

CIO WARNS AGAINST HOME GUARD BILL

Cafeteria Workers' United Front Makes Clean Sweep In Elections

Red-Baiters Fail To Win A Single Post In Local 302; Winners Are Pledged To Carry Out A Militant Union Program

The United Union Ticket, united front slate of the militant workers of New York's Cafeteria Local 302, Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union (AFL), has just scored a decisive election victory over the United Right Ticket, candidates of the reactionaries and the remnants of the racketeers who at one time dominated the food workers union. The elections were held December 17 and 18.

The final tabulation of the vote gave a three-to-two majority to the united front candidates. The total vote cast was 5,098. The union has 10,000 members.

All posts in the "A" and "B" branches of the local, as well as all general offices of the entire local, were won by the militants, as an aroused union membership finally cleaned house of the boss-minded, super-patriotic jingoos and gangsters who have been attempting to throttle the local. During the campaign, the United Right crew had the open support of the bosses and the backing of the reactionary bureaucrats heading the international union.

The successful United Union candidates for the leading posts were Costas Dritsas, of the United Rank and File Club, President; Sam Krumborg, of the same group, Secretary-Treasurer; Larry Phillips, of the United Progressive Group, General Organizer; and Juan Aviles, of the United Spanish Workers Club, Labor Chief.

This election campaign has held the attention of the entire New York labor movement. The victory of the united front ticket is regarded as a blow to the whole right-wing sector of the union movement here.

The victory takes on double significance in the light of the terrific pressure exerted on the union members, not only by the right-wing clique—whose sole program was red-baiting and patriotic appeals in the interest of "national defense"—but by the bosses in



LARRY PHILLIPS

the food industry and by the general anti-labor pro-war drive of the government and the boss press. It demonstrates once again the capacity of the workers to fight in their own interests and to resist the propaganda of the employers.

UNITED FRONT DID IT

The decisive factor leading to this victory was the united front established by all the groups in the union which were opposed to red-baiting. What is more, the

Flint Auto Workers Hear Grace Carlson Tuesday, Jan. 7

FLINT, Mich.—Grace Carlson's national tour brings her here on Tuesday, January 7, 8 p.m. at Carpenters Hall, Pengeley Building.

She's going to give a talk on a subject which the workers of this auto city are certainly interested in: "The Right To Life," a graphic picture of what the auto bosses and their kind do to the lives of the workers in their grip. Comrade Carlson knows what she's talking about. She's worked with and talked with thousands of workers during her years of connection with the famous Glen Lake Sanatorium, the Minnesota Department of Education and its subdivisions which handled workers who fell victim to disease or industrial accidents.

Flint auto workers! Come out and hear this Minnesota trade unionist and spokesman for our party!

Negro Sailors Defended By Boston Meeting

BOSTON, Dec. 20—A mass meeting of Negro and white workers was held here this evening under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party to protest the mistreatment of the Negro sailors on the U.S.S. Philadelphia and to demand the discontinuation of the government's policy of Jim-Crow in the Navy and other armed forces.

By unanimous vote, the meeting adopted a telegram to be sent to Secretary of the Navy Knox and Admiral Nimitz calling for release of the two imprisoned Negro messmen on the U.S.S. Philadelphia, and revocation of the "undesirable discharges" of 13 other Negro sailors.

The meeting also voted to send letters of commendation to each of the 15 men involved in this case, which arose when they wrote a letter exposing the maltreatment and Jim-Crow against Negroes in the Navy. The telegram adopted by the meeting informs these courageous sailors that workers back home, Negro and white, are backing them up.

A committee was established at the meeting to continue the work of organizing protest in this case and to carry on the fight against all Jim-Crow practices in the armed forces.

Attention Chicago!

Grace Carlson Speaks On Friday

Grace Carlson, U. S. Senatorial candidate of our party in Minnesota, now opening a national tour, speaks in Chicago this coming week.

Her first lecture will be Friday, January 3, at 8 p.m., at the Hamilton Hotel, 18 South Dearborn Street. The subject will be: "Roosevelt vs. Hitler—The Struggle for Empire in Latin America."

(For Comrade Carlson's other lectures and conferences in Chicago, ask for information at the Chicago headquarters of the SWP: 160 N. Wells Street, Room 200.)

Bad Housing Spreads Illness In Army Camps

With thousands of soldiers housed in totally inadequate tents and living in conditions unfit for human beings, while storms sweep through them, a full-fledged influenza epidemic threatens to sweep the army camps.

Dr. James A. Dolce, in charge of sanitary reports for the Public Health Service, last week reported the following conditions in the army camps:

Camp Murray, Washington, where 12,000 soldiers are stationed, topped all army camps in influenza cases, with a total of 682 cases on Dec. 2.

There were 1,328 cases of respiratory illness in Camp Murray, according to the Army Surgeon General's office.

Camp Clapsop, Oregon, had 251 influenza cases among its 875 soldiers.

Camp Beauregard, where most of the Michigan men are stationed, had 480 respiratory cases out of 10,000 soldiers in camp.

At Alexandria, La., there were 30,000 cases of colds, influenza and fever. This is a city where 35,000 army camp workers and defense project laborers are stationed.

And the comment of the health service on all this was... "There is no cause for alarm."

It is a fortunate accident that the current epidemic is influenza of a mild form. Nevertheless, it reflects the fact that the men are subjected to dangerously unsanitary living standards.

Strict army censorship has succeeded in keeping out of the public eye any protests against these conditions which the draftees may be making.

"Sabotage" Bill Also Denounced

Only Military Law Could Touch Guards, Murray Points Out; But He Fails To Indict Their Purely Anti-Labor Role

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—The CIO has taken a stand against the "model" Home Guard and "Sabotage" bills, proposed by the bosses for adoption by state legislatures as "national defense" measures.

Scoring the Home Guard bill, which would replace the National Guard units taken into the regular army by military bodies under complete military direction, Philip Murray, newly-elected CIO president, today called on all members and affiliates of the CIO to oppose this bill on the grounds that "it leaves these state guard units completely free from any civil responsibility for their acts by making them responsible to military law only."

Murray did not, unfortunately, oppose the establishment of a Home Guard altogether, but merely the provision of this particular bill fixing the control of the Home Guard. "This section of the bill should be stricken," declared Murray. "In its place, there should be provisions protecting the rights of workers and the community at large against any lawless acts by the State guard units."

A STRIKEBREAKING FORCE

Murray fails to point out the fact that the proposed Home Guard as such, whether under military or civilian law, is intended solely as a strike-breaking armed force, similar to the National Guard, and which will be controlled by the bosses in any event, whether under military or civil law.

Just as eighty percent of National Guard duty has been in "enforcing the right to work" during strikes, so the Home Guards will be employed.

The action of Murray and the CIO, nevertheless sharply focuses the attention of the organized labor movement on two of the most menacing bills ever proposed against labor.

WHAT LABOR NEEDS

This Home Guard bill, and the concern it has evoked even in conservative labor circles, underlines the need for the trade unions to press for the counter-measures long advocated by the Socialist Worker Party.

Labor needs its own organized and trained defenses, Workers Defense Guards, against the growing danger of employer-inspired vigilantes, fascist gangs, professional strike-breakers, and similar outfits which are taking advantage of the anti-labor pro-war

drive of the bosses and the government.

The model "sabotage" bill comes in for even stronger criticism by President Murray. This bill, says Murray, would make it a felony "for any person intentionally to interfere with the production of national defense articles in private plants and intentionally to fall to note defects in products." It would also authorize local officials to close streets and public highways adjoining private plants engaged in "national defense" production.

Murray charged: "The sabotage provisions of the bill are of such a nature that they could be readily used to suppress strikes or other union activity to improve wages, hours and working conditions." Reactionary local authorities would try to invoke the penalties of this bill upon the ground that labor union action resulted in interference with national defense production.

The bill contains a so-called exemption in the case of acts within the "rights guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act." But, states Murray, "... nevertheless the enforcement of the law would be in the hands of a thousand different local prosecutors and judges, and the exemption could easily be rendered meaningless by word juggling."

Here again, however, Murray backwaters, and says "some" sabotage laws are needed, but enforcement should be federal. The conduct of the government officials in the Vultec strike and the Bethlehem Steel situation, as well as in its policy of granting war orders to labor law violators, shows clearly enough how little labor's interests would be regarded in the enforcement of such a law under federal jurisdiction.

Waller Gets Stay Of Execution

Labor And Negro Protests Win Delay Of Sharecropper's Death Sentence

Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper of Virginia, who was condemned to execution by an all-white jury including ten landlords, for the self-defense slaying of his white landlord, has won a stay of execution until March 14, 1941. The stay was granted by Governor James A. Price, after many protests from progressive Negro and labor organizations throughout the country.

Waller shot his white planter-boss, Oscar Davis, after the latter threatened him when he came for his wages and those of his wife and aged mother, who had also worked for Davis.

Outstanding attorneys, such as John F. Finerty and Thomas H. Stone, are acting as defense counsel for Waller, testifying to the vital importance of this case as typifying the miserable servitude to which the Negro masses in the southern Bourbon states are subjected.

Mr. Finerty was defense counsel for Tom Mooney and in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. He served as legal advisor for the International Commission of Inquiry, headed by John Dewey, which investigated the charges against Leon Trotsky, made in the Moscow Trials and acquitted him.

The stay of Waller's execution was granted on the plea of unfairness in the selection of the jury and prejudicial pressure on it from the outside.

This stay does not end the menace to Waller's life, but merely delays his execution until the Virginia Supreme Court reviews the case. The fight to save Waller must be continued, as in all likelihood the white ruling class courts in further hearings will endeavor to convict Waller more "legally."

The Workers Defense League, which is in charge of Waller's defense, has asked for urgently needed funds to carry on the fight. Funds may be sent to the League in care of its secretary, David L. Clendenin, 112 E. 19th Street, New York City.

Special National Convention Of SWP Acts On International Relations

A special national convention of the Socialist Workers Party was held at Irving Plaza Hall in New York City on Sunday, Dec. 21, convened at the call of the National Committee to consider possible problems which may arise under reactionary federal legislation recently adopted.

The main report was made by James P. Cannon, National Secretary.

Two resolutions were adopted by the convention. One, on "International Relations," reads as follows:

"Whereas, federal legislation (the Voorhis Act, etc.) has been adopted by Congress which imposes burdensome requirements on political organizations affiliated to international bodies, including the formal periodic registration of lists of individual members; and

"Whereas, such regulations could be of service only to the enemies of the workers, the Fourth (Special) National Convention of the Socialist

Workers Party hereby resolves:

- "1. To formally discontinue its affiliation to the Fourth International as of this date.
- "2. To continue its struggle for socialism as a completely autonomous party.
- "3. While complying with the provisions of the aforesaid legislation, we affirm our opposition to this and any similar measures designed to disrupt the international solidarity of the workers. We assure our co-thinkers in other lands that nothing in this decision of compliance with arbitrary discriminatory legislation alters in any way our ardent sympathy with their own struggles for socialism."

The text of the second resolution adopted was:

"The Declaration of Principles of the Socialist Workers Party—adopted by the Foundation Convention, (Dec. 31, 1937 to Jan. 3, 1938)—requires some changes and additions to bring

it up to date and correspond with new developments which have transpired since the Foundation Convention.

"This task can be performed satisfactorily only after adequate time has been provided for consideration of proposed changes and their discussion in the ranks of the party. As a step towards the preparation of this task, the Fourth (Special) National Convention resolves:

"1. To suspend and withdraw the Declaration of Principles adopted at the Foundation Convention;

"2. To authorize and instruct the National Committee to prepare the draft of an amended Declaration of Principles for submission to the party for discussion and eventual decision by party convention or referendum."

A series of motions were also adopted, amending the party constitution so that it now conforms to the sense of the two resolutions adopted.

Imprisoned By British Police

Pierre Frank, a French revolutionist, has been sentenced to six months at hard labor by a London police tribunal.

Frank explained to the authorities that he had been condemned, in his absence, to several months' imprisonment in France. Had he registered with the British police in the normal way, he would have run the risk of being delivered into the hands of the French authorities.

Frank is a member of the Moinier group, which has been outside the Fourth International for several years. Protests against the vicious punishment vented on Pierre should be directed to the British Embassy in Washington.

"Equality" Before The Draft Boards---Oh Yeah

The First Businessman Is Called Up In Flint—And The Board Asks New Ruling

FLINT, Mich.—Flint business men are regarded by local draft boards as a special group entitled to extraordinary considerations. What applies for an ordinary working stiff just doesn't apply for a "respectable" business man who has many, many responsibilities, mainly looking after his profits.

A case in point came up recently when, to the great embarrassment of Flint draft board No. 4, the manager of a large store in Flint drew a number which required his immediate examination for service. Still more embarrassing for the draft board flunkies—all of them middle class citizens with proper respect for business managers—this particular business man passed the physical examination and was ready for immediate induction.

Now it was all right to send young workers into the army as soon as they passed the physical. No one had to pay any attention to their "affairs" or to their need to readjust their lives.

But with a business man it's different. No sooner had the store manager, Herbert J. Wineman of the Federal Stores, successfully passed the physical examination, than draft board No. 4 made a request of the State Selective Service board in Lansing for a special ruling in cases involving business men.

"Can a selectee be given 60 days in which to wind up his business affairs?" asked draft board No. 4. Amplifying its question, the local board further stated that it feels that a 60-day period should be allowed between the final examination and induction to allow business men to straighten out business affairs, and eliminate "possible financial loss or embarrassment."

Workingclass draftees will, however, continue to be jerked out of their accustomed lives, and plunked straight into the army without further ado. The only reason this question has come up so late in the game here, is that Mr. Wineman happens to be the first and only business man thus far called up.

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The fateful year of 1940 draws to a close. Amid all the bleating about Xmas goodwill and peace on earth, the carnage goes on. The coming year can only witness its extension to even broader fronts, a deepening of the horrors, an unimaginable increase of the tension, the suffering, the mass privation engendered by the world war of the bosses.

The past twelve months have witnessed volcanic changes in the political map of Europe. Moribund bourgeois democracy went down in Norway, Holland, Belgium, and finally in proud France, where it was cradled. Totalitarian Germany became master of the continent and came to grips with England for mastery of the world. England itself shed its democratic fig-leaf and is girding all its strength for the test that the coming year must bring. And even England's leaders admit that afterward, win or lose, things can never return to their old grooves.

The capitalist system has long been incapable of providing adequately for society's needs. The first world war of 25 years ago first exposed the cancers that were already then destroying it. That conflict brought the crisis of society to a time of great decision: this society would either be permitted to live on—to rot from within and to kill in its agony all the myriad organisms dependent upon it—or else it would be thrust away once and for all and a new society created better fitted to the means of production and the human needs of the modern world.

The great movement of proletarian insurrection that rose out of the ruins of 1914-18 represented the tremendous effort made by the submerged masses of the world to make the change

cleanly and swiftly. Everywhere but in Russia, they failed. The workers lacked the revolutionary parties capable of leading to victory. The socialists and other fakery who led them were concerned not with building a new power of the workers but with preserving the power of the bosses. For these crimes and failures, isolated workers' Russia had to pay by passing into the control of the Bonapartist clique of Stalin. The capitalist world retched and writhed on into a new world conflict.

This war is encompassing the destruction of the old political system of capitalism as we have known it for three centuries. The new totalitarianism is the harbinger of a new political system for the capitalist order, a system based upon contracted production and reduction of the masses to unrelieved slavery. And in this process, millions must die and suffer and starve.

The old way is gone. The great question is still before us: Who shall usher it out? Who shall build the new world and what kind of a world should that be? We say there is still time for the workers of the world to take into THEIR hands the business of re-making the world. We say there is still time to check the onward rush toward a new form of capitalist barbarism. We say there is still time to put the world on the rails toward a new socialist order, an order of new realization for all men and women.

The Fourth International stands for this future and none other. In lands already engulfed by war or about to be, its partisans fight on toward this goal. To them, this end of the year of 1940, we send our fraternal salute.