

Intervention of Workers Needed To Save Auto Union

Stalinists Move To Smash United Auto Workers; Martin Made It Possible

(Continued from Page 1) is the Ford drive, Martin charges the Stalinist-dominated Executive Board with squandering tens of thousands of dollars in a drive that produced little or no results. The charge is true. The drive was characterized mainly by the incompetence, ineptness and total lack of program. But the Director of the Ford drive was Martin's chief henchman, then Assistant President of the U.A.W.—Richard T. Frankenstein. Frankenstein, though appointed to this post by Martin, after the August, 1937 Milwaukee convention, and remaining director for over six months, fell out with Martin and was gobbled up by the Stalinist caucus. Opportunities for the organization of the Ford workers were simply squandered. "Conspiracy with Ford" Now the Board turns around and hurls at Martin the accusation of "conspiracy with the Ford Motor Co. through its agents, Harry Bennett and John Gillespie. . . ." The entire course of the negotiations between Martin and Bennett is still obscure, for they have been conducted behind a brick wall of secrecy. Then Ford's company union, the Liberty Legion, is dissolved at the hottest point of the faction fight, giving the unavoidable impression assiduously fostered by the Stalinists that Henry Ford was consciously throwing his weight behind the Martin forces in the union struggle. Bennett publishes a statement correcting the Liberty Legion attorney Culler: it was not he (Culler) who suggested dissolving the Legion but Martin. Stalinists For Ford Deal Yet only a few days earlier, on January 19, with the stink not quite so strong, but still pretty bad, the Stalinized Board had put its seal of approval on Martin's negotiations with the Ford Motor Co. What they are really complaining about is not the character and content of the negotiations but the person who is doing the negotiating. Then comes the charge that Martin worked in "collusion with representatives of the employer. . . concealing the negotiations to the great detriment of the membership. . . ." Stalinist "Democracy" What hypocrisy it is for the Executive Board to be the accuser! Did not Hall and Mortimer sign a supplementary agreement with General Motors in the Spring of 1937 without consulting the G.M. workers? Did not the entire Executive Board, every last man, sign the letter to General Motors giving the corporation power to discipline union militants? And didn't they unanimously send it to G.M. a second time after it had been unanimously rejected by a conference of G.M. workers? R. J. Thomas' first statement on assuming the Board presidency was, not that they were going to fight the corporations for better conditions, but that their policy "will be that of responsible union organization." Martin makes those statements every day, and twice on Sunday. Martin accuses the Board of installing a C.I.O. dictatorship. The Board answers with the charge that Martin deprives local unions of their autonomy. The entire Board with probably one exception voted for Martin's proposal to ban all autonomous local union newspapers about fifteen months ago. Martin's former colleagues, Pieper, Madden, et al., of the Board majority, were part of the Board dictatorships over the Flint, Pontiac and other U.A.W. locals. These are the main points of controversy. The other charges,

about wasting the union's money by interminable Board meetings, exorbitant expense accounts, and inefficient, useless organizers (somebody's friend), are actually charges against the leadership as a whole. How Save the Union The main question now is: what shall be done to save the union which is being pushed headlong into a split? The plain sentiment of the majority of the U.A.W. members is a growing disgust with the present fight. Everywhere you hear the expression "a plague on both their houses." It would be fatal if this sentiment crystallized, as it will may, into simple anti-unionism. The rank and file has its own fight to fight. And that fight is against the corporations. The tens of thousands of unemployed auto workers facing a permanent layoff are not interested in fighting to preserve the job of this or that Board member. They want to fight to return to their jobs with General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, or other parts plants. The 20,000 W.P.A. workers in Detroit facing dismissal and starvation are interested in a different kind of fight than the one between the Board and Martin. They want action against the companies, not fratricidal warfare between union men. Revolt Against C.P. The revolt against the Stalinist clique is already appearing and gathering strength and scope. The uprising against Stalinist leadership in the Plymouth local, formerly sold behind the Lamotte leadership, is a significant straw in the wind. Unfortunately, much of this opposition has been misdirected by reactionaries and red-baiters. Pat McCartney, a witness before the Dies Committee against the "Reds," seized the helm of this insurgent movement at Plymouth. The Martin caucus is allowing red-baiting to be used as one of its weapons. Its program talks about "American Unionism." It is against "communism and all other isms." In yielding to this hysteria, it is not fighting progressive wrecking activities of the Communist party, but following in the footsteps of Bill Green and John Frey. The bureaucratic rule-or-ruin policies of the Stalinists are directly responsible for this red-baiting and the support it is getting. Up to now the workers have mistakenly identified the yellow Communist party with radicalism and militant unionism. The result is that the Communist party has discredited the name of radicalism in the eyes of thousands. It has conducted its own red scares—and is still carrying them on—branding every worker who disagrees with them a "Trotskyist" or a "fascist" or both. The solutions offered by the contending factions will lead only to a calamity for the union. The calling of two conventions must not put the touch of finality on the present split. It would carry the war from the Executive Board into the locals and then into the plants. Then the corporations will clean up on both sides. The rank and file must act at once if the union is to be saved from the wreckers and the wreckage. While preparing its forces for the Detroit convention and rejecting the Stalinist stooge gathering in Cleveland, it must act independently, and not as a mere servant of Martin. It must constitute itself as an independent force that favors one convention and one union. It must stand four-square on a program of fighting for the interests of the workers, employed and unemployed, against the corporations. Only such a movement can bring order and militancy out of chaos

and reaction. Watch the Phoney! Above all, the workers must not be misled by false messiahs. Already Walter Reuther is rumored to be talking about some kind of "third group." But this "third group" can only be His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, created to divert resentment against both groups and gain new prestige for himself. Just another edition of the "peace group" that Reuther founded in the last episode of the faction fight, and which soon disappeared into the Stalinist caucus. There is little time left, but there is time enough to save the union. Bold aggressive action, based on a fighting program and an independent tendency is the only hope for the salvation of the United Automobile Workers.

MICH. TEAMSTERS BATTLING COURTS, COPS AND SCABS

(Continued from Page 1) that time, in jockeying to make their position look plausible, the skates have dissolved Local 51, and presented "Local 35" as the contestant in court. Militant Struggle In this battle Detroit is witnessing a demonstration of labor militancy reminiscent of the great sit-down wave in early 1937. Most of the breweries, which include Stroh, Pfeiffer, Tivoli, Schmidt, Detroit and Ekhardt & Becker, have even given up the idea of running their trucks. Few if any of the trucks get through the picket lines without falling on their hinges, a window going to pieces, or a scab acquiring an education in unionism. Cruising cars enlighten those who manage to run the gauntlet of pickets. One such truck, protected by police scout cars, was followed by union cruising cars on its tour of ingber deliveries. The scab would enter a store or a beer garden to make a delivery, followed by the cops and the union men. The union men would remonstrate loudly with the proprietor not to deal with the scab. The proprietor would refuse to take the beer. The scab would get back in his truck, the cops in their scout cars, and the union men following closely behind. This happened several times until the fine gave it up as a bad job. No hits, no runs, no errors. Police have been usually vicious, swinging their nightsticks freely and making dozens of arrests. Police Superintendent Frahm, who put the cops on 12-hour emergency duty for the duration of the strike, made a typically "impartial" statement, telling the police not to take sides but "merely to assist the brewers in moving their material."

Mayor, Governor Bluster Despite the viciousness of the cops, the militancy and effectiveness of the tie-up has this open-shop city officialdom at its wits end. Even Mayor Reading, who blusters his dislike of unions and strikes, was forced to back down in the public press, from some wild-eyed threats he made a few days ago. The threat of a general strike sent Governor Fitzgerald scurrying down from Lansing. His introduction to Detroit unionists was backed by the threat of Order in Mass, Chairman of the State Liquor Commission to revoke special licenses required by law for beer drivers. De Mass threatened: "Behave or you will never again drive a beer truck in the state." This blustering and threatening is being met by cool-headed preparations on the part of the teamsters union for any eventuality. J. M. O'Laughlin, Chairman of the Michigan Teamsters Council, following a meeting of teamsters stewards, announced a general strike if the issue was not settled rapidly. A.F. of L. engineers in breweries are discussing plans to walk out if a general strike is called. Waiters, waitresses and bartenders will refuse to serve the scab beer. The teamsters union has also appealed for support to U.A.W. members, whom they have rendered valuable assistance in the past.

OMAHA STRIKERS STAND FIRM AS BOSSES WEAKEN

Strike Going Strong After Nineteen Weeks OMAHA, Nebr.—When an irresistible union meets an "immovable" boss group, then either the boss group moves, or goes broke. That's the way the cards lay on the table in the epic twentyweek battle between the Omaha General Drivers Union 554 (irresistible!) and the Omaha Business Men's Association. Union Stands Solid Nebraska's labor-hating boss tradition received a hammer-blow on January 19th when Omaha was treated to the spectacle of an entire union, meeting in session with the Area Negotiating Committee after nineteen weeks of every kind of strike-breaking tactics known to Nebraska, standing as solid as a rock for its original demands without a dissenting vote. In fact, Area Negotiating Committee Secretary Farrell Dobbs argued for an hour and ten minutes with the militant strikers to get acceptance of a concession on "peddling time" to Kansas, which will aid in the organization of drivers' unions in the South-west. Majority of Bosses Sign Up At the present time, the non-union boss operators must face the fact that they no longer represent a majority of their own industry. The truth is that within the Omaha region, trucking employers representing 68 per cent of the over-the-road motor freight industry have signed up and are now operating in Omaha! The Big Money behind these obstinate boss hold-outs now is forced to understand the ridiculousness of any further claims to represent the interests of trucking in Omaha. Inspires Labor Movement The significance of this strike would be difficult to overestimate. It opens up another inland empire to the entering wedge of militant union organization. That this significance is realized by unions throughout the entire eleven-state area is proved by the cash-on-the-line contributions as well as fraternal greetings to the besieged strikers which are pouring in. Locally, a covert but growing atmosphere of resurgence hope now permeates the entire labor movement of the Middle West. Men who have been beaten down for years by a tradition of strike-smashing now exceed anywhere in this country, now look with hopeful eyes at the amazing impact of the militant drivers upon this "impregnable" scab center of Nebraska. Evidence is accumulating to show that even the big banks of Omaha are getting jittery about the financial losses which are eating into the credit of their investors.

TEXILE WORKERS WIN CONCESSIONS

T.W.O.C. Hits Fake Union at Peabody Bleachery (Special to Socialist Appeal) PEABODY, Mass.—Local 74, affiliated with the Textile Workers Organizing Committee, C.I.O., last week scored a decisive victory at the Danvers Bleachery, employing 1,000 workers. After a three-day strike, which began as a protest against the discriminatory discharge of 35 T.W.O.C. militants in violation of existing seniority rights, and which succeeded in closing down the plant, the company was forced to meet the demands of the union. Working with T.W.O.C. field organizers, a mass picket line was organized by the North Shore Industrial Council, a delegate body of 14 local C.I.O. unions. The alertness and solidarity of the line smashed a back-to-work movement headed by Ferdinand (Bosses' stooge) Levesque, leader of a company union which had been bucking bona-fide unionism in the plant for some time. Majority Signs Up Before the strike, Albert A. Tanguay, President and Business Agent of Local 74, had signed up 200 workers, despite Levesque and his followers. At the conclusion of the strike, Tanguay announced that a solid majority of the Bleachery workers had signed T.W.O.C. cards. The bosses were forced to sign the following memorandum: 1. Immediate re-employment of 35 men who had been fired. 2. Restoration of all seniority rights; 3. Recognition of T.W.O.C. Local 74 as sole bargaining agent until labor board elections.

Crucial Period Ahead Despite the disheartening experiences of the Bleachery workers when Gorman headed an A. F. L. union in this area, the unity of action in this strike provides a fertile ground for reconstructing a new fighting textile union. Local 74 faces a crucial period of activity. It must deliver a crushing defeat to Levesque's outfit in the labor board elections. With a strong contract embodying the restoration of a 10% wage cut, seniority, and other demands as a further goal, and with an extensive educational program for the Bleachery workers, Local 74 will become a strongly entrenched unit of the T.W.O.C.

Strike Paper Hits Hard One of the hard-hitting instruments in the loss of good will to the hostile banks as well as the bosses, is the strike paper. The weekly strike extra has gone through five weekly issues to the tune of a 50,000 distribution; it sells itself at a nickle a copy in the immediate locality. At the annual election of the Omaha Central Labor Union held on Friday, July 20, Malcolm Love of the Drivers Local 554 executive board was elected to the C.L.U. Executive Committee under the post of Sergeant-at-Arms. The C.L.U. is unequivocally on record in support of the militant drivers.

Will Last Until Won Almost for the first week since the strike began on September 9, there were no arrests this week. Practically every member of the union has been arrested or threatened with arrest since September. To quote Farrell Dobbs in the speech which gave the facts of the strike to the Central Labor Union of Omaha, "the strikers almost met themselves coming back into jail while they were on their way out." This is the status of the Omaha strike on the eve of a new session of negotiations between the Omaha bosses and the Area Negotiating Committee. Whether the victory comes this week, or after nineteen more, this tradition-smashing strike of Omaha Drivers Union 554 will go on until it is won.

JAMES TOUR CONTINUES WITH STRIKING SUCCESS

BOSTON, Mass.—C. L. R. James addressed four meetings in Massachusetts last week. His lectures at Roxbury, Lynn and Harvard University, evoked the comment: "Now we understand as never before the basis of the war crisis and the role of the British Empire." Speaking for the Barbados Union in Boston, James reviewed the high points in the Negro struggle for liberation during the past 150 years. From beginning to end, he held the rapt attention of the audience. Editors of the "Boston Chronicle" and the "Boston Guardian," who helped promote the meeting, were in the audience. Reports of James meetings have also come to the Socialist Appeal from Youngstown, Ohio, and Rochester, New York. The correspondents in both cases report successes previously unexperienced in their cities. Invariably, they, add the hope that James will again lecture for them.

PAINTERS REJECT WEINSTOCK PLAN ON MAINTENANCE

See Blow to Union in Union Chief's Proposition NEW YORK—Last week marked another smashing defeat for the Stalinist machine in control of District Council No. 9 of the Painters Brotherhood. By a vote of 2102 against 1489, the membership voted down the proposal of the administration for the establishment of a "maintenance department" at lower scales of pay and with no limit to hours. Following the defeat of the Stalinist-sponsored \$5 tax several months ago, this action indicates that the Weinstock machine is definitely on the downgrade. Organization of the unorganized is an objective that every progressive naturally favors. But the Stalinist plan called for as much as a 48 hour week and as little as a \$20 rate of pay, as against the 35 hour week at \$52.50 called for by the present contract. Undoubtedly, in order to organize unorganized painters, concessions to make organization possible and a special organization structure would have to be established. But the Stalinists' plan would have brought results disastrous for the already organized painters. What attraction would unionization then have for the unorganized maintenance men? Ignored Union Needs Weinstock and his clique, opposition leaders contended, were interested mainly in getting a new base for their rule-or-ruin policy by an influx of new members into the union. To obtain such an influx, they rigged up this maintenance scheme without any regard as to how it would affect union conditions. As a matter of fact, the present agreement of the union, establishing the 35 hour week and the \$1050 day after years of struggle, includes a clause to the effect that: "No more favorable conditions shall be granted to other employers than are provided for in this trade agreement." By establishing a "maintenance department" with agreements calling for lower conditions of work, the Stalinist-Weinstock administration of the union would have left the door open for immediate reductions in wages and increases in hours by the Master Painters Association, on the charge of a violation of contract. Opposition leaders, organized into the Inter-Local Conference of Progressive Groups, warned against this danger. Instead of explaining to the membership how they would get around this clause, the Stalinists merely replied with slanders. Concealed from Members To make matters worse, Weinstock concealed from the membership the fact that the Painters Association had warned the union by letter that they would "reserve the right to employ members of the Brotherhood on the same basis as provided in the maintenance plan, if and when District Council 9 approves this plan." Three meetings of the Council were held after receipt of this letter on January 10. Not once did Weinstock or the other Stalinist stooges breathe a word about this impending threat to union conditions. They went about their business of campaigning for the "maintenance plan" with a cold-blooded disregard of the consequences for the rank and file which elected them. Only after opposition leaders had ferreted out the contents of the letter was Weinstock forced to admit receiving it. Membership Acts The indignation of the membership was expressed in the vote on the referendum. Eight out of the eleven locals affiliated with the council voted down the plan outright. 2102 out of 3591 painters voted against the Stalinist "maintenance" plan, nearly two-thirds of the painters voting! Such a defeat must be well deserved. Now, it is up to the progressives to clinch up on the obvious rebellion of the membership with a clear-cut, militant and positive program of action, that will turn the painters' disgust with the Stalinists into trust in their own future.

SPANISH FIESTA

Spanish Folk Songs and Dances. Genuine Artists! Refreshments! Hot Tamales! Music and Dancing. An extraordinary, exotic and exciting evening is promised! PLACE: Upper West Side Branch Headquarters, 916 9th Ave. (Cor. 59th St.). TIME: Saturday, January 28th. BENEFIT: Latin-American Class War Prisoners. Adm. 30 cents.

SOMETHING NEW FOR APPEAL AGENTS! Newboy Aprons! Made from tough, brown canvas! Neatly lettered, heavily stitched, pouch for holding change, section for holding papers comfortably. ORDER NOW! ONLY 50 cents

APPEAL ARMY

The Appeal Poster Shop is always at your service for mass production of posters, emblems, streamers, etc. Write to the manager of the Appeal for full information. Be sure to describe in detail what you want produced. ON BUNDLE ORDER PAYMENTS: Because of the fact that some branches have permitted the campaign for the 2-a-Week Fund to interfere with their regular payments to the Appeal we've run into some difficulty these past few weeks. Each branch now has its monthly financial statement in its hands. We must have prompt response to this! Don't permit yourself to fall behind on those regular payments. On the contrary, every branch should aim at starting off the 2-a-Week paper on a clean footing, with nothing owing to the Appeal. "We are covering all meetings and forums now, though our total sale in this method so far has only increased slightly. We expect to sell more tonight. As this is our first attempt in this direction, we feel we are doing well."—M. Gandelman, literature-director of New Haven. "We are having a neighborhood sale this week which is the reason for the large bundle-order. Hope to be able to send you the results in a few days (cash!). We are also running an affair to pay off some of the back literature bills."—Carl Hartman, literature-agent of Philadelphia. TIME TO SEND IN EXTRA ORDERS: The 2-a-Week Fund Drive will close officially in another week. Then the time will be at hand for actually launching the semi-weekly Appeal with its host of new and fascinating features. In other words, it's high time for the branches to send in their increased bundle-orders! Many have done so already. By now each and every branch should have made full preparations for distribution. We are printing Karl Shier's excellent and valuable article this week containing good, solid advice on how to organize a professional salesman's squad. In New York City the building of a local circulation department, under the complete charge of Abe Miller who intends to make it a full time job shortly, and the recruiting of people to serve as salesmen is proceeding rapidly. Party mobilization for mass sales on the streets could, however, be a lot more successful.

Subscription Drive for 1,000 New Subscribers. Table listing cities and subscriber counts: NEW YORK CITY (11), Massachusetts (6), St. Paul (5), Maplewood, Mo. (5), Chicago (5), Texas (3), California (3), Illinois (2), Cleveland (2), North Dakota (2), Nebraska (1), Pennsylvania (1). Total (44).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: (1) Order your Appeal newboy aprons now. We promise that you'll like them—they're comfortable, keep both hands free, prevent your clothes from getting dirty—and damn attractive, too! (2) Bound volumes—1937 and 1938. Both now ready for immediate shipment. Don't forget we're offering handsome commissions on sales of three (3) volumes or more. (3) Send in payments on your Appeal account—NOW! (4) The 2-a-Week paper is almost here. Increase your branch bundle-order—also NOW.

Let's Have "Appeal Minute Men" Says Chicago Agent

Chicago organization in adjusting themselves to efficiently distribute the semi-weekly are: First, the organization must establish a group of activists who will be known as the Appeal Minute Men. Their tasks will be to come to the center when the Appeal arrives, to cover the newstands in the loop, West, South and North sides of the city, to cover the Garment Center (Market Street) at noon, and to be ready on a day's notice for covering big meetings, forums, trade union mass meetings, etc. The Appeal Minute Men will be an honorary society, only real activists will be allowed to participate. The Minute Men will meet every two weeks to discuss ways and means for increasing the circulation in Chicago. The branches and units will have the following tasks: covering the neighborhood with street sales, trade unions, etc., and checking the sub list for expired subs. The sub drive in Chicago will begin February 10th. The campaign will get off to a head-start with the lectures of C. L. R. James in Chicago. Every mass meeting in Chicago will be given over to a short speech about the Appeal and a plea for subscriptions. Our comrades will be constantly reminded that the revolutionary press lives on its bundle order, and on its subscriptions. If the national subscription drive gives Chicago the quota of obtaining 500 new subscribers the Chicago membership must go out and get 500 new readers. To just sit back and say it's swell to have a twice-weekly will not work. Every comrade must go out the day the twice-weekly appears with the perspective of gaining five new readers for our press. FORWARD TO A DAILY SOCIALIST APPEAL!

ANNOUNCEMENTS NEW YORK FOR SOME RARE entertainment, come to the VALENTINE PARTY, Sunday, February 12, Irving Plaza, Irving Pl. and 15th St. An all-american program, with FELIX MORROW as a Singing Waiter, and other features. If you have any talent you want to display get in touch with your branch social committee representative. Subscription 49c. Get your tickets at your branch meeting. Bring All Your Friends. Adm. 50c. Lower East Side Branch. Old-Fashioned Housewarming VISIT THE NEW "proletarian" headquarters of the Lower East Side. Swing music over our sound system! Puppet show! Food! Games! Square dances! Saturday, February 4, 1939, at 3:30 P.M. Admission 20c. Lower East Side Branch. PHILADELPHIA LENIN, LIEBKNECHT, Luxemburg Memorial Meeting, Friday, February 3rd, at Brith Achtm Hall, 11th & Spruce Sts. 8:30 P.M. Nationally Known Speakers. Showing of Film: S.S. POTECHKIN. University Luncheonette 100A UNIVERSITY PLACE near 12th St.—right near headquarters Best Food at Best Prices! Special 25c Lunch! Soup, any 10c Sandwich, Coffee, Tea or Milk with Cake or Pie.

15 CONVICTED IN "LUBIN CASE"

NEW YORK—Fifteen young unemployed workers were convicted of disorderly conduct this week in Brooklyn Magistrates Court because they demanded that Willy Lubin, a starving and homeless youth, be allowed to ask for home relief. Sentence will be set on Feb. 3. All fifteen were arrested last September when an unemployed union delegation went into the Williamsburg home relief bureau with Lubin and asked that the bureau officials listen to Lubin's story. For months before, Lubin had been given the run-around by bureau officials who refused to listen to his case. Several weeks ago Lubin, Ben Herman, and Enrico Torlone, three of those convicted of disorderly conduct, were convicted of assault charges resulting from the same incident. They have been sentenced to three years in prison, and are now out on parole. The relief officials replied to the union delegation by calling the cops who in turn slugged the unemployed and threw them in jail. In Magistrates Court the judge told the trial in his private cham-

HONOR THEIR MEMORY! Lenin, Liebknecht Luxemburg Rally Against Boss War! Songs, induction of new members, dramatic presentation. Speaker: NATHAN GOULD FRI. EVE, JAN. 27—8:00 P.M. WEBSTER MANOR 11th St., nr. 4th Ave. Adm. 15c

John Dewey Labor Research Fund Benefit Performance "WHAT A LIFE!" "Everyone interested in education should see this play."—John Dewey MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1939 Tickets \$3.50, \$2.20, \$1.65, \$1.10 and 50c JOHN DEWEY LABOR RESEARCH FUND 22 E. 17th St., N. Y. C.