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UNDER TRADE UNION CONTROL

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CONGRESS PLANNING ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

Labor Defends Minn. Educator

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 7.—Governor Stassen's attempt to oust Minnesota's Commissioner of Education, Dr. John G. Rockwell, has turned into a battle in which the trade unions, the teachers of this state, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Negroes, are solidly arrayed against Stassen and the reactionaries.

The next session of the public hearing into the suspension of Dr. Rockwell from his post will take place January 13, and there will be plenty of fireworks.

Governor Stassen and his four-man majority on the state board of education, at the first sessions of the hearing on Dec. 26-27, revealed their strategy. Dr. Rockwell was to be ousted by being labeled a "red."

To "connect" Dr. Rockwell with "reds," the Stassenites put on the witness stand a clerk from the secretary of state's office who introduced a copy of the official 1940 election ballot showing Grace Carlson listed as the U. S. Senatorial candidate of the Trotskyist Anti-War Party (Socialist Workers Party). Dr. Carlson had been a member of the staff of the state department of education until she resigned last September to take up full-time work for the party.

Dr. Rockwell readily admitted he and his wife were friends of Grace Carlson, that they were familiar with her political beliefs and had known her for ten years. It was in the Stassenites' attempt to establish political links between Grace Carlson and the Rockwells that the inquisition backfired.

Was it true that, in 1935, Dr. Rockwell had opened his home to a party where funds were raised to aid the hosiery strikers at the Strutwear plant? The board's attorney asked Dr. Rockwell.

Dr. Rockwell readily agreed that was so, and that Mrs. Grace Carlson was among the guests.

Then the board's attorney asked a question that caused the audience to gasp at the brazen anti-Negro attitude it revealed: "Were there colored people at your home?"

Dr. Rockwell, deeply indignant, replied: "Yes, there have been colored people in my home. I am proud

Grace Carlson Speaks In Your Vicinity

TOLEDO, Ohio: Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., at the Indiana Avenue Y.M.C.A. on "The Negro and 'National Defense.'" Auspices: The Toledo Discussion Group, an organization of colored and white workers.

CLEVELAND, Ohio: Sunday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m., at the Alerton Hotel, 13th and Chester. On "The Right to Life."

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio: Wednesday, Jan. 15, 8 p.m., at the Central Auditorium, 225 W. Boardman St. On "Can Unions Survive the War?"

BUFFALO, N. Y.: Thursday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m., at 569 Clinton. On "The Negroes and the War." Auspices: Joint meeting of Buffalo branch, S.W.P., and a group of Negroes.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.: Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., at the Labor Lyceum, 580 St. Paul St. On "The Right to Life."

BOSTON, Mass. (Two lectures): Sunday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m., at the Workers Center, 158 Broadway. On "South America." Monday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m., at the Aurora Club, 42 Maverick Sq., East Boston. On "The Right to Life."

of it. I never draw the color line. I am proud that the state department of education, under my administration, has employed both Negroes and Indians."

The board's attorney then asked about a vacation trip the Rockwells had made to Mexico in 1939, asking his questions in such a way as to leave the innuendo that Rockwell had conferred with Trotsky, who was still alive then.

The net result of this red-baiting drive has been to make the trade unionists and the Negroes of Minnesota realize that red-baiting is not merely aimed at the Trotskyists but at all the workers and Negroes.

ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The war is the supreme expression of the total bankruptcy of the capitalist world. It is the avowed fact that capitalism can no longer function without the slaughter of peoples and the complete dislocation of the planet.

War tears away many fig leaves. Few are discovered to be more contemptible in their nakedness than the bourgeois intellectuals, the professors, the writers, the "theorists" of the capitalist order. And among these the most pitiable are the "sociologists"—the pundits who have purported to reduce the study of society to a science, a safe, secure, and sound capitalist science.

Last week the sociological fig leaf fluttered to the ground. The occasion, appropriately enough, was the conference of the American Sociological Society. Before this body came Dr. Pitirim A. Sorokin, chairman of the Department of Sociology of Harvard University. Said Dr. Sorokin: "Social science has become increasingly more uninspired more uncreative, and more incapable of foreseeing future trends or of serving efficiently the practical needs of our society and our culture.

"The more economists have tampered with economic conditions (he continued), the worse they have become; the more political scientists have reformed governments, the more are governments in need of re-

form; the more sociologists have tampered with the family, the more the family has disintegrated.

"Likewise all the social sciences have failed correctly to foresee the trends of important socio-cultural processes. On the eve of war they were forecasting peace; on the eve of economic crash and impoverishment, they were predicting bigger and better prosperity."

Our learned confessing professor speaks broadly of "social science" in this sorrowful avowal of impotence. He means bourgeois social science. One wonders whether it would be a surprise to him to pick up the works of Marx and Engels and to find in them predictions of "socio-cultural processes" which have come true with startling accuracy—although the predictions were made sixty and seventy years ago. One wonders what surprises might await him in the writings of Lenin and Trotsky. We might even be permitted to wonder whether the professor might not learn of matters to his benefit if he should pick up a file of the humble Socialist Appeal, and become it of the Militant and the New Militant.

Perhaps research along these lines might soften his indictment of the social sciences and only leave exposed the "social scientists" hired out to the capitalist order.

What Will The Trade Unions Do For The Workers In Uniform?

AN EDITORIAL

Who is going to represent the interests of the workers drafted into the armed forces?

So far the trade union leaders, both AFL and CIO, have made a detour around this question, the key question of this new military epoch in America and the world.

The union movement recognizes its responsibility to organize, not only all workers in private industry, but also all categories of government workers. Whether WPA workers, postal employees or clerks in the government bureaus, the trade unions have correctly insisted that government workers need and shall have union organization to bargain collectively with the government in exactly the same way as with a private boss.

In this traditional policy of the labor movement there is an implicit recognition that the government is a boss, and must be dealt with as such.

The most compelling fact of our time, however, is that the largest number of government "employees" are those to be "employed" in the armed forces.

Yet it is precisely at this point, that the trade union leaders fall down. They draw a line between the rights of the workers in civil governmental employment and those in governmental military service.

Yet, to thus abandon this decisive sphere of the military departments to the exclusive jurisdiction of the ruling class, is to surrender the entire fate of labor into the "impartial" hands of the irreconcilable enemies of labor.

Both the AFL and CIO protest against the composition of the draft boards; but abandon the workers and unionists as soon as they enter the gates of the training camps.

The unions do demand the restoration of jobs to the draftees when—and if—they return from army service. The unions make special provisions to keep their drafted members in good standing and to prevent their insurance from lapsing. All good and necessary measures. But the AFL and CIO leaders shun as a plague the here and now question of the working and living conditions of the worker-soldier INSIDE the armed forces.

After the last war, the labor movement paid a bitter price for its indifference to the conditions of the workers in the army. The orgy of strike-breaking, mob violence against union and working class political party meetings, and repressive acts against organized labor, found no little support among returning soldiers. Organized labor had done nothing for the soldiers during the war, and the soldiers, therefore, felt no ties of loyalty to organized labor when the war was over. The veterans' organizations formed at the close of the war were used by the bosses against the workers.

Who will represent the interests of the workers in the armed forces? If the unions won't, fascist reaction will organize the embittered soldiers and use them to destroy the labor movement. Organized labor's answer to this life and death question may well determine whether the American working class is to face decades of slavery or a new age of emancipation from exploitation.

GRACE CARLSON Worker Reports Chaos In New Training Camp

By GRACE CARLSON

CHICAGO, January 4.—The Windy City! No longer the windy section of the Party, however, since the departure of the windbags of the Minority into the so-called Workers Party, the whole tone of the Chicago Branch has changed.

Now one hears comrades talking about their shops, their union work, their contacts among the workers on the job, the distribution of the Appeal at factories, etc. It is even possible to give a speech now in Chicago without having eighteen supplementary speeches made from the floor. All of these changes in the character of the Chicago Party have helped to erase the lines of care from the faces of the older Chicago comrades who have been through very trying years. They are to be congratulated for having stuck it out.

To them as well as to the new organizer, Dave Stevens, goes credit for the improvement of the Chicago Branch. I was especially pleased to see what a fine group of women comrades we have in Chicago. Most of them are working at stenographic or factory jobs. They belong to unions and appear to be eager to carry out the Party program in their trade unions. In a word, they think of themselves and act as equals of men in the Party. I think that we're getting something out of it.

The meeting held in Milwaukee on January 2 also represented a long step forward. Although the Milwaukee Branch of the Party was only established a few short months ago, and is consequently very small, they brought twenty people together for this open meeting. The subject of the speech was *The Road To Socialism*.

The audience was composed of workers from CIO unions and students from the trades courses of the Technical High School. From the questions, it was clear that they have become disgusted with the Daniel Hoan—Norman Thomas type of "Socialism" and glad to hear of a revolutionary Socialist program.

With the good work which our Milwaukee comrades are doing on distribution of the Appeal at factory gates and in working class neighborhoods, together with their contact work, I am sure that we shall see a very healthy growth in the Milwaukee Branch in the coming months.

Worker Reports Chaos In New Training Camp

The following letter from a correspondent employed on construction work at one of the new military training camps cites conditions which are typical in all parts of the country.) JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Jan. 5.—I am working at Camp Blanding, about 50 miles from Jacksonville. Many of the construction workers must cover about 100 miles per day to work and back, on the most crowded road in the country. This takes about five hours per day. We have been working nine hours per day, including Saturdays and Sundays.

One example of the overcrowded condition will give you the picture. Starke is a small town of 1500 inhabitants, about 10 miles from Camp Blanding. This town is now jammed with 5500 and the sanitation facilities are breaking down, threatening the health of the inhabitants. But the plight of the workmen here is as nothing compared to that of the soldiers. The workers, those who are skilled, have the financial compensation for their misery and long hours. Of course many of them have suffered illness and a surprising number have lost their lives in auto accidents, rushing to and from work in an exhausted condition on narrow overcrowded roads.

But what is the compensation of the soldiers? They have been brought into the camp before the facilities were ready. They were brought in during the rainy season when the whole camp was nothing but an immense swamp. The soldiers were wading in mud knee-deep, to get to the tents. No wonder the medical corps has been the most active branch of the service around here.

Yesterday was pay day for the 31st (Dixie) Division at the camp. Those who had their leave took to the road to get to Jacksonville for a bit of relaxation. The road was mobbed with hitch-hiking soldiers. But many of those who managed to get to town had to turn on their heels and head back to camp, because they could not get any accommodations at hotels and rooming houses for love or money. Whether it is due to the overcrowded conditions alone, or because soldiers aren't wanted, I do not know.

Reuther Plan Is Swell---For Him

DETROIT, Mich.—The latest phenomenon to hit the auto industry is the already famous "Reuther Plan" proposed by Walter Reuther, taken up by Phillip Murray, and passed on to the President of the United States. It has the country agog.

In brief, it can be described as follows: "A plan to land a nice cushy job for Walter Reuther. Simple and clear and guaranteed to get results or your money back."

The plan contains detailed advice on how Knudsen can get around the bottlenecks in the aircraft industry by utilizing to the fullest extent the now idle auto plants, and by coordinating all auto factories. It contains nothing about the low wage scales in the aircraft industry.

More than one boss and labor hater is happy to see that this former problem child is now reformed and ready to take his place at the head of the class

LEVITON STRIKE HOLDS FIRM IN 19th WEEK

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 6.—

The strike of 1,600 workers against the Isadore Leviton plant entered its nineteenth week with picket lines solid and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Brooklyn Division of Local 3, pledged to continue the militant tactics until the strikers' demands are won 100 percent. Despite freezing weather, members of the IBEW are maintaining a 24-hour picket line, with every member of the union in Brooklyn scheduled to take his turn until the boss concedes defeat.

The strikers demand a union shop, a minimum wage of 40c hourly or \$16 a week and that every employe receive an increase of not less than 10c an hour.

Strike captain is a young woman who started work as a child in the Leviton plant fourteen years ago. She leads the march of the pickets in step to the tune of "Scab! Scab! Scab!" as the buses arrive with about 70 scabbers by Leviton in attempt to replace the 1,600 workers, 1,000 of whom are women. More than 140 police have been detailed a protection for the scabs.

The suffering of the strikers has become more intense with each week. Many families have gone without heat, gas and electric light. Some have lost their furniture. Others have been evicted. Many children are suffering from insufficient milk and warmth. Illness has increased generally. Despite all this the strikers have remained firm, morale is surprisingly good.

Leviton, who boasted that he made \$12,000,000 without a union in his plant and that he will spend this ill-gotten fortune in fighting unionization of his plant, has persistently refused to negotiate with the union.

Two years ago the company was found guilty of unfair labor practices by the National Labor Relations Board. The Board's action was affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeal, April 29, 1940. Eight weeks after the strike began, an NLRB election was held, with 95 percent of the workers voting the IBEW. Despite this overwhelming victory for the union, Leviton declared that he would "starve out the strikers as long as necessary and make them crawl back on their bellies begging for their jobs."

He has even declined to submit the controversy or any part of it to arbitration.

FDR Talks Lay Basis For Ban

All Legislators Need To Do Is To Enact Into Law AFL Metal Trades Proposal; But Such Laws Cannot Be Enforced

By FELIX MORROW

The legislative mill of the 77th Congress has begun to turn, and it is already clear that it will grind out an even more vicious product than did its predecessor.

Shortly after Roosevelt had delivered his Message, Hoffman of Michigan introduced a House bill to repeal the National Labor Relations Act, and Senator Holman of Oregon re-introduced the Smith Committee amendments. These amendments were adopted by the House last session but died in the Senate Labor Committee. They will not die so easily this time.

These anti-labor moves are but the first. It is certain, in fact, that before this session of Congress is over, it will have adopted new anti-labor legislation, particularly anti-strike legislation.

That is the main item on the program of the ultra-reactionary bi-partisan bloc which dominates both houses. Roosevelt will make no move to stop them; on the contrary, he has given them sufficient encouragement in his fireside speech and his Message. They will merely be enacting into law Roosevelt's declaration that the war arms drive "will proceed without interruption by strikes or lockouts" and his threat to "use the sovereignty of government" against "trouble-makers."

The AFL leadership has just given the reactionary bloc in Congress a perfect formula under which to enact anti-strike legislation. All Congress has to do is to enact into law the "Defense Plan" adopted last Sunday by the AFL Metal Trades Department.

"There must be no stoppage of work." This sentence from the statement issued by (Major) John P. Frey, the metal trades department president, sums up the "plan." All Frey asks in return is the establishment of arbitration machinery. This "plan" is equivalent to the National War Labor Board enacted into law by agreement between President Wilson and Samuel Gompers in 1918. (A description of that board appears on page 2 of this issue.)

By this step, by William Green's "no strike" pledge at the AFL convention and other similar moves, the AFL tops have outstripped even Hillman—for the moment only, he'll catch up with them soon enough—leaving the trade unions helpless before the coming onslaught by Congress and the employers.

Two lines of "strategy" motivate these moves of the AFL leadership: 1. By showing how far "labor" is willing to go in cooperating to end strikes, they will take away from the reactionaries any pretexts for enacting anti-labor legislation. This strategy is on a par with lifting a siege on a fortress by enticing the besiegers to come inside.

2. Green, Woll, Frey & Co. will in this way prove how much more respectable they are than is the CIO, so that anti-union capitalists will accept the AFL as a "lesser evil."

Frey's metal trades statement was obviously designed to show the superior respectability of the AFL. Frey had previously participated, together with the CIO shipbuilding workers' union, employers and government representatives, in forming the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee which, at its Dec. 5 meeting, issued a policy statement pledging exhaustion of all other methods rather than strikes and lockouts.

Now Frey gleefully announces: "Because of the emergency we make our policy even more emphatic than that proposed by the (shipbuilding stabilization) committee."

The CIO union's leaders are not, however, very far behind Frey. On the very same Sunday that the AFL metal trades department is meeting and rushing into print with its plan, the executive board of the Industrial

Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, CIO, is also meeting, also acts, and also rushes into print. The board (1) bars "Communists" from national or local office in the union and (2) provides for expulsion from the union of "any member proven guilty of... using the privilege of membership for propagating or furthering the cause of communism." Any worker handing a shopmate a copy of the Daily Worker or the Socialist Appeal can be driven out of the union or the industry, under this broad provision. This CIO executive board may not be abreast of Frey yet, but it is trying hard!

In this vile game, however, Frey has a major advantage over the CIO union. The metal trades unions of the AFL are craft organizations. In the shipyards, for example, they cover but a part of the men engaged in the industry. Hence Frey has something tangible to offer the shipyard bosses and the Navy Department. They can play ball with his craft organizations and, in return, Frey and his associates will turn their backs on the men—usually the majority—in the shipyards, scab if a strike breaks out, etc.

But there have been too many instances in which AFL craft unions have refused to play this kind of game and have demonstrated their solidarity with their fellow-workers who are in CIO unions. Frey therefore proposes to take all policy-making powers out of the hands of the AFL locals and their rank and file members:

"As explained by Mr. Frey, the jointly associated metal trades union representatives would seek to negotiate agreements by regions and industries. For example, they would meet with employers in the shipbuilding industry on the Atlantic, Gulf, Great Lakes and Pacific Coast and negotiate single agreements in these areas for all the unions." (N. Y. Times, Jan. 6)

SPEEDS ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

Far from forestalling anti-strike action by Congress, these AFL and CIO moves are grist to the legislative mill. They serve to create an atmosphere in which it appears that any union which strikes for its demands is a "saboteur" or "communist-led." The simple fact that no union conducts a strike unless it has absolutely no other alternative, is being buried under these whining statements from AFL and CIO leaders.

With the trade union leaders thus retreating, it is to be feared that anti-strike legislation by Congress is a foregone conclusion.

It is one thing to pass such legislation. It is something else, however, to enforce it! That's what happened in 1918. The National War Labor Board was set up by law, because the boards which preceded it weren't able to stop the strikes. But neither did that "super-board" succeed.

The inexhaustible vitality of the organized workers breaks through, in spite of the strangling machinery created by the government and the bosses with the connivance of the Freys and Hillmans. It happened in 1918. It will happen again now!