

In The TRADE UNIONS By B.J. Widick

Akron, Ohio, rubber workers have learned many valuable lessons in the course of their six years of struggle under the banner of unionism.

It is a tragedy that the magnificent history of the rubber workers should be faked to serve the ends of the Stalinist "rule-or-ruin" clique.

Fakes Stalinist Role In Union Growth

Akron union militants who spent the hardest and best years of their lives making great sacrifices to build a union movement will be aroused by McKenney's impudence in trying to fake a story of the growth of the United Rubber Workers of America which is supposed to convince the "non-believers" that the Stalinists were responsible for developing the union.

During the N.R.A. days, thousands of Akron rubber workers flocked into the A. F. of L. federal unions. The Communist party, however, spent over a year trying to build dual "Red trade unions"!

McKenney vaguely mentions that union progressives fought for industrial unionism and formed caucuses to organize a national struggle for an autonomous rubber workers' international union. She pointedly omits mentioning that this was done mainly at the Progressive Workers School.

Goodyear Strike History Distorted

Perhaps the most amazing performance McKenney gives is her writing about the Goodyear strike. Any Akron unionist will tell you that W. J. Carney, now New Jersey C.I.O. director, won his spurs in the C.I.O. movement because of his leadership of the rank and file in this historic strike.

Because she has Stalinist party orders to build up through lies the role of the Stalinists in this strike, Carney, the genuine leader of the rank and file, had the reputation of "working both with the Trotskyists and Stalinists."

But McKenney does even worse. She falls to say a word about the real leader of the Communist Party fraction in the Goodyear strike, the only real militant the Stalinists had in those days.

Nor do many independent rank-and-file leaders like E. O. Barthol, E. L. Howard, Joe Vaught, Skip O'Harrar, Carl Hooper and others who did noble work in the strike, get any serious mention in this book.

Frame-up Part Of The Stint

Naturally, a book written by a Stalinist can not contain merely distortions, omissions and lies. Since the Moscow trials, frame-ups are a necessary part of the Stalinist literary stint.

Local Offers Program to Save UAW

Ind. SWOC Pushes Organization As Governor Mediates Demands

(Special to Socialist Appeal) EAST CHICAGO, Ind.—Governor M. Clifford Townsend of Indiana has intervened in the dispute over the question of a signed contract between the Inland Lodge of the S.W.O.C. and the Inland Steel Company.

A vigorous reorganizing drive, reminiscent of the days before the Little Steel strike, has enabled the S.W.O.C. Lodge to regain the dues-paying membership it once held in the gigantic local plant of the Inland Steel Company.

However, during that crisis, the Lodge held its own despite the huge layoffs in the plant. As soon as steel production picked up and more workers were rehired, the Lodge began to regain the position it once held.

CIO-AFL Responsible For Oregon Anti-Labor Measure

Last fall the voters of Oregon went to the polls and voted for a piece of legislation which ranks second to none as an anti-labor measure. It is known as the Initiative Measure, an amendment to the Oregon Unemployment Compensation Law.

The Initiative Measure prohibits the calling of any strike not directly connected with wages, hours and working conditions. It outlaws strikes for UNION RECOGNITION. It provides that before a strike can be called "legal" it must be called by at least fifty per cent of the workers in the plant.

It prohibits "jurisdictional" disputes. It also makes it possible for an employer to form a company union out of any small group of workers who do not go out on strike with their fellows and thus turn a "legal" strike into a jurisdictional dispute.

How did it happen that the voters of Oregon allowed themselves to be duped and hoodwinked into passing such a measure? For the past four years the West Coast has been torn by the annoyance to the Stalinists that certain Akron unionists known as "Trotskyists" did their part to help win the Goodyear strike.

Yet McKenney blandly quotes Jim Keller, the Stalinist organizer, "And a Trotskyist isn't a Communist. He works for the company!" Proof? None!

The Stalinists tried, during the strike, to frame this writer on a claim that he published a leaflet attacking the strike leaders and urging rejection of the final strike settlement. Adolph Germer, of the C.I.O., and Powers Haggood, investigated this C.P. claim, and found it to be a frame-up. There never was any such mimeographed leaflet.

And during the entire election period, that A.F.L.-C.I.O. fight waged unabated. In Washington and in California where like measures were introduced the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. joined forces and defeated them decisively.

McKenney worked together with this writer for nearly three years in the Akron Newspaper Guild. We were members of the same progressive caucus. She supported my candidacy for vice-president of the Guild, a post to which I was elected. Later, I became chairman of the Ohio District council of the A.N.G. and in 1936 at the U.R.W.A. convention, even the C.P. voted approval of the writer's work.

McKenney through her personal experience knows better than to believe the slanders she prints. Yet, once you join the party of lies, you must live a life of lies and tell lies. That is the tragedy of Ruth McKenney. It should serve as a warning to Akron workers.

successful that it far exceeded the fondest expectations of even the most optimistic S.W.O.C. official. As the union now represents the overwhelming majority of all eligible workers in the plant, it has demanded that the company negotiate and sign a contract as it has been twice ordered to do by the N.L.R.B. This the bosses refused to do, arguing that since they are appealing the order of the Labor Board to the higher courts, they do not have to negotiate with the union.

The Governor's offer of arbitration should be watched warily by all union militants. They should remember the activities in the past of other "friends of labor" such as Governors Davey and Earle who smashed the last Little Steel strike in the Summer of 1937. They should also look with suspicion at the activities of Governor Townsend who is booming the campaign of Paul V. McNutt for President in 1940.

Wary of Governor's Offer

"Local 88 owes no debt to any individual or group within the International Union. We have kept our own door step clean, and we deserve the right to take our place of leadership in helping to clean the doorstep of our International Union."

"In order to make our voice heard we recommend the following action: That a committee of three be elected by the Executive Board. This committee to meet with such committees of other locals in the city and state who are interested in such a program as we have outlined briefly. That we instruct our committee to arrange, with other local committees, a rank and file conference to discuss more fully a program and resolutions to be presented and carried out at the coming convention."

C.P. DISRUPTION IS EXCUSE TO HIT PROGRESSIVES

(Continued from Page 1) C.T.L.C. is reactionary. To the bureaucrats of the A.F.L. the cry of Red and Communist is a clever device to smear and squelch any progressive tendency in their ranks. Even in this case, where they know that the Union leaders are C.P.ers (and therefore not Reds or Communists), they still resort to this action to stifle groups annoying them and to serve notice on real progressives that the bureaucrats of the Central Trades still have that organization firmly under control.

However, this does not give the whole story. There are other unions in the C.T.L.C. which the bureaucrats would like to suspend, but against which they dare not take action. Why were the Teachers Unions picked? Their organizational weakness is such that they cannot by themselves put up any real fight against the A.F.L. leaders.

Unions are forced to admit that the lack of a solid force of organized teachers allowed the C.T.L.C. to take such action. Militant unionists in the suspended locals must realize that the best way to insure readmission to the Central Trades is really to organize the mass of workers involved in their field. These can only be organized behind a real union program, and the only way that can be accomplished is to toss out the Stalinist leaders.

The issue is most clearly defined in the case of the WPA Teachers. There the workers shy away from the Union, because the union leaders sacrifice the interests of the WPA'ers to support the President. Only a group which believes in independent working class action can put up any kind of fight for WPA workers.

Harry Bridges with his union-breaking Communist party policies, William Green with his blind greed for power, and John L. Lewis with his equally avid desire to have everything his own way, can be blamed for the plight in which the Oregon workers find themselves.

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.

CLEVELAND AUTO LOCAL ATTACKS FACTION FIGHT

(Continued from Page 1) not alone in our own welfare, but also in the welfare of our International Union and all auto workers.

"We, the Executive Board of Local 88, feel that at present the welfare and the very life of the International Union is in danger and that Local 88 must raise its voice in no uncertain terms and demand that the Executive Officers of our International Union shall cease their action of rule or ruin or we shall use our power and votes to remove them from office and replace them with officers who will be responsible to the rank and file.

"We shall not enter this fight to promote the selfish interests or opportunism of any individual. We shall fight for a militant and progressive program against the exploiters of labor, and any candidate for office in the International who is willing to honestly and sincerely abide by this program shall receive our support. We shall carry our fight against any person or group whose policy is one of rule or ruin.

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Local 88's position is being favorably received by numerous other locals of the U.A.W.

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Russell Blackwell BACK FROM SPAIN Will Speak! Friday, Feb. 10th Stuyvesant Casino 2nd Ave. and 9th Street Chairman: Anita Brenner Admission 25c Other speakers from organizations participating in Comrade Blackwell's defense. Auspices: Blackwell Defense Committee

Stalinists Stage Patriotic Assembly In Los Angeles Relief Cut "Protest"

By N. J. SHILZONY (Special to Socialist Appeal)

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—Cooperating with Mayor F. S. Bowron and the police department of this city, the Stalinist-dominated Workers Alliance today gathered meekly at the steps of the city hall to "protest" recent W.P.A. lay-offs by listening to sympathetic words from the mayor and the prayers that the "reactionaries in Congress might be jarred by these protest meetings and introduce a God-inspired program for the unemployed."

The meeting opened with singing of the Star Spangled Banner and the Mayor then explained that although he was not at all familiar with the facts he was certain that the city and county could do nothing whatsoever for those laid off W.P.A., nevertheless he invited citizens who have a grievance "to come to the city hall steps at any time" and he will be glad to speak with them.

Benediction at the close of the meeting was pronounced by California State Alliance President Alex Noral with humble thanks to the Mayor and Police Commission for "without their cooperation this protest meeting would never have been such a success!"

Bambrick-LaGuardia Force Shabby Compromise on Elevator Operators

NEW YORK—The strike of 4,000 building service workers which virtually tied up all business in the garment and fur districts for four days ended last Friday night when Mayor LaGuardia and James Bambrick, union president, forced the men to accept an entirely unnecessary compromise in the agreement.

The decision to accept LaGuardia's proposal for a \$1 weekly increase in wages and a reduction of the work week from 48 to 47 hours came immediately following a stormy strike meeting of the Building Service Workers Union, Local 32B, where rank and file members denounced both the mayor and Bambrick, and insisted that the union hold out for the original demand for a 15% wage increase and a 40 hour week.

The wrath of the union membership was aroused when Mayor LaGuardia took the floor at the meeting and presented the strikers with the ultimatum that they must accept his proposal. The "Little Flower" was greeted by the boos and hisses of the audience.

Bambrick, acting as the mayor's stooge told the men, "You cannot defy City Hall." The men answered with more boos and hisses. "We put you in office, and we'll take you out." Every man who took the floor to urge continuance of the strike was wildly cheered by the strikers.

MEAGER CHILD AID BARS JOBS FOR MOTHERS

Shipstead Vote Is Factor In Minn. W.P.A. Cut

MINNEAPOLIS—District Five of the W.P.A. announced last week that all women eligible for Aid to Dependent Children would be dropped from W.P.A. on Feb. 1. According to the W.P.A. officials this is being done to reduce the W.P.A. rolls and to force other agencies to take care of those who "logically" come under their jurisdiction.

Federal Workers Section of Local 544 is protesting this move. Many meetings with officials have been held but as yet the matter remains at stalemate as everyone passes the buck to everybody else.

Ask Women to Turn Cop In order to make herself eligible for A.D.C. a woman who is not a widow, but who has been divorced or deserted by her husband must turn cop and swear out a warrant for his arrest on charges of child abandonment. If her husband is physically handicapped to a point where he is unable to work, or if he is insane, or feeble-minded and in an institution or a fugitive from justice therefrom she is also eligible to receive this form of relief for her children.

The maximum grant is \$20 for the first child, and \$15 for each additional child. If there is a deficiency in the family budget, the Department of Public Relief is supposed to make up the deficiency on the basis of a budget computed by the department of Aid to Dependent Children. However, in every case where the A.D.C.

boys" who took the floor and "warned" the members to accept LaGuardia's proposal.

Bambrick Forces Closed Vote A cry went up in the hall for a voice vote on the proposals proposed by LaGuardia. The men knew that only by an open ballot where they could see with their own eyes what was going on, could they be assured of an honest vote. Bambrick insisted, however, on a closed ballot.

The mayor placed two proposals before the strikers. The first was to let him appoint an arbitrator—the union to accept any recommendations the arbitrator makes. This proposal was overwhelmingly defeated. The workers did not trust him or his arbitrator. The other proposal, which was finally carried by a slim margin, was to accept the \$1 weekly increase and the one hour a week reduction in time. The contract will last for three years.

The successful tie-up was insured by the complete solidarity of the union workers in the garment and fur industries who refused to pass a picket line of the building service workers. The bosses in the garment center were in a frenzy for four days.

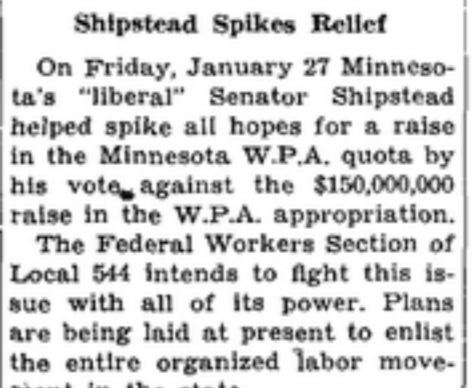
The building service workers are well aware of the "sell out" role played by Bambrick. They are thoroughly disgusted with the bureaucratic way in which all union affairs are handled. This strike has showed to a large section of union workers that LaGuardia, who claims to be a friend of labor, is nothing but a strikebreaker.

budget and the grant do not coincide and there is a deficiency, the Department of Public Relief refigures the budget from its own direct relief budget and as a consequence the family lives on a bare subsistence level instead of the "adequate minimum" budget which it is supposed to get.

Shipstead Spikes Relief On Friday, January 27 Minnesota's "liberal" Senator Shipstead helped spike all hopes for a raise in the Minnesota W.P.A. quota by his vote against the \$150,000,000 raise in the W.P.A. appropriation.

The Federal Workers Section of Local 544 intends to fight this issue with all of its power. Plans are being laid at present to enlist the entire organized labor movement in the state.

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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

Here are the branch quotas for the Appeal drive for 1,000 new readers!

In most cities the contest is already well under way with many fine results. Rochester has gotten off to a fine start with the entire branch membership subscribing en masse!

Here's how to get those subs on your quotas. (1) Visit all former Appeal subscribers—branches and have these lists. (2) Carry sub

blanks around with you when you sell the new Appeal in the streets. Strike while the iron is hot! (3) Have your branch comrades take out subs for themselves. (4) Launch a local campaign to visit all friends and sympathizers for subs.

The new Appeal is America's best labor and revolutionary paper. Let's prove it with 1,000 new readers by April 1st! We put the \$3,000 campaign over the top and we can go over with this!

1,000 New Subscribers by April 1st!

Table with 4 columns: Branch, Quota, Branch, Quota. Lists various cities and their respective quotas for the Appeal drive.

EVERY CLASS STRUGGLE FIGHTER A 2-A-WEEK SUBSCRIBER!

SCORE BOARD

This is the last Score Board to appear in the paper. But this is not the last of the drive. We must continue until EVERY branch has fulfilled its quota 100%. Beginning next week, the Score Board will be sent to the Branches through a weekly circular letter.

The initial funds to start the twice-a-week have been raised. But if the paper is to appear uninterruptedly and make improvements, the reserve fund must be increased—through completion of the quotas, prompt bundle payments, a Monthly Pledge Fund, and contributions from individuals, friends and sympathizers of our movement.

Individual receipts since last report: C. D. R., New Haven, 3.00; O. L., Chicago, \$2.00; M. K., Brooklyn, 2.00; A. F., New York, 3.00; J. S., Sask, 98c; C. M., New York, 10.00; A. H., Newark, 1.00; J. R., Cambridge, 1.50; M. T., Madison, 3.15; L. P., New York, 5.00; W. H., New York, 10.00; A. O., Detroit, 2.00.

Table with 3 columns: Drive, Paid, Percent. Shows progress of the Appeal drive across various cities.

REGISTER NOW

The MARXIST SCHOOL will be held at Irving Place, Irving Place and 15th Street, N. Y. C. Classes begin Feb. 27.

- I. PRACTICAL TRADE UNIONISM—Sam Gordon, B. J. Widick. Lectures on the day to day activity of the trade unionist. Mondays, 7:15 P.M.—8:40 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.00
II. PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN POLITICS—James Burnham, Albert Goldman, Max Shachtman. Marxist analyses of the shifting American political scene. Mondays, 8:50 P.M.—10:15 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.00
III. WHAT IS TROTSKYISM? John G. Wright. The truth about Trotskyism based on original documents. Tuesdays, 7:00 P.M.—8:40 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.00
IV. ART AND POLITICS Six lectures by Phillip Rahv, Dwight Macdonald, James T. Farrell, F. W. Dupee, Delmore Schwartz and Will Phillips. (A half year's subscription to the Partisan Review will be given free to every registrant.) Tuesdays, 8:50 P.M.—10:15 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.25
V. LABOR JOURNALISM James Casey. A practical course given by the former managing editor of the Daily Worker. Wednesdays, 7:15 P.M.—8:40 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.00
VI. THE SECOND AMERICAN REVOLUTION—George Novack. The American Civil War. What it really was and meant. Wednesdays, 8:50—10:15 P.M. 6 lectures—\$1.00

Registration can be made at the school office, 116 University Place or at the Labor Bookshop, 28 East 12th Street, N. Y. C., between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Registrations may also be made by mail or by calling ST 9-5627.