

Split In Auto Workers Union Deepens

MARTIN LEAVES C.I.O. AS UNION CRISIS SHARPENS

(Continued from Page 1) body of the advanced and progressive industrial unionists who are at present organized in the ranks of the C.I.O.

Thousands Provoked Badgered by the Stalinists and their slander campaign for more than a year, and sickened by the brazenly bureaucratic measures of the C.P.-Lewis combination in depriving the union the autonomy which the membership laid great store by, thousands of the best rank-and-file members of the Auto Workers Union were driven to react to such extremes as made plausible to many of them the turn that Martin has taken away from the C.I.O.

As a logical consequence of this turn, moreover, many outright reactionary elements, who have nothing in common with a progressive fight against the Lewis-Stalinist machine, have attached themselves to the Martin group and have, indeed, in many cases succeeded in becoming its spokesmen and guides.

How erroneous was Martin's decision to give up the C.I.O. movement without a fight, by mistakenly considering Lewis, Browder and Co. to be identical with the masses of the C.I.O. members who have no use for the Stalinist wreckers, is demonstrated further by the fact that the C. P. stooges in the Auto Workers Union are now gleefully exerting every effort to turn the attention of the membership away from their own inglorious record and directing it instead to Martin's ill-considered and dangerous move.

By making this the sole and exclusive question of the day in the Union, the Stalinists hope to escape the criticism and attacks which thousands of progressive elements in the Auto Workers, who are not mere agents of Martin, expect to deliver against the C. P. wreckers at the Cleveland convention which the Executive Board members have called for March 27.

Rank and File Action That the Stalinist gang will be far from successful in this cunning maneuver to save its hide, is indicated by reports of rank-and-file action which are coming in from all parts of the country.

Very significant in this report is the action reported by the Union Council representing the Auto Workers Union in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. While it decided to send delegates to the Cleveland convention called by the C. P.-Lewis combination, on the grounds that it would not go along with any course that led away from the C.I.O., the Council nevertheless indicated its firm views against the Stalinists by congratulating Homer Martin for his fight against these elements.

Other local bodies of the Union, in all parts of the country, which previously have taken the side of the progressive forces who were resisting Stalinist corrosion of the organization, are taking a similar position, voting to attend the Cleveland convention.

It is yet too early to establish definitely how accurate are the claims made by the two factions as to the percentage of the membership that each represents. Both sides are, of course, voluble in their public estimates, but it is considered that the intervening weeks, to say nothing of the weeks to follow both conventions, may bring forth events and issues that will produce many shifts in the relationship of forces.

Progressives Mobilize In any case, there is a growing sentiment among the most progressive forces that it is necessary, above all in the present critical situation faced by the union, to weld together all those elements who refuse to act as mere voting cattle for either of the two factions.

These progressives, on the basis of a clearly-defined and independent program of action for restoring the fighting unity of the Auto Workers, will go down the line against both the Stalinist wreckers and anybody who seeks to draw the membership away from the main industrial union movement today.

All the experience of the auto workers with the A. F. of L. regime in the past has only served to emphasize to them that the C.I.O., despite its disqualified leadership, is that movement.

These progressives do not intend to allow the latest Stalinist campaign of demagoguery against Martin to silence them in their fight against the C. P. gang at the Cleveland convention.

Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party Drops Independent Action in Move to Right

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 28.—The state convention of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association, January 27 and 28, spent most of its time on issues growing out of the activities of the Communist Party in the Farmer-Labor movement.

A strong movement by honest rank-and-file delegates who wanted to get rid of the Stalinist wrecking crew was seized by politicians who had their own reasons for wanting to put the Stalinists into the background (but not necessarily out of the party).

More Conservative Program The result was a step backward to a more conservative program, some improvement in organizational machinery, and a "purge" of Stalinists for publicity purposes only. A dozen insignificant figures were unseated as delegates, and the real problem of Stalinist activity in the Farmer-Labor movement was not solved. Even the unseated delegates continued to sit in the convention and vote.

The Farmer-Labor convention ten months before had ignored the Stalinist issue, but that was just before an election. It would have been had publicity to face the turmoil in the movement. At this convention, after a defeat, there was nothing to lose, no patronage machine to hold the delegates in check, and the politicians needed a goat. The Farmer-Labor members were aroused at the work of Stalinist fractions in the ward clubs, and at the hordes of delegates from non-existent paper organizations which swung control for the Stalinists in county and district organizations.

The more conservative political leaders had no quarrel with the New Deal program of the Stalinists, had worked with them during the past year, and "if they'd stay in the background they'd be all right. But we've got to change our window dressing." With these leaders in control the Stalinists were fought only with organizational maneuvers, and not with a political program.

Constitution Revamped Besides the credentials report which unseated the handful of delegates the main business of the convention was a revamping of the constitution of the Association. Previously the Association had been a federation of Farmer-

Labor clubs and "all organizations" accepting the program. Trade unions affiliated under this clause, and after the C. P. changed its line, a host of workers' orders, culture clubs, literary societies and paper locals of the Workers' Alliance also came in. The new constitution restricts membership to Farmer-Labor clubs and "chartered trade unions."

Amendments proposed by the Stalinists to include unemployed organizations and ladies' auxiliary were defeated by large votes.

This change, to eliminate the plague of paper organizations was much needed and by and large an important step forward. Other amendments were decided steps backward.

The constitution committee removed "independent political action" from the purpose of the Association. The purpose was, "to unite the members of all farmer, labor and other kindred organizations, and unorganized elements which support independent political action by economic groups, into a political association."

The committee draft read, "to form a political association to carry on an extensive program of education and organization incidental to participation in the political campaigns of the Farmer-Labor movement." By amendment from the floor this dishwasher was diluted even further by striking out the word "political" and substituting "educational."

Communists "Barred" The other important change in the constitution barred communists, with a rule. There had been a rule against them in the constitution since 1924, and it had not worked, so the convention leaders decided to have another rule. The old constitution barred any person advocating change "by means" of revolution. The Minnesota Stalinists either deny membership in the party or say (truly) that it does not advocate revolution.

The new constitution reads, "Provided, however, that no person who is a supporter of any other political party than the Farmer-Labor Party shall be admitted to membership. No adherence of communism, fascism or Nazism may be a member of, or

hold any position in connection with the activities of the Association of the Party."

The provision is in harmony with the dropping of independent political action. It will have no more effect against the Stalinists than the old rule did, it will be used against real left wingers in the working class movement, and its purpose is to substitute publicity gesture for a real break with the Stalinists.

A real break with the Stalinists would require a break with their program, a break with the New Deal and political trading, and that is just what the F.-L. politicians don't want. To pacify the membership and change the window dressing they put in a new wording for the old rule and call it a purge.

Swing Back to Old Parties The Stalinist program of liquidating the Farmer-Labor movement into the old capitalist parties was put in a nutshell by the "Daily Record" distributed at the convention: "Convention to rally progressives for New Deal." In contrast the "Minnesota Appeal" issued and distributed at the convention by the Minnesota Section of the Socialist Workers Party pointed out that the New Deal was dragging the Farmer-Labor Party to defeat, and proposed a concrete working class program for the Association. It also pointed out the futility of trying to expel the Stalinists, and added: "Now here is the irony of this tea-pot tempest: The Johnson-Lommon group who are trying to throw out the Stalinists, propose a program identical with that of the Stalinists! They both want the party to stay conservative. They want even closer unholy wedlock with the New Deal. They want to gag the trade unions."

"What we suggest is: REPUDIATE THIS TEA-POT TEMPEST! FIGHT FOR MILITANT REVIVAL OF PRINCIPLES!" Since the convention took the conservative line the problem will remain for solution. If the ban on paper organizations is really carried out it will improve the changes of working for a working-class program in the Minnesota F.L.P. That is the one convention action that did not completely duck the central issue.

Chicago and Flint Hear C. L. R. James CHICAGO—Over three hundred workers gathered to hear the lecture on the "Twilight of the British Empire" given by C. L. R. James, on Friday, January 27th, at the Capitol Building. The meeting opened with a five-minute speech by Brother Henry Weinberg, a representative of the Chicago Newspaper Guild which is now engaged in strike against the Hearst papers. He called for the support of the strike by all present, asking for a boycott of the Hearst newspapers and advertisers. Many copies of the strike bulletin and strike buttons were sold. James spoke for almost an hour and a half, tracing the rise of the British Empire, the effect of the world crisis upon British economy and the weakening of British imperialism. The crowd remained for more than an hour afterward to ask questions and listen to the splendid and concise answers given by the speaker.

FLINT, Mich.—C. L. R. James, noted English author and lecturer, spoke before the first open meeting of the Flint branch of the Socialist Workers Party, Tuesday, Jan. 24, to inaugurate in an auspicious manner the party's activity in this city.

Speaking on the topic "The Twilight of the British Empire" before an audience of over 60 workers, James traced the history of domination and oppression of the British Empire, and the spirit of revolt that has prevailed in the colonies. The meeting was presided over by Genora Johnson, active militant in the auto strikes, who recently broke with the Socialist party to join the S.W.P.

NEW DEALER GETS JOB: A.L.P. IS REWARDED ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Former Congressman George B. Kelly, the ardent New Dealer and candidate of the American Labor Party, has recently been rewarded by the "good" citizens of this city with a lame duck appointment as Regional Director of the Wages-Hours Act. Mr. Kelly, from his East Boulevard Apts., expressed himself pleased with the \$5,600 job and assured the local Chamber of Commerce that he would make every effort to be "fair to the employers as well as the employees."

Chicago Primary Candidates Avoid Main Issues

By ALBERT GATES CHICAGO, Ill.—Another primary contest to select mayoralty candidates representing the two major parties is under way here.

The democratic nomination is being contested by Mayor Edward J. Kelly, co-leader of the Cook County machine, and Thomas J. Courtney, present state's attorney, erstwhile aid of the Horner downstate machine, and the darling of the Chicago "Daily News" and the "better" business elements.

The "regular" candidate for the Republican nomination is Dwight Green, young, vigorous, and the "Young Republicans" man. Big Bill Thompson, denied the "regular" nomination, is running as an independent. He has his own machine, so many times routed but never destroyed.

"Draft Ickes" Campaign A "draft Ickes" campaign threatened for a time to complicate the primaries. Chicago's perennial political reformers, Professors Merriam and Paul Douglas, began the Ickes boom in much the manner of the first LaGuardia fusion campaign. They rallied all the Chicago liberals and their movement grew daily.

The Stalinists and their mouthpiece, the Chicago "Daily Record" (pronounced "Wrecker" in many places), became at once the most active drafters. The paper carried daily dispatches from Washington on the latest doings of Honest Harold, as true a liberal as ever graced God's country, and certainly the equal of LaGuardia.

But—Ickes refused to run. Roosevelt demanded his presence in Washington; he could not be spared in this critical period for the Roosevelt administration.

What About Programs? Programs are of little importance in the race. Kelly speaks of increasing government costs, and praises his administration for keeping such costs to a minimum. Efficiency, honesty, and above all return "services"—an economy candidate.

Courtney is for low-cost city government. A crusader against the gangster and the gambler, he has been hacking away at gambling joints for almost a year. As state's attorney, he already has a powerful machine behind him. Unfortunately for him, however, his downstate allies and his Cook County friends cannot help in this local election. Governor Horner, head of the state machine, is conveniently ill, and has been silent about the primaries. And Court-

gress from voting on entering a foreign war. But his main trouble is that he cannot be heard. The press is deliberately silent on the doings of Thompson. It will remain so until the campaign actually gets started, for once it begins he will be smeared as richly as he deserves.

What About Relief? None of the candidates has a statement to make on the issues that really concern the Chicago workers. Relief, W.P.A., the sales tax, the right to picket, the right to organize in unions without police interference, are not so much as mentioned by these advocates of good city government.

Kelly is head of the administration which is responsible for the Memorial Day Massacre. A local politician, with a nominal salary, he owns a \$50,000 Florida home, an Eagle River estate worth more than that, and a large Chicago home.

Courtney has with impunity raided union offices, fought the C.I.O., and was part and parcel of the local administration until he joined the Horner forces in the 1938 elections. His aide-de-camp,

Captain Jack Gilbert, of the Chicago police force, has just been indicted in the Milk Trust cases, and is a well-known labor-baiter. Big Bill's reputation is too well-known to need much comment. Corrupt to the core, he is regarded as a poor fourth in the campaign, and yet he may become the surprise candidate.

Green is typical of the resurgent Republicans. A complete reactionary—he stands for cutting relief rolls, and slicing relief.

The Stalinists have withdrawn their candidate. They are committed to supporting the Democratic party, but are writing critical editorials about Courtney. Conclusion: they will support Kelly! Did he not attempt to settle the stockyards strike peacefully? The Memorial Day massacre was the result of a little flat-foot enthusiasm for which Kelly must not be held responsible. After all, they were defending property, and the Stalinists are now firm defenders of private property.

The Chicago section of the Illinois Labor Party has not yet announced its position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK FOR SOME RARE entertainment, come to the VALENTINE PARTY, Sunday, February 12, Irving Plaza, Irving Pl. and 15th St. An all-amateur 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. 25c. Local New York.

Bronx Branch Opens Doors! CELEBRATE the opening of the new Bronx Headquarters. Plenty of entertainment. Lots of surprises and "refreshments." Stay away at your own peril. 1334 Wilkins Ave. (Freeman St. Sta.). Feb. 4, 8:30 P.M. Adm. 25c.

RUSSELL BLACKWELL, back from Spain where he was kidnapped and jailed by the secret police, will speak at a meeting called to greet his return on Friday, Feb. 10, in Stuyvesant Casino, 2nd Ave. and 9th St., at 8 P.M. Other speakers will include representatives of all the organizations who aided in his defense. Chairman: Anita Brenner. Admission: 25c. Auspices: Blackwell Defense Committee.

YOU'LL HAVE a hot time at the OLD-FASHIONED HOUSE-WARMING! The best puppet show ever—Swing music! Games! Swell food! Dancing 'til dawn! At the NEW "proletarian" headquarters of the Lower East Side Branch, 163 Norfolk Street, N. Y. C. Saturday, February 4, at 8:30 P.M. Admission—20c.

ATTRACTIVE ROOM in comrade's home: Off the foyer, comfortably furnished, 1-2 people. Reasonable. Meals optional. Apply Martin Diamond, 605 142 St. and B'way.

Last Call! APPEAL SALESMEN! \$1.00 per day minimum guaran. STARTING NEXT WEEK Pleasant Work Fine Commissions! See ABE MILLER at: Labor Book Shop 28 EAST 12th ST., N.Y.C. AT ONCE! AT ONCE!

AT YOUR SERVICE! THE APPEAL Poster Shop Made from tough, brown canvas! Neatly lettered, heavily stitched, pouch for holding change, section for holding papers comfortably. ORDER NOW! ONLY 50 cents

DETROIT'S BEER DRIVERS SPURN WAGE CUT PLAN

DETROIT—Detroit's beer drivers are continuing their militant fight against the wage-cutting scheme engineered by combination of the breweries and Brewery Workers Union officials.

By tens of thousands of leaflets and posters, the membership of Drivers Local 271 took their case to the public, primarily to the auto workers of this auto center.

"Nine hundred brewery drivers and helpers are being looked out of their jobs," the leaflet declared. "They are fighting for union principles, against a wage-cut and for union democracy. They are fighting against a gang of unscrupulous officials, who call themselves labor leaders."

"The daily press has made it appear as if this was a 'jurisdictional' war between two unions. This is false from start to finish."

Labor Skate Conspiracy The leaflet then describes in detail the conspiracy between the labor skates of the Brewery Workers Union and the breweries, whereby the charter of Local 38 of the Brewery Workers, covering the drivers, was revoked in November, 1938 and the men ordered into a previously established dual local, in order to institute wage slashes ranging from \$6 to \$18 per week. To protect their wage standards and jobs, the men unanimously voted to join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which had previously been granted jurisdiction of brewery drivers. Chartered as Drivers Local 271, the men proceeded to enforce the original contract.

In collusion with the breweries, the Brewery Union officials secured an injunction to force the men back into the phony local they had established. The judge's decision was seconded by an "arbitrator's decision" of Frank X. Martel, head of the Detroit Federation of Labor. Since then, Martel's middle name is spelled "XX"—double-cross—by the workers of Detroit.

Drivers Press Demands Even before the A.F. of L. Executive Council, meeting at Miami, repudiated Martel's verdict, the brewery drivers had already determined to press for their original demands for a union of their own choosing and the original wage contract.

A minority who obeyed Martel quickly discovered what it meant. On seeking to re-register at the Brewery Union, they were given, not union membership cards, but permit cards—a racket which pervades the Brewery Union, whereby by great number of the men in the industry have no standing in the union, neither voice nor vote, no seniority, and receive a lower wage scale than union members.

Return to Local 271 Those who went back also found themselves re-hired not as drivers but at the lower rate of helpers, the trucks being driven by scabs hired during the strike. When the minority realized what it was in for, practically all of them returned to Local 271, scores leaving their trucks standing in the streets.

The Brewery Union's labor skates still trade on the prewar reputation of the union as an industrial union with progressive policies. Actually, the present union bears no resemblance to the pre-prohibition organization. The Teamsters Union has demonstrated that it secures far superior wage scales and working conditions for drivers.

It is with extreme sorrow that we announce the passing of one of our most active and militant fighters, Comrade Sam Bauman succumbed to an operation, made necessary by tuberculosis of the kidneys, in the New York Medical Center last week. At the youthful age of 30, comrade Bauman was a veteran in the class struggle and known to hundreds of workers as a speaker and organizer. He joined our movement in 1930 and at once took up the fight of the unemployed for jobs and relief. Comrade Bauman was one of the founders of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union.

SAM BAUMAN

The red banners of the Fourth International are dipped in tribute to this fallen comrade and we pledge to carry on the fight for socialism with ever greater vigor and determination.



APPEAL ARMY

The Two-a-Week Is Here!

Beginning next Wednesday the Socialist Appeal begins its long awaited twice-a-week appearance. And we promise our readers and agents that they have an exceedingly pleasant surprise in store for them when they see the new Appeal with its galaxy of popular, exciting features.

Every branch in our party by now should have made full preparations for the handling, distribution and financing of the new Appeal. There is still time left for branches to send in increased bundle-orders on the semi-weekly paper—provided they act at once. If no word is heard we will assume that the same bundle-order as before is wanted. But we expect branches to increase. This new Appeal will sell to everyone! Literature agents must also remember that the former 1c per copy promotion price no longer exists and that every copy will cost your branch 2c.

1,000 New Subscribers Campaign Is On! Are you looking forward to the new Appeal? Then the first thing to do is to get going on our campaign for 1,000 new subscribers by April 1. Next week we publish in our column the list of new-subscriber quotas that have been assigned to the various branches. Don't forget that every new subscriber now gets twice as many papers for the same price as before. Already several branches have sent in subs which are credited to them in this campaign. Cleveland, Ohio, where John Depner and Bob Dullea handle the Appeal has led off the campaign with 3 new subscribers. Newark, N. J., is second. Who's next?

And now for the rewards in this campaign! We are going to present two sets of rewards to the two branches which, in the opinion of the Appeal staff, conduct the most successful subscription campaign. First prize will be a complete, new set of all Lenin's writings for your branch library. Second prize will be a complete set of Leon Trotsky's writings (books, pamphlets, etc.) also for your branch library.

We are sure every branch will want to possess either one of these prizes. And, incidentally, the Appeal is counting upon the success of this new subscribers campaign. With our new and attractive paper, selling at a greatly reduced price we expect a flock of subs to come pouring

in. All efforts to fulfill your quota of new subscribers!

News From Branches: San Francisco has cleared up its entire back bill and is starting off with a clean slate. We extend our best wishes to this branch for its new efforts on behalf of the Appeal and urge other branches with large back bills to act accordingly.

"If it continues really cold, I think I'll mail the papers to clubs and those who give me addresses. Our branch is starting to concentrate its efforts on some mill in Allentown. This summer (seems a long ways off!) I'm planning to cover our amusement parks on Sundays."—Ruth Querio in Allentown, Pa.

On Those Newsboy Aprons: We've been somewhat disappointed in the failure of most branches to snatch up the real bargain we are offering in the way of newsboy aprons. The Appeal has invested some money in these because we're absolutely convinced of their possibilities. Especially now when our emphasis is on mass street sales we are positive it could be of great service. Equip your entire professional squad of Appeal Minute Men with these aprons.

They were designed, printed and executed by comrade R. of our Appeal Poster Shop. Those of you acquainted with his work on Appeal posters know what fine work he does. These aprons which, incidentally, sell at practically cost price if we include postage charges, are guaranteed to last for at least one year. They are made of mighty powerful canvas and lettered in white.

This week we went a little over our quota of 50. But let's remember that that was on the old, weekly Appeal. With the semi-weekly paper our goal must be 100 subscriptions per week.

Table with 2 columns: City and Subscriptions. Total: 51

OVER WITH A BANG!

(Continued from Page 1)

The next Socialist Appeal will be dated February 8, the FIRST of the twice-a-week issues ON THE ROAD TO A DAILY. It will at the same time be the last issue in which the Score Board will appear. That means that the branches which are still behind have an opportunity to come in with 100%.

LET'S MAKE THE LAST SCORE BOARD RING WITH 100% from top to bottom! We can do it. Just one final push. How about it, New York and points West?

Frankly we are in a dilemma. Originally, we offered three banners and two autographed copies of James' books to the branches making the best showings by January 15th, considering

their numbers, locality, financial status of members, etc. But we did not anticipate that we would have eighteen branches to choose from. That makes our job a tough one. But after due consideration, we have decided to award eight banners and three books as follows:

BANNERS TO—Allentown, Boston, Detroit, Denver, East Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, St. Paul.

BOOKS FOR—Fresno, Houston and Plentywood.

Cleveland is still in the run, though their balance has not come in before the first, due to bad airmail conditions. Credit has been given to branches for individual contributions received from their respective cities.

SCORE BOARD

Table with 4 columns: City, Quota, Paid, Percent. Lists various cities and their subscription progress.