

FORD UNION DRIVE AT CRUCIAL STAGE

Cafeteria Local Elects Militants

United Front Ticket In Local 302 Is Victorious In Fight To Drive Back Reactionary Red-Baiting Right Wing

BULLETIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 18—Latest returns on balloting in the Local 302, Cafeteria Workers, Hotel and Restaurant Union (AFL) elections give the United Union Ticket, progressive slate, a sure victory.

Ten thousand members of Local 302, Cafeteria Workers of New York, will go to the polls December 17 and 18, to elect their union administration for the next year.

There are two slates contending for the union administration: the United Union Committee and the United Right Ticket. The struggle has attracted widespread interest in the entire New York labor movement.

In the last few weeks the struggle has been intensified by continuous appeals of the right wing to the International to step in and save their hides from the aroused union membership.

The militant membership has, however, succeeded in defeating every one of the attempts of the right wing to hold on to their jobs by disrupting the election.

In spite of struggles in previous elections between the groups now organized in the United Union Committee, they have joined hands in the election to save the union from the threat of an unscrupulous, red-baiting right wing.

GROUPS WHICH UNITED

Various political tendencies in the working class movement as well as many nationalities and crafts have united in this inspiring demonstration of solidarity against the reactionary, red-baiting attack of the right wing.

The United Union Committee has adopted a militant program. It contains the main points of the program of the United Progressive Club.

The issue of arbitration (Adjustment Board), on which the United Progressive Club and the United Spanish Club have always joined in differing with the Rank and File Club, was settled by adopting a clause in favor of a membership referendum on this major issue after the elections.

(The full text of the United Union Committee program appears on page 2 of this issue.)

opposed to the arbitration set-up and will seek to do away with the Adjustment Board through the referendum.

In contrast to the forthright militancy of the program of the United Union Committee, the right wing has no trade union program whatsoever. In sheer desperation it has unleashed a campaign of red-baiting and slander that has broken all previous records for this age-old trick of labor fakery.

The right wingers yell loudest about the Trotskyists and Stalinists uniting against them. The United Union Ticket answers that it is proud of the fact that it is composed of workers of different political beliefs as well as many nationalities and races, who have united on a program of militant unionism and against the corrupt right wing officials.

The United Union Ticket has adopted a full slate. It is headed by the four candidates for General Offices: Costas Dritsas (United Rank and File) for President; Sam Kramberg (United Rank and File) for Secretary Treasurer; Larry Phillips (United Progressive Club) for General Organizer and Juan Aviles (United Spanish Club) for Labor Chief.

The Progressive Club is well represented on the rest of the slate, with Sam Roth running for Vice President and Pillsbury and Fox running for Business Agents. Three Progressives are running for the branch executive boards and two for the Council. Three Progressives are running for the central bodies: for the Central Labor and Trades Council, James Gordon; for the Joint Board of the Food Workers Unions, Larry Phillips; for the United Hebrew Trades, Sam Roth.

(The full text of the United Union Committee program appears on page 2 of this issue.)



Grace Carlson

Grace Carlson Starts National Tour Jan. 2

Opens In Milwaukee; Will Speak In At Least 35 Cities; Schedule Listed

Table with columns: Day, Date, Place. Lists tour schedule from Jan 2 to Jan 14 across various cities like Milwaukee, Chicago, San Francisco, etc.

Enforcement of Union Contract--Flint Style

FLINT, Mich.—The Fisher Body local No. 551 has just given the UAW membership a short lesson in how to enforce union conditions in GM.

The other day the Fisher Body management decided that it would lay off several men in the Trim department. After the lay-off they told the men working in the department they would have to fill in on a few odd jobs which others had performed previously.

Promptly the steward protested, and the entire department began to raise a rumpus about it. The leader of the group was then sent home by the company.

No sooner was this done than the whole department downed tools and walked out of the plant. The result was a shut-down of Fisher Body and, very soon, curtailment of production at Buick.

The company when faced with this militant opposition practically went out of its head. They were so anxious to get production started again that they offered not only to settle the grievance immediately, but to go out and call for the steward who was fired and bring him back to work!

The steward was nowhere to be found. The management sent out messengers, flunkies with cars to scour the town, but the steward just wasn't to be found (by the company) and no production went on that night. The lesson was brought home to the company...

Finally, at his leisure, the next day, the steward reported back to work, and the trim department achieved a complete victory.

This incident is similar to one which occurred at the Briggs Body plant not long ago, in which one department walkout over the speed-up and firing of a steward resulted in a complete shut-down, and in a speedy victory for the union.

Many Thousands Boldly Join Up

But Ford Will Fight to the Death, and It Will Take More Than NLRB Elections To Beat Him; UAW Must Prepare to Fight

DETROIT, Mich. Dec. 16—With 40 UAW-CIO organizers concentrating all their energies on a drive to organize the Ford Motor company, and with a union publicity campaign which has succeeded in hitting all the front pages, reports from reliable union sources indicate that Ford workers are joining the UAW by the thousands.

From every point of view the UAW now has a great opportunity to break the notorious Ford open shop once and for all. Union sentiment is sweeping the ranks of Ford workers in a mighty wave, Ford has shown his anti-union policy again by refusing to consent to an NLRB vote after Michael Widman, CIO organizer in charge of the Ford drive, made the request. Even Sidney Hillman, "labor commissioner" on the National Defense Council, has been forced to make a statement on Ford's anti-union policy and to demand that the Army cancel a \$2,000,000 contract for airplane engines with Ford.

This is how the problem is now posed. Only a determined stand against Ford can inspire the Ford workers and establish unionism among the 100,000 employees of the most notoriously scabby outfit in the American industry. An NLRB vote with a victory for the UAW would of course be a great moral victory. But that and that alone will not establish unionism. Governmental pressure will not and cannot establish unionism in Ford and crush the Ford Service Department.

Every day dozens of Ford workers are laid off, fired, transferred and intimidated by one means or another for union activity. The ranks of Ford workers who have been thrown out of the plants after joining the union increase by the hour. There is no doubt that the crucial days for the union are just ahead.

The question now is:—what will the UAW leadership make out of the now favorable situation at Ford's? Will they courageously step out and use the militant methods necessary to attain victory? Will they take the example of the organization of General Motors in the great days of 1937? Or will they stall around and

ALL EYES ON FORD All eyes are on the Ford drive. A successful Ford drive would lead to a rebirth of union action in all auto plants, would pave the way to establishing the closed shop in auto as a whole.

With the International Board still following a pussyfooting policy, afraid of strikes, yielding to the reactionary pressure of the Hillmans and Kudusens, angling for jobs on the Defense Councils, there is great danger that the Ford drive will be muffed. Only the greatest pressure from the militant workers in every local can force these leaders to take the only road—the road of militant action.

Hillman Wins In Jersey CIO Body

Chance To Defeat Hillman Is Tossed Away By Lewis Bloc

By GEORGE BREITMAN

PASSAIC, N. J. Dec. 15—The Lewis wing of the CIO suffered a setback here this week-end as the Hillman forces in the New Jersey CIO convention succeeded in winning a victory which gave it control of the state executive board for the coming year.

The margin of votes between the Hillman-Abramson-textile forces and the Lewis-Stalinist bloc was not very great, however, and the tide could easily have been turned the other way had it not been for the bungling and timidity of the state leaders of the Lewis bloc.

As a result of this poor leadership, therefore, a strong weapon is now in the hands of the group in this state's CIO which is ready, when Hillman gives the word, to capitulate to the government and the craft unionists on the crucial issue of industrial unionism.

At the start of the convention Knapik, one of the Hillman leaders, made this clear when he stated that the CIO should immediately reopen "unity" negotiations with the AFL. The lack of applause was a warning to him, and he hastily added that negotiations must not lead to destroying a single one of the CIO international unions.

The Hillman leaders apparently decided that it would be unwise in a closely-contested convention to bring into the open their real position on industrial unionism, so they put it away in the background. The Lewis-Stalinist wing permitted them to do so.

WHITEWASHING HILLMAN

The first fight broke out on an attempt to whitewash the role Hillman is playing in the National Defense Council. It was dramatically announced that Hillman had entered a protest that day against the granting of a government contract to Henry Ford, and the Hillmanites introduced a resolution to commend Hillman for this action.

A few delegates managed to get the floor in spite of the bureaucratic chairmanship of Hillmanite Abramson, and to point out that this was a whitewash resolution designed to cover up Hillman's treacheries. What about his handling of Bethlehem Steel? they asked. What about his handling of strikes? An amendment was made that the CIO oppose the granting of contracts to all violators of the labor laws. Discussion was cut off, and in the voice vote, it seemed, the amendment was carried. Abramson, however, refused a roll call vote and declared the original motion carried. After this, the (Continued on page 4)

Workers Favor Collective Bargaining Rights In Army

Detroit-Toledo Poll Also Shows Considerable Sentiment Favoring Trade Union Control of Military Training

TOLEDO, Ohio. — American workers accept universal military training, but favor collective bargaining rights for soldiers through representatives of their own choosing. In addition, there is a strong trend to prefer military training for the workers under the control of the trade unions.

These are the sentiments expressed in a poll of a representative group of workers in Detroit and Toledo. The poll was conducted by the Toledo and Detroit branches of the S.W.P.

A total of 363 men and women, selected at random by visiting homes in working class neighborhoods or by meeting them at factory gates, were asked the following three questions:

1. "Are you in favor of the present Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Act?" 75.4% were in favor of the conscription law, 13.7% against, and 10.7% undecided. 2. "Would you prefer military training under trade union control?" 3. "Should soldiers have the right of collective bargaining for better conditions through their elected representatives?" 75.4% were in favor of the conscription law, 13.7% against, and 10.7% undecided. 34.7% of the total group polled were in favor of trade union control of military training, while 43.2% were opposed.

A very significant majority were in favor of collective bargaining rights for the common soldiers, 78.2%. Only 12.3% were against, with 9.3% undecided. A higher percentage of those polled were in favor of this than favored conscription. The ratio of 6 1/2 to 1 is sufficiently decisive to establish as a fact that the workers of this vital industrial area draw a direct analogy between the boss army and the boss factory.

Those who conducted the poll were extremely careful not to influence those questioned in any way. The workers questioned were simply informed that a poll of the neighborhood or plant area was being undertaken, that they did not have to give their names, and that their individual replies would be kept confidential.

It is interesting to note that while 39.6% of the trade unionists favored military training under trade union control, a higher percentage than for the total group including non-unionists, 45.5% of the trade unionists were definitely opposed to this idea. Some of the statements made in explanation of their negative opinion on this question indicate that the replies of many trade unionists were conditioned by their distrust of the conservative and reactionary bureaucratic trade-union leaders, rather than

by any opposition to the general idea of military training under union control. As one garage mechanic put it, "I would favor union control if the proper men were in charge." Among the Negroes,—adding weight to the conclusions of the poll conducted by the Newark branch of the SWP two months ago,—there was a majority in favor of trade union control of military training. This reflects the healthy hostility of the Negro workers toward the Jim Crow army system. This Detroit-Toledo poll, while too limited to be conclusive, adds weight to the contention of our party that the American workers are becoming more and more aware that the leadership of the Army is in the hands of those who represent the same boss class that controls industry. Hence the workers, thinking of curbing this boss control, overwhelmingly favor collective bargaining in the Army, as in the factory. In addition, an important section of the workers are ready to go beyond the limited curb of the bosses which is provided by collective bargaining, and are prepared to support trade union control of military training. (The tabulation of the Detroit-Toledo poll appears on page 2.)

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

Prince Radziwill, aristocrat and landowner, is one of the few refugees from "democratic" Poland who have been able to make their way into this country.

Now safe in this country and secure with the bank balances his class doubtless had maintained here for just such eventualities, Radziwill has assumed the pose of adviser on American war policy. His first essay into this field is in a lengthy letter published in the New York Times on December 11.

Radziwill sees Mussolini's Italy in a precarious position as a result of its military reverses. He says "the heavy threat of interior revolution hangs constantly over Italy." That threat could be averted for the present by "a complete surrender to a German military and diplomatic protectorate." "Mussolini, he goes on,

"standing before the choice of complete submission to Germany or of a revolution, might eventually consider a third solution, that of peace, which would certainly be welcome to the whole nation. I have the feeling that maybe the moment is near when American diplomacy could develop a very cautious activity for a daring, no doubt, but in my opinion not necessarily hopeless, attempt in this direction."

The speculations of this Polish prince are very illuminating. He poses Mussolini's two choices — surrender to Hitler or overthrow by an anti-Fascist revolution — and turns away from both of them with a shudder. And we may be quite sure that for him the prospect of an anti-Fascist revolution is by far the worst of the two alternatives.

Stalin's Latest Ukase!

On June 26, 1940 the Kremlin decreed what has become known as the "June laws."

They abolished the 35-hour week (7-hour day, 5-day week, with the 6th day off), replacing it with the 48-hour week (8-hour day, 6-day week with the 7th day off), and made it a criminal offense to quit one's job, punishable by imprisonment or by forced-labor terms to be served at the same place of employment at 25% less pay.

The Kremlin also assumed the right to compulsory transfer of any worker from any part of the country to any other part. These infamous laws have been systematically extended to the whole population until now they have been applied to the lower ranks of the bureaucracy and to the "Stakhanovists," the labor aristocracy.

These facts appear here for the first time in this country, just as the Socialist Appeal was the first to publish the facts about the "June laws". On page 3 of this issue we publish this latest article by John G. Wright. Read it and read Comrade Wright's articles regularly—they appear here almost every week—if you want to understand how Stalin is strangling the Soviet Union.