

In the Trade Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Perhaps the most interesting single feature of the A.F. of L. Executive Council meeting...

Ignore Rank and File Sentiments

But the muddling around with the Wagner Labor Act was even more pertinent...

In playing around with vital legislation, the A.F. of L. Executive Council is guilty of injuring the interests of the entire labor movement...

Usual Blast Against Progressive Unionism

It is a commonplace that no Executive Council meeting has been normal unless some blast at progressive unionism issues therefrom...

This blast coincided with the publication of a resolution by the Council that it favored appropriation of adequate funds for the Dies committee...

Refugee Stand Is Contemptuous

The A.F. of L. Council got "international-minded," too. It proposed to revitalize moribund Latin-American unions...

Yes, it's the same old Executive Council, blind on industrial unionism, reactionary in politics...

Auto Locals Vote C. I. O.; Rank and File Group Grows

(Continued from Page 1)

Executive Board. The attack of Murray and Hillman is centered against the Stalinists only in the local unions.

Reactionary Objectives

Furthermore, this letter to the locals is probably designed for two reactionary purposes:

1. Not to fight Stalinism but to drive out all militant politics from the U.A.W. and thus give a free field to the class-collaboration politics of Lewis-Murray-Hillman and Co.

2. To tighten the stranglehold of top C.I.O. domination over the Auto Workers Union by discrediting the ability of the workers to run their own organization.

This letter, it is quite apparent, is only an introductory note to a steamroller machine which Lewis & Co. will have in operation at the Cleveland Convention.

And this machine will in all probability attempt to put the same rotten gang of Stalinists and job seekers back in office, while destroying at every point the democratic rights of the membership.

The letter of Hillman and Murray is concrete evidence of the charges made by representatives of the third group in Detroit and Cleveland last week.

Mutual Exposure Features Fight

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

DETROIT, Feb. 13.—The swing of locals of the U.A.W. over to the side of the March 24 convention in Cleveland is assuming the proportions of a landslide.

So strong, in fact, is this sweep and so deeply are the workers imbued for a hatred of anything that will return them to the regime of Dillon-Collins-Green A.F. L. craft unionism that Martin's official organ, which also calls itself the "United Automobile Worker," carries the legend under the masthead: "Affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations."

This despite the fact that only a few days before the paper appeared Martin had made the fantastic statement in the press that the U.A.W. was "never affiliated with the C.I.O." And later that he "didn't give a whoop whether the C.I.O. recognized the officers elected or the convention on March 4th."

Affiliation or non-affiliation with the C.I.O. is the one and only talking point of the Stalinist Executive Board majority. Without it they would have long ago been wiped off the boards.

George Addes said in a radio speech on Feb. 1st: "The majority members elected by your last convention want a democratic union affiliated with the C.I.O." Nothing in the record of this Board proves they want democracy, everything proves that they have trampled all over the democratic rights of the rank and file.

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To charges of an underhanded deal with Harry Bennett of the Ford Motor Co., Martin protests innocence, saying he was doing what Lewis did with Myron Taylor of U. S. Steel.

To accusations that he is playing a game of love-me-love-me-not with the corporations, he cites the contract signed by Murray and Co. of the S.W.O.C. with the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, Alquippa Works.

Martin says that people who sign contracts like these can with ill grace accuse him of "company unionism."

Martin Helped C. P.

Yet it is Martin himself who has boistered the declining fortunes of the Communist Party wrecking crew and their father-confessor, John L. Lewis.

First his bureaucratic actions helped hide the bureaucracy of the C. P. crowd. Then he moved away from the C.I.O. towards the A.F.L. and gave the Stalinists the last powerful argument they needed.

The newspaper published by the Martin caucus of Plymouth Local 51 publishes damning evidence of a regime of corruption, mismanagement, and typical Stalinist union-wrecking of the LaMotte administration which formerly headed the Plymouth Local.

That a check for \$7,025 was made out "in cash" and no itemized account given of its disbursement; that \$2,495 was collected in dues from members of the local but never turned in to the local treasury (and they name names in a partial list of the Stalinist-LaMotte stewards and cite amounts that were not turned in; that LaMotte himself had borrowed \$175 from the treasury of the local union and had returned only \$100; that at least one check for \$60 was sent by the Local officials to the Chicago Stalinist rag, the Daily Record.

For all of these charges this paper cites documentary evidence—photostatic copies of cancelled checks. Unless the Martin supporters at Plymouth are engaged in a colossal forgery, they have caught the Stalinists red-handed in one of the worst pieces of swindling and pork-barrel politics in the recent history of unionism.

But how have Martin and his gang led by Pat McCartney at Plymouth utilized this scandal? To educate the workers against the vicious, corrupting influence of Stalinism, to drive the thieves out of the local union and above all to initiate a regime of honest, progressive unionism? Not on your life!

The Martin paper in the Plymouth local in its editorial opinions looks like a junior edition of Coughlin's sheet, "Social Justice." It runs second to none in red-baiting.

Martin Red-Baiting

It quotes, apparently with approval, a paper sponsored by A.F.L. leaders which states "a climax has reached between Martin and the Reds. . . In the beginning of the activities of the U.A.W. in Michigan some two years ago, the work was directed solely by the four big "Reds," Lewis, Murray, Foster and Brophy, assisted in minor positions by the Communists. . . As soon as Martin saw the real condition of the U.A.W., that workers were being exploited, and that industry was being persecuted for the benefit of his Red associates, he started a purge of the radicals who had the "bit in their teeth."

For those who think this is just an aberration of the Dies Committee witness, Pat McCartney, just feast your eyes on this tidbit from the Martin-dominated Local 203. The leaflet reads as follows: "As American citizens, we members of Local 203 insist that our President, Homer Martin be given a chance to state his position against Communism. We urge all members of Local 203 to support our President Homer Martin because of his American ideals and his Union Principles. Local 203 has been looked up by all other locals. Let us continue to keep it clean from all other than American Unionism. . . Be proud of the Red, White and Blue."

All of this reactionary garbage stems directly from the top circles of the Martin gang. The newly revised 20-point Martin program states in point 20: "The life of our union depends upon the protection of our democratic rights and we will oppose those who would attempt to impose upon us Fascism, Nazism, or communism."

This is the hoary formula that every two-bit Chamber of Commerce politician has used to beat down unions and persecute militants. Neither Fascism nor Stalinism can be fought in this way. They can be fought only by progressive unionism that guarantees to every worker full freedom to think and being as he pleases, and that fights the bosses and their fascist gangs by methods of action and not cheap talk.

The Stalinist gang is already beginning to tear down those progressive structures that distinguished the U.A.W. In South Bend the Stalinist-dominated C.I.O. council has given orders to

Who Claims Relief Not Needed?

Half-Thousand Women Stampede For Twelve Jobs, While Young Girl Despondent Over Lack of Work, Decides On Suicide

Last week an obscure item buried in the N. Y. Times reported the suicide of Evelyn Hardenberg, a young girl barely out of high school. She had climbed through the window of her meagerly furnished room and plunged to the sidewalk four stories below.

She was an American girl from an American family—just 23 when she died, the daughter of a New Jersey farmer. She took her life not because of some obscure pathological maladjustment, but because of utter hopelessness over finding a job.

239 WOMEN WAIT 25 HOURS FOR 12 JOBS

In the same issue of the newspaper which reported the suicide of this girl, appeared another item: For twelve jobs available to women in the New York City Department of Health, jobs of an

unskilled nature such as washing glassware, sterilizing equipment, attending animals, cleaning out their cages, 239 women had been standing in line to file their applications, some of them as long as 18 hours at the time of the press report with another 7 hours to go before the office would open.

At least several hundred more women were expected to join the line before morning. Probably three or four hundred in addition to this, according to Health Department officials, will file for the 12 jobs before February 23, the final date applications will be accepted.

THE SAME MAY BE SEEN IN ANY CITY

These hundreds of applicants standing in line all day and all night for the 12 jobs represented all sections of the working class, from mothers with babies at home, and single women who have been seeking jobs for months, to girls who boasted college degrees. They brought

lunches, those who could, and newspapers for warmth in the wet street, for they expected to stand overnight outside the building. The jam was reminiscent of the stampede of 3,000 men last August 31 for a few porter's jobs. Indeed, it was a scene typical of any American city.

CAPITALISM OFFERS . . . STARVATION FOR MILLIONS

A half thousand women desperately in need of jobs—here in miniature is the problem racking capitalism. The solution offered by the richest capitalist democracy in the world? Jobs for TWELVE—for the rest slow starvation, or like Evelyn Hardenberg, a quicker death four stories down upon a concrete sidewalk.

In the face of incidents such as these, which occur almost daily in any city of the United States, President Roosevelt's brutal program of curtailment and retrenchment on relief and public works shows with impressive clarity that it is the program of a capitalism in its death agony.

Oakland Cops Beat, Arrest Anti-Franco Picketers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

OAKLAND, Feb. 11.—Police last night attacked a demonstration against a pro-Franco meeting and brutally beat six of the demonstrators, among them Myra Tanner, National Council member of the Young People's Socialist League (Fourth International), and Roland Bates.

More than 300 demonstrators carrying placards appeared at Oakland Auditorium where Aileen O'Brien, recently returned from insurgent Spain, was to lecture in favor of General Franco and his bandit-program of conquest.

As Stalinists attempted to divert the crowd of indignant workers protesting the brazen provocation of this fascist agent in Oakland away from the hall, six policemen under Sergeant Charles Holmes sent in riot calls bringing thirty-five additional policemen to the scene.

Fire Tear Gas

Swinging clubs and firing tear gas guns, the police charged the demonstrators. Roland Bates fell under the onslaught, bleeding profusely.

The U.A.W.-W.P.A. Auxiliary to disband and join the company-union Workers Alliance.

Similar news comes from Toledo where the same crowd is attempting to smash the auto union W.P.A. auxiliary through some kind of specious reorganization which will place these W.P.A. workers at the tender mercies of Stalinist agents. Meanwhile the Executive Board sits by and countenances these union-wrecking moves—it may even approve them.

Reaction Launches Attack

Once again the attack of reaction breaks through from the outside, utilizing this unprincipled fight to destroy the powerful auto union. Tory Governor Fitzgerald has all the machinery greased to steam through his anti-labor bill in Lansing. And as a foretaste of what is to come, Fitzgerald takes a public demonstrative slap at the workers by appointing as Labor Commissioner that vigilante, corporation office boy, Mayor Daniel F. Knagge of Monroe, Michigan.

What are the two top factions doing to counteract this bill and to defeat it? Nothing except a few high-sounding speeches before a public hearing at Lansing. No demonstrations, no action, nothing planned.

The Communist Party wants peace and order—don't rock Roosevelt's boat while it glides out to war. And Homer Martin's new attorney, George Barnard, is the Michigan G.O.P.'s chief leader. But behind this inaction is the clique fight that continually exposes the union to ever greater dangers.

Once again, as in the great sit-downs of 1937, it is imperative that the rank and file take matters in their own hands and put the C.I.O. in the automobile industry back on the path of militant, aggressive unionism.

Start "Help a Refugee" Campaign

The American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees has just inaugurated a national "I Have Helped A Refugee Campaign."

Each of the local committees of the Fund is being asked to take upon itself the responsibility for one refugee or refugee family, and to provide the necessary means for helping them get a new start in life. This method of adoption should make the friends of the Fund realize even more

Akron Moralizers Slander Laborers on Public Works

Investigation Proves City Fathers Are Liars

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 15.—After brutal police attacks upon W.P.A. workers and attempted wholesale lay-offs failed, the city fathers have lined up on the moral front and bitterly denounced public works labor for "drunkenness" and associated evils.

An independent investigation of police records reveals the asserted figure is more than 60 per cent too high. The investigation showed that less than 20 per cent of all violations are due to W.P.A. workers, despite the fact that they and their families comprise approximately 40 per cent of the population.

While the moral souls are yelling, here's what one of their own boys is like. One Colonel Joseph J. Johnston, whom they surely must remember, because they brought him to the district to function as strike-breaker-in-chief of their various "law and order committees," was recently convicted of drunken driving, fined \$100 and costs, had his driver's license suspended, and was sentenced to 30 days in the county workhouse.

But because the workhouse was presumably filled to overflowing with "W.P.A. workers" his sentence was suspended. The defending attorney rendered a heart-breaking plea for Colonel Johnston of the Ohio National Guard (read strike-breakers) on the grounds that he "bore a good reputation, and had never been previously arrested for any offense."

The colonel, otherwise known as Number One Hard Guy for his muscle work in the Barborton, Ohio, Insulator strike, won his "good reputation" by firing tear gas into the picket lines, into the windows of neighboring houses, and into the midst of school children on their way home.

Since the rubber workers, who fear neither beast nor man nor Colonel Johnston, showed the strike-breakers what tough guys are really like, the Colonel seems to have taken to drink.

ANNOUNCEMENT

GIRL wants girl to share a cozy apartment. Located in Astoria, Long Island (15 minutes to Times Square) \$15.00 per month rent; write Edith Kimmel, c/o S. Stanley, 116 University Place.

ROOM FOR RENT: Comfortable, bright, steam heat, 5 mile view. \$4.00 per week. See S. Stanley at the Appeal office.

Another Astoria PARTY and DANCE SATURDAY, FEB. 18 Workmen's Circle 28-40 31st Street, Astoria (IRT or BMT to Grand Ave.)

SHERIDAN SANDWICH SHOPPE 114 University Place next to headquarters Special 25c Lunch! Soup, 15c Sandwich, Coffee or Milk with Pastry! "Union Food at a Union Place"

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APPEAL ARMY

FLASH! Branches of the Socialist Workers Party located in the key auto cities of America (Detroit, Flint, Cleveland and Toledo) sold and distributed 4,000 copies of the last issue of the Appeal containing our Party's stand on the auto workers' union crisis.

CAMPAIGN FOR 1,000 NEW READERS UNDER WAY! Early reports on the Appeal campaign for 1,000 new subscribers by April 1 are greatly encouraging. Many branches have

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written in accepting their quotas and boasting of how they can easily top them in a short period. So far New York City is doing the best job, with Chicago close behind. Last week we sent around an offer that would enable all members of the Party and Y.P.S.I. to subscribe under an easy installment plan. Let's have returns on those immediately.

And now, to further aid the campaign drive, we are offering the following—for thirty (30) days only: Look it over and you'll find its plenty tempting!

Act now! This generous offer expires on March 15th—30 days only! Send all payments on the above to the Socialist Appeal.

DOES HILLMAN'S LETTER PRESAGE PURGE IN C.I.O.?

(Continued from Page 1)

anti-Martin political sects. It proposed that both be made to keep their hands out of the U.A.W. That was the policy of the coordinating committee that is our policy today.

Suppressed By Daily Worker The Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist party, which printed a special Washington dispatch about this circular in its issue of February 10, deliberately suppressed the two last paragraphs printed above, which dealt specifically with the C.P.

Two days later, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Rochester, N.Y., Sidney Hillman proclaimed "a labor drive against all foreignisms," in an interview given in that city.

"Leaders of organized labor," he declared, "are determined to purge their membership of 'ism elements' through education and barring of Communists, Fascists and other from union leadership."

How strong a position the "purgers" are in to carry out this threat is indicated by the fact that Lewis, representing the United Mine Workers in the Executive of the C.I.O., Philip Murray, his right-hand man who represents the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, and Sidney Hillman who represents the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Textile Workers Organizing Committee—have enough votes and power among them to decide upon any bureaucratic measure.

It is, of course, too early to establish with any degree of certainty just what plans the C.I.O. bureaucracy has in mind. It is quite possible that, as on previous occasions, the Lewis-Hillman clique is "covering itself" in public with pious protestations "against the Communists," while continuing in actuality the game of intimate collaboration which they have been playing with the Stalinists for the past three years.

Continuing Old Course Thus, it will be recalled, the convention of the United Mine Workers last year formally approved the old constitutional provision against Communists being members of the union, but no steps were taken to put the provision into effect. The latest de-

clarations by Hillman and Murray may be only a continuation of this course.

On the other hand, these declarations may well be the opening shots in a campaign to "clean out" the Stalinists. If such a drive were launched, the C.P. bureaucrats would find that there is no gratitude in politics, and that their bootlicking of the old-line leaders would be no protection for them.

In spite of the assistance which the Stalinists have rendered in more than one instance, Lewis and Hillman have been finding them an increasing source of embarrassment. It is known, for example, that a good deal of pressure has been exerted from Roosevelt governmental circles in favor of C.I.O.-A.F. of L. unity on the basis of "sacrificing," i.e., of dumping the Stalinists—a point on which the Green gang is adamant. It is quite possible, also, that Lewis and Hillman will try to steal some of Homer Martin's thunder in the Auto union by posing as "anti-Stalinists."

Red-Baiting Drive Should such a "purge" be launched in reality, it cannot but be an unprincipled Red-baiting drive, in the opinion of all truly progressive unionists. Not that the Stalinists are "Reds"—the Communist party is yellow than a quince—but because any campaign launched by such notorious reactionaries and capitalist government patriots as Lewis and Hillman could have nothing in common with the best interests of the labor movement.

The trade union movement can only be ruined if members of it are to be expelled merely for their opinions. That the Stalinists have made the name of their party a stench in the nostrils of every honest worker by their reckless union-smashing program and activities, is entirely true. But, progressives have always firmly maintained, the way to fight the poison of Stalinism is to fight it on the basis of principle, to fight it by countering its destructive program (still shared, on all essentials, by the Lewis-Hillman machine) with a constructive, militant program of class action and democratic unionism.

Unless all signs are deceptive, the true significance of the Hillman-Murray declarations will be made clear—far clearer at any rate than they are now—during the sessions of the crucial Cleveland convention of the Auto union. Militants will be well advised to keep on the alert, eyes open and ready for action.

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, 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. Dupe, 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. 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 9-0567.