When the company fired the six men it expected and demanded that the rest turn out the same amount of production as before. The Chief Steward would not stand for this, and then the company canned him. Then the whole department walked out. Shift No. 2 went through the same procedure.

## Our Party's Vote In Minnesota



This map of Minnesota shows the distribution of counties for the 8,761 votes cast for our party's candidate for U. S. Senator. Significant index of our party's influence throughout the state is the fact that Comrade Carlson received votes in every county. The vote was of course largest in the three metropolitan counties: Hennepin, 1755; Ramsey, 1034; St. Louis, 525. But it is noteworthy that we also received blocks of votes from the radicalized farmers throughout the state. Comrade Carlson's vote was larger than the combined vote for Earl Browder and Norman Thomas.

# AFL Gave Undue Prominence To The Racketeering Issue

### But Neither Dubinsky Nor the AFL Chieftains Took a Correct Working Class Attitude Toward It

By ART PREIS

The problem of racketeering occupied an altogether disproportionate place at the AFL convention at New Orleans. It is a very minor problem in the trade union movement as a whole. Had the AFL chieftains been grappling with the basic problems facing the workers, the racketeering question would have automatically been relegated to the subordinate place it should have taken. But since the convention was given no real problems to deal with—the main time was consumed with canned speeches from government officials and other people who had no business being on the platform—it is no wonder that both at the convention and in the press the question of racketeering loomed out of all proportion to its importance.

**DUBINSKY'S PROPOSAL**  
Dubinsky, too yellow to fight on real issues—he didn't open his mouth even to second Philip Randolph's eloquent plea against Jim Crow—picked this "popular" issue—i. e., popular with the capitalist press.  
Dubinsky's proposal to empower the AFL Executive Council to suspend any union official "convicted of an act of moral turpitude" would have placed in the hands of the reactionary Council the exact powers which Dubinsky had opposed when they appeared in the form of the right to suspend international unions for "dual" unionism. Militant union leaders, convicted or framed-up in strike activities, could be tossed out of the AFL by a simple vote of the Council.  
By its terms only "convicted" persons could be suspended. The well-known tie-up between the police, courts and racketeers precludes many such convictions. Except, of course, in the case of honest union strikers.  
Further, this proposal placed the responsibility for dealing with racketeers on the shoulders of a few leaders, instead of on the rank-and-file of the unions.  
The convention leaders turned this proposal down. Green and Co. didn't want to be placed in a position where at any time in the future they might be compelled to act against a "pal." The defeat of Dubinsky's proposal also reflected the concern of the various international officers for their jealously-guarded control over their individual unions.  
As a counter proposal to Dubinsky's, the Executive Council merely put through a resolution piously "condemning" labor racketeering in general and suggesting that the various international officers "take steps" on their own initiative.  
The convention failed to expose the real character and causes of racketeering, and to open the way for strengthening the democratic processes within the local unions which would enable the membership to make short shift of dishonest elements.

# The "Socialist" Critics of the CIO

## They Provide a Pseudo-Radical Alibi for Hillman and the AFL

By FELIX MORROW  
(This is the third of a series of articles on the Atlantic City convention of the CIO.)

At the convention—more accurately in the corridors one heard a type of pseudo-leftist criticism of John L. Lewis and his allies which, upon examination, turns out to be merely a cover for a pro-Hillman, pro-AFL line. This was the line common to both the pro-war Social Democratic Federation and the "anti-war" Norman Thomas Socialists.  
These two "socialist" groups arrive at their pro-Hillman orientation by arguments which appear diametrically opposed to each other. The New Leader complains that Lewis is hostile to aid to Britain, is in league with "communists," sabotaging national defense; therefore the New Leader is for Hillman. The Call says Lewis is as much a war-monger as anybody, his Stalinist friends will shift to the war camp tomorrow, etc.; therefore the Call is for Hillman. How can the New Leader and the Call both favor Hillman, but for opposite reasons?

Line is very clear; one has but to read its strikebreaking stories against the Vultee aircraft workers. The New Leader is now under the editorial control of a group of demoralized and disoriented refugees, whose lack of understanding of the American labor movement flows from their failure to understand how fascism in their Social Democratic policies assured the victory of fascism in their European homelands. In their impatience to get home to their old well-paying posts, they out-jingo the Dies Committee; nothing must slow up the U. S. armies which will blast open for them the path home; hence their viciousness against strikers and against the basic labor movement, the CIO.  
The case of Norman Thomas' Call is somewhat different. It is not (yet) yelling for war. It supported the Vultee strikers. Hence its "socialist" arguments are likely to carry much more weight than those of the New Leader. It is necessary, therefore, to take apart the Call's case for Hillman.  
"Bitterness Dominates Scene At Atlantic City; Lewis-Communist Bloc Tries To Bait Hillman." Such is the Call headline (Nov. 30 issue). Lewis' dignified challenge to

Hillman on the key question of continuing the fight for industrial unionism—to call this "baiting Hillman" constitutes a distortion of what happened. And to describe the majority's reasoned argument as "factionalism" and "bitterness"—that disqualifies the Call's respondent as a reporter.  
**IGNORES REAL ISSUE**  
The Call works up a case for lining up with Hillman by the device of denying that the maintenance of industrial unionism is the point at issue: "... the Communist Party and Lewis are allegedly the defenders of industrial unionism against Hillman and his forces who are advocates of peace between the two great bodies of organized labor. But the truth of the matter is that Harry Bridges, the main pillar of the C.P. struc-

## C.P. ASKED TO DEBATE BY MINN. SWP

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Communist Party here has rejected a challenge by the Socialist Workers Party to debate the subject of the attitude American workers should take in this military epoch.

ture, is now engaged in efforts to raid the warehouse fields in complete disregard of industrial union jurisdiction." This is followed by a paragraph to prove that the Communist Party is opposed to AFL-CIO unity for unworthy reasons. Then the Call passes on to other business, as if it has proved that there is no difference between Hillman and the Lewis group on industrial unionism.  
Note that the Call blandly identifies the Lewis forces with the Stalinists. A false, and pretty stupid, assumption. Will unity be a blow to industrial unionism? The Call avoids this, the real question.  
Its case comes down to saying: if Hillman is no friend of industrial unionism, neither are Lewis and the Stalinists. In that case, logic would demand that the Call denounce both Lewis and Hillman and call upon the CIO workers to mobilize under a third banner in defense of industrial unionism. But these Norman Thomas Socialists know only one method in trade union "politics": pick which one of the big shots you'll back.

## THE CALL'S NEW INVENTION

Having thus dismissed the real issue—industrial unionism—the Call goes on to find "socialist" reasons for supporting Hillman. "The contention of Hillman's enemies is that he is a war monger and is interested in 'national defense' to the exclusion of labor's interests." Aha, says the Call, Lewis and the Stalinists are no better. Does the Call, therefore, propose to support neither Lewis nor Hillman, which would be the logic of that argument? No. Instead the Call proceeds to tip the scales in Hillman's favor, with the

aid of a delicate recording instrument invented by the Call editors. Lenin once said, making fun of people who talked about whether or not an opponent was "sincere," that nobody had ever invented a sincerity-meter. But the Call editors have done just that, it appears.  
"The outstanding weakness of the convention and of the CIO generally has been the lack of an effective policy on honest belief. Both in the Hillman camp and in the Lewis camp, there is much hypocrisy. Hillman's forces are more honest... Lewis and his boys are so marked with Communist alliances, Willie deals, bureaucratic trade union practices and unprincipled vindictiveness that they constitute an even more repulsive force to increasing sections of the CIO." (My italics).  
And with this type of argument these "socialists" justify supporting the opponents of industrial unionism against Lewis and his allies who, whatever else they are, are on the progressive side in the key issue which at the present time forms the dividing line throughout the entire trade union movement.  
The voice of the Call doesn't travel far. But its "socialist" case for Hillman and the AFL may be picked up by the pro-Hillman cliques in the newer industrial unions. In the United Auto Workers, for example, where the militant membership wouldn't listen for a moment to Hillman's own line, but might be confused by a "socialist" stooge for Hillman. Such "radical" arguments for Hillman's policy must be exposed for what they are: a "left" window-dressing for the most reactionary tendency in the labor movement today.

## Wasn't Meant to Kill Trotsky Says Leader of May Attack!

By WALTER ROURKE  
MEXICO CITY—David Alfaro Siqueiros has finally submitted a formal statement to Judge Trujillo at Coyacan. As was expected, he has added nothing to what was already known but rather has merely developed his former lies one step further.  
His testimony always boils down to two points—the May 24th attack was not intended to kill Trotsky but only to steal some of the archives; he knows nothing about the murder of Robert Sheldon Harte. Siqueiros originally said that he wanted the archives to prove Trotsky's "counter-revolutionary activities;" now he says that he discovered that Trotsky was selling his correspondence with Lenin to Harvard University Library and wanted to take these letters. In either case the story is ridiculous since the archives were not even touched during the attack, though right out in full view in the library.  
Obviously Siqueiros' intention is to free himself of the charge of attempted murder. He insists that the participants in the attack were instructed not to kill

Trotsky, to shoot only with the intention of terrorizing him into inaction, and to injure him only if he tried to prevent the theft of documents—the injury was not to be serious but only enough to "put him out of action." Apparently he expects this fantastic tale to be believed in the face of the mute evidence of Trotsky's bedroom, riddled by bullets from three directions. Siqueiros pretends that most of the bullet holes were made by the guards and that the incendiary bombs were tossed by Trotsky in order to gain more publicity; this is all that remains of the original Stalinist theory of "self assault."  
Of course Siqueiros insists that he has no connection with the second and successful assault on Trotsky's life.  
**SIQUEIROS HELD A STALINIST COMMAND IN SPAIN**  
The Colonel—Siqueiros held a Stalinist command in Spain—states that one of his Communist friends led the May 24 assault but that he would never disclose his name.

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## Latest "Fourth International" Off the Press

The December issue of the Fourth International, which will be off the press this week, features as its main article, a manifesto of the Fourth International, "France Under Hitler and Petain." It analyzes what has been happening in France since the collapse, and proposes a concrete program for the struggle for freedom.  
Other articles featured are: "Inter-Imperialist Struggle for Latin America," by the Argentine revolutionist, Quebracho; "The AFL and CIO Conventions," by Farrell Dobbs; "Stalin's Regime as Mirrored in the New Legislation," by John G. Wright; "Milwaukee's Brand of Socialism," by James Boulton; "Discipline in the American Army," by Michael Cort.  
Of special interest is the article by Leon Trotsky, "The Class, the Party, and the Leadership," which was found in his archives in unfinished form. It was the article he promised to write during the internal discussion last Spring but which the GPU assassin prevented him from finishing.

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## TROTSKY MEMORIAL FUND

The following additional contributions to the Trotsky Memorial Fund have come in during the last week:

Buffalo	\$ 3.00
New Haven	2.00
Lynn	2.00
Boston	28.50
New York	100.00
Los Angeles	7.50
Flint	13.00
San Francisco	20.00
Chicago	14.00
Minneapolis & St. Paul	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$389.75</b>

Branch	Quota	Amount paid	%
Milwaukee	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.10	102%
Boston	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.75	101%
Baltimore	10.00	10.00	100
Rockville	7.00	7.00	100
Toledo	50.00	50.00	100
Detroit	200.00	200.00	100
Lynn	100.00	85.00	85
Chicago & Indiana Harbor	200.00	135.07	68
San Francisco	100.00	55.00	55
Newark	150.00	70.50	47
Flint	150.00	69.00	46
Minneapolis & St. Paul	1000.00	430.00	43
Allentown	15.00	6.00	40
Los Angeles	150.00	56.65	38
New York	1000.00	355.00	36
Buffalo	25.00	8.00	32
Philadelphia	30.00	8.00	27
New Haven	20.00	5.50	28
Youngstown	50.00	6.00	12
Akron	10.00	0.00	00
Cleveland	70.00	0.00	00
Hutchinson	10.00	0.00	00
Pittsburgh	10.00	0.00	00
Portland	10.00	0.00	00
Quakertown	7.00	0.00	00
Reading	5.00	0.00	00
Rochester	15.00	0.00	00
St. Louis	5.00	0.00	00
Texas	5.00	0.00	00
Individual Contributions		2.30	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3509.00</b>	<b>\$1664.87</b>	<b>47%</b>