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LAUNCH FIGHT TO SAVE U.A.W.

People's Front Deserts Spanish Anti-Fascist Struggle

Negrin, Azana Dicker Capitulation Terms

Seek to Save Skins of Government
Leaders While Abandoning
The Anti-Fascist Cause

BASE TREACHERY AT END

American, English, and French press services continued over the week end to make specific references to Loyalist government negotiations for surrender to Franco. Formal denials by People's Front leaders were not taken seriously. Even the consistently pro-People's Front correspondent H. L. Matthews has finally, in a Perpignan dispatch of February 10, reported that "the Negrin government seems to be wavering in its decision to continue the fight."

Can Negrin and Miaja get the half-million soldiers in central Spain to surrender? It is one thing to induce soldiers to make retreat after retreat without a fight, as happened in Catalonia on the basis of declarations by the government that it would make a stand farther north. It would be an entirely different task for Miaja and Negrin to call upon the soldiers to lay down their arms in their present positions in central Spain. For this reason, it is likely that the pattern laid down in Catalonia, of pretending to continue the struggle but actually abandoning the basic positions, may now be attempted by Miaja and Negrin in central Spain.

ROOSEVELT AGAIN COVERS UP CUT IN RELIEF FUNDS

Gives Pretty Speech
To Hush Protest
Movement

In a special message on relief, sent to Congress last Tuesday, President Roosevelt tried to clear his skirts of responsibility for the drive against the unemployed which he launched in November and which is now being carried forward by a division of labor between him and Congress.

Basic Aim Accepted
The special message makes startling reading. Roosevelt's protest is directed only against the rate and manner of the Congressional plans to reduce relief, while it accepts fully the basic Wall Street aim of cutting the unemployed to the bone. In effect, Roosevelt is merely arguing that his own way of conducting the drive against the unemployed is more effective than that of Congress, and will cause less trouble.

"I call your attention," the message reads, "to the fact that the rolls have already been reduced by 350,000 since the last week of last October." But this cut was, of course, engineered by Roosevelt alone, without any participation on the part of Congress; when, in fact, Congress was not even in session.

Were these 350,000 "re-absorbed into private industry"? The message gives the answer: "As no new assignments have been made during this period, there has been a large accumulation of able-bodied people certified to us as in need of relief—people, however, who have not been able to secure places on the work program." That is to say, the 350,000 were thrown on the street.

Does Roosevelt then propose that the WPA rolls be increased to a point where they could take care of all those in need? Not in the least. He says only that "the rolls . . . ought not to be reduced during February and March." After that, reductions can start again, with the full consent of the President.

Fears Sharp Opposition
But Roosevelt is afraid that the rate of reduction planned by Congress will excite too sharp an opposition. A more gradual rate, he figures, would paralyze resistance from the unemployed. He uses Colonel Harrington's estimates to show that the \$725,000,000 appropriated by Congress will necessitate either an immediate cut of 1,000,000 from the rolls on April

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"The Bulwark Against War and Fascism?"



LEFT WING WINS IN MINE WORKERS UNION ELECTIONS

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A victory for the progressive elements in the election for officers of the Progressive Mine Workers of America was recorded here in the tabulation of votes made public here by the official organ of the union. The P.M.W., which broke away from the United Mine Workers union in a fight against the Lewis bureaucracy a few years ago, and recently received a charter for the A.F.L., has the main body of its membership in Illinois.

The election results showed that Dave Reed defeated the retiring secretary-treasurer, Claude E. Peary, for the presidency of the state and national organization. Another prominent progressive was elected to the Executive Board.

The defeat of Peary is seen as doubly significant. The Peary-Ozanic faction had succeeded in converting the P.M.W. from a rank-and-file militant organization into one committed to the most reactionary and bureaucratic policies—at least so far as the leadership was concerned. At the same time, it bitterly opposed the aspirations of the best elements in the union to achieve a restoration of fighting unity with the United Mine Workers union. Reed and Battuello represent the growing forces clamoring for that unity.

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Brewery Union Success Points to Martel Ouster

Local 271 Strike Threat Brings
Bosses to Terms Quickly

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
DETROIT, Feb. 6—Local 271 of the teamsters union took a long step on the road to victory today in its fight against an alliance of brewery manufacturers, corrupt officials of the brewery union and Frank "X-X" Martel.

Trucks of all the major Detroit breweries, Schmidt, Detroit, Ekhardt & Becker, Stroh, Pfeiffer, Old Brew left their barns today driven by teamsters proudly displaying Local 271 buttons on their caps.

Bosses Settle Quickly
Committees of Local 271 went into the managements this morning and declared that they were all members of Local 271 and would not drive trucks unless all 271 men were reinstated and scabs imported by the phoney Local 38 of the brewery union put off the trucks. In all cases, with the exception of Tivoli's, the managements capitulated to this demand. In many instances, trucks were tied up in the barns for an hour or two until the committee forced the bosses into line. Tivoli's will probably get into step before 24 hours have passed.

This demonstration of success was organized at a meeting yesterday morning at Schiller Hall, called by Local 271. More than 600

men were present out of a possible total of 900 drivers who work during busy season. The meeting rang with cheers as teamsters officials, J. M. ("Red") O'Laughlin, Bert Brennan, Harry Apers and General Organizer John F. English addressed them. Frank S. Ford, Sr., President of Local 271, was in the chair.

Martel Sure To Go
When this battle ends, it is the general opinion here, Frank "X-X" Martel, President of the Detroit Federation of Labor, will be among the casualties. Martel's strictly prejudiced arbitration decision against the teamsters brought around his ears the wrath of Dan Tobin, International Union president. Tobin took the matter before the Executive Council of the A.F.L., now meeting in Miami, and backed by 400,000 organized drivers and the decisions of A.F.L. conventions awarding brewery drivers to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, secured a repudiation of Martel's decision from the Executive Council.

William Green wrote a long, strongly-worded telegram to Martel not only repudiating his decision but calling on the membership of the Detroit and Wayne

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Three Automobile Locals Reject Martin, Stalinists, Favor C.I.O.

See page 3 for the complete text of the union-building program issued by the newly organized rank and file group in the United Automobile Workers Union. See also editorial on page 4: "The Crisis in the Auto Union."

ANTI-PICKET LAW FOUGHT BY FLINT U.A.W. MEMBERS

Union Demonstration
Answers Boss
Attack

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

FLINT, Mich. — Flinging down the gauntlet in the face of a militant demonstration of several thousand U.A.W. members and hundreds of other union men, the City Commission of Flint voted 5 to 3 last week to enact a vicious anti-picketing law aimed at stifling all union activity in the city.

Part of a general campaign on the part of Michigan manufacturers, the Flint law provides for banning of picketing, forbids approaching men at plant gates for union membership and in general is one of the most flagrant violations of the rights of organized labor in any section of the country.

Representatives of the United Automobile Workers Union led the protest demonstration, in which the workers gave most militant evidence in every way of their determination to fight the new law.

Will Picket City Hall

Flint auto workers are planning a campaign to recall the commissioners who voted for the pick bill, and are going to post a picket line at the Flint city hall.

This move on the part of the Flint City Commission indicates the intention of General Motors to take advantage of the U.A.W. faction fight to smash the union by means of a vigorous anti-union campaign. It serves to warn once again that a union split serves the interest of the bosses.

Many auto workers have already come to realize this fact, and have launched a campaign to preserve the unity of the U.A.W., calling for all locals to attend the Cleveland C.I.O. convention, and fight the irresponsible Martin and Executive Board factions who plunged the union into the present split situation.

Won't Rely on "Lobbying"

Rank-and-file sentiment in Flint is demanding immediate militant action to force rescinding of the Flint anti-picketing law, and to teach the manufacturers that the auto workers are an organized power which cannot be beaten into submission.

Call For Immediate Action To Save Union
From Suicidal Battle of Martin
And Stalin Factions

HIT DISRUPTIVE LEADERS

DETROIT, Feb. 8—Interest in the auto situation was focused today in all local newspapers on the statement issued by John Anderson, vice-president of Fleetwood Local 15, on behalf of his own and two other locals, announcing the formation of a third grouping distinguished from the Martin and Stalinist factions by its clear-cut militant program.

Martin could not be reached for comment on this important development. R. J. Thomas, asked to comment particularly on the demand for an impartial arrangements committee which would seat all bona fide delegates, "including Martin and his supporters" at the March 27 Cleveland convention, refused to say anything except that "any delegates elected in a constitutional manner will be seated."

DETROIT, Feb. 6—The most promising sign for the future of the auto workers union appeared this week when a third group, representing the interests of the rank and file and fighting for a militant program against the unprincipled cliques, publicly announced its position.

The group is solidly for the C.I.O. and its delegates will attend the Cleveland convention on March 27th. But it is dead-set against the Frankenstein-Addes combination directed by the Communist party wreckers and controlled by the Lewis-Hillman bureaucracy.

Locals Back Program

Three locals have already voted for the program set forth by this group, and the volume of support is beginning to swell as the rank and file is informed of its program and aims. The locals are Willard Storage Battery (Local 88), Weatherhead (Local 463) of Cleveland and Local 15, (Fleetwood Fisher Body) in Detroit. Chevrolet Transmission of Saginaw, Mich. (Local 467) voted to attend the C.I.O. convention but refused to commit itself to either faction while sentiment ran high for the program of the independent group.

Other locals have already indicated agreement or sympathy with the program of the independent group. By the end of the week additional names should appear on this roster which will set a roll of honor in the United Automobile Workers of America. Groups are already being formed in major locals in Detroit, Flint and Cleveland. Whether or not these groups attain a majority in their locals and send delegates to Cleveland, they will be a strong leaven in their plants against any corporation attacks, and in their locals against the vicious Stalinist crew.

A Call To Action

The program of this group, (printed elsewhere in this issue), is a call to action to all honest and progressive auto workers against the "Stalinist Executive Board Majority . . . and the Martin gang."

It examines the accusations and charges made by the self-seeking officials against each other which have all but disgraced the U.A.W. in the state of Michigan. It finds that the record of failure, incompetence and negligence in General Motors, in organizing the un-

organized, in unionizing the Ford Motor Co. can be laid directly at the door of both groups. It finds that both gangs are responsible for destroying the internal democracy of the auto union, that both cliques have placed administrators over locals and that the Stalinist-Reuther combination wants to end U.A.W. autonomy by placing the union in the hands of a C.I.O. receivership.

Favor the C.I.O.
Nevertheless the new rank and file group is emphatically in favor of the C.I.O. as "the industrial union movement of America, and as mass production workers we must remain part of that movement."

"We stand for one union in the industry. We stand for one convention, but inside the C.I.O. We therefore call upon all locals to attend the Cleveland convention and to insist upon the formation of an impartial arrangements committee which will seat all bona-fide delegates including Martin and his supporters on the Executive Board."

The practical union-building program of the rank and file group includes a fight for the 30-hour week with no reduction in pay; an aggressive drive to organize the Ford Motor Co. and the competitive parts plants; a 5-billion dollar congressional appropriation for housing and medical care and the chartering by the C.I.O. of WPA industrial unions; local autonomy from Executive Board and C.I.O. dictatorships; defense guards to protect the union against vigilantes and fascists—not goon squads used against union men; and a final point against the red-scares stirred up by the reactionaries of the Martin and the Communist party camps. The program concludes with a number of constitutional amendments proposed for constitutional action at the convention.

That the sentiment of the militants in the auto union was overwhelmingly in favor of the C.I.O. was indicated this week as local after local went on record at its local meetings in favor of the Cleveland Convention. These include the largest divisions of General Motors and Chrysler corporations and of the parts plants.

Oppose Union Wreckers

Yet the strongest sentiment current is antagonism and hatred on the part of large sections of the rank and file for all 24 Executive Board officers who brought their union to the brink of disaster.

The large Chrysler local failed to take a vote after a lengthy meeting in which both sides presented their case. William Marshall, president of that local, openly declared that he was sitting on the fence. In the Dodge local, meetings continued from week to week and a definite position for the C.I.O.

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POLICY OF THE S.W.P. IN THE U.A.W. SITUATION

STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

During the past few weeks the policy of the S.W.P. with respect to the crisis in the U.A.W. has undergone sharp change, and has not received a clear and definitive formulation until this current issue of The Appeal. This has undoubtedly been evident to the party members as well as to the other readers of our press.

During the past period there has been a unanimous conviction throughout the party that the central task for the auto workers and the only solution which will be able to re-establish the unity, democracy and militancy of their union and at the same time make possible the complete organization of the industry, lies in THE BUILDING OF A NEW PROGRESSIVE GROUPING WITHIN THE UNION, BASED ON A DEMOCRATIC, MILITANT PROGRAM, AND FREE FROM ANY SUBORDINATION TO EITHER OF THE TWO MAJOR PRESENT FACTIONS — THE MARTIN CONTROLLED CLIQUE OR THE STALINIST OUTFIT.

However, this perspective, though in our opinion decisive in the longer run, did not in itself answer the specific questions raised by the open split and the calling of two separate conventions; in particular it did not answer a crucial question now posed before the auto workers: which convention to go to.

The lead editorial published in the January 28 issue of THE SOCIALIST APPEAL, oriented toward attendance at the Detroit convention, was drawn up immediately following the calling of the two conventions. At the time of its formulation it represented an opinion opposed by many party members. Subsequent to its formulation and just prior to its public appearance there took place the recognition by the C.I.O. leadership of the Cleveland Convention and Martin's publication of his letter of withdrawal from the C.I.O. Executive. In the opinion of many members of the N.C. and of a decisive majority of

the party members actively engaged in the party's work in auto, these events clinched the argument against an orientation on the Detroit Convention and demanded an orientation on Cleveland as the only effective way in which to carry out the general perspective in consonance with the aim of preserving the unity of the progressive industrial union movement.

Thorough discussion and consultation, though it did not remove differences of opinion, led to the practical conclusion that the Detroit orientation contained in the party's earlier policy must be abandoned in favor of a Cleveland orientation as stated and motivated in the current issue of The Appeal.

Quite independently of any differences, we believe that the most hopeful sign for the long term future of the U.A.W. is to be read in the news reports of the concrete beginnings of the

formation of a new and independent progressive grouping. If this continues and gains real scope, it will solve the problems, however difficult and acute, of the preservation and extension of the union in auto.

We are aware that these sudden shifts that our party has made in the policy it has presented have created a certain temporary confusion. But decision has now been reached and will be vigorously carried out.

The difficulties created by the delay in arriving at a definitive decision and the inconsistency occurring during the past three weeks, serious as they have been, are, however, outweighed in our estimate by the benefits obtained through adhering to a regime in our party under which decisions are reached through democratic collective effort and not by bureaucratic decree.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE,
Socialist Workers Party