

Sailors See Lesson for All Workers in Auto Situation

Martin Ruined Chance to Fight Communist Party Clique

What the organized and militant sailors of the United States think of the situation that has developed in the Auto Workers Union is made clear in an editorial appearing in the current issue of the West Coast Sailor, weekly journal of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

The S.U.P., which passed through a long period of stormy battle to preserve itself and its militant program from the disruptive attacks of the Stalinist wreckers on the West Coast, led by Harry Bridges, finally accepted a charter from the A.F.L.

Although the West Coast Sailor does not spare the Stalinists in judging the Auto Union crisis, it takes the position that Homer Martin ruined his chances by fail-

industry has stopped dead is also undeniable. That the automobile workers are threatened with a resumption of the open shop is equally true. And that this will set back trade unionism, not only in the automobile industry, but throughout the country, is a consequence that must be looked at squarely unless the membership of the union is able to break the Communist Party's death hold.

If anyone had any doubts about the C.I.O. big-shots playing the old labor game by sticking with those that look the strongest and the most dangerous, as far as controlling the per capita income is concerned, then the action of Hillman-Murray in backing up the Party-Liners should be as awakening as a bucket full of ice cold water.

Learn from Sailor's Union The present mess in the Automobile Workers could have been avoided if Martin had taken enough time and interest to study the experiences of the Sailors' Union with the Party-Liners. He would have learned that you do not fight wreckers by using the wreckers' tactics. He would have found out that a real educational campaign, based on real issues of benefit to the membership of the Union is the only method of getting rid of the Party wreckers.

He would also have learned that instead of making deals with the higher-ups in the C.I.O., and resorting to bureaucratic measures as a way of fighting the C.P., it would have been much better to depend only upon the rank and file, by coming out openly, putting all the cards on the table, and realizing that fundamental principle upon which the Sailors' Union works—that it is never too early nor too late to tell the membership of the union everything.

Although the danger, for the time being, is behind the Sailors' Union, it still exists. And if any sincere trade-unionist is ever tempted to listen to the siren voices of the Party-Liners, all he has to do is to look toward Detroit, and there he will see the answer. The Communist Party's role in the trade union movement is like that of a wild pig which devours everything in sight and can never have enough. And as to the "innocents" of the Party-Line, we would like to remind them that it is inglorious as well as thankless to be a tall to a glutinous pig.

Play Old Labor Game The latest example, as well as the most far-reaching, is the Automobile Workers Union. This powerful organization, with its hundreds of thousands of members, and which inspired the whole organized labor movement in this country, is now staggering from the vicious below-the-belt punches delivered to it by the factional blows of the Party-Liners.

That the Union is actually split in two cannot be denied. That the drive to completely unionize the

WILSON-JONES STRIKE VICTORY

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—The United Loose Leaf and Blank Book Workers Union today concluded its strike against the Wilson-Jones Co. with a signal victory, thus completely smashing the company's attempt to break the union.

Emerging from the strike, which began on Jan. 10, with a strengthened union, the Wilson-Jones workers won their demand for the reinstatement of two discharged union officers without loss of seniority and with back pay.

Arbitration is provided for in the settlement with respect to other disagreements.

During the strike, production was at a complete standstill. In an effort to break the solidarity of the strikers' lines, both in the Elizabeth, N. J. and in Chicago plants; the company resorted to brutal assaults against union men.

LIBERTIES REPORT PROVES NEED FOR WORKERS GUARDS

(Continued from Page 1) Isolation be passed which would prohibit labor espionage, shadowing, coercion and intimidation of workers "in ordinary times" and "restrict company police to company property during times of strike."

In brief, the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee proposes to do absolutely nothing about disarming the employers' private armies. Under this legislation the company would have the legal right to hire a guard and arm him if his criminal record showed the forces of law and order under company domination that he had no tendency toward violence or the dangerous use of deadly weapons.

Exceptions Vitalize Bill Again if the company or the forces of law and order under company domination decide that it is not an "ordinary time" they would have the complete right to use labor espionage, shadowing, coercion and intimidation of workers.

In making its recommendations the Committee summarized its findings briefly. "The experiences in Harlan County, Ky., and the industrial communities where Republic Steel Corp. operates indicate clearly that where private police systems are used as instruments of anti-union policy they:—

- (a) Abridge and violate the civil liberties of workers and other individuals.
(b) Violate the rights of labor guaranteed by federal statutes.
(c) Result in riots and bloodshed, causing loss of life and injury to persons and property.
(d) Endanger the public safety.

Oppress Large Groups "The use of private deputies in an anti-union campaign is inimical to the maintenance of orderly representative government. It leads to private usurpation of authority, corruption of public officials, oppression of large groups of citizens under the authority of the State, and perversion of representative government."

The Committee characterized the use of private police against workers as the attempt to "impose upon labor a selfish private interest by means of private armies."

Violence Against Labor "The utilization of organized forces of men, women, and munitions by employers against employees," said the Committee, "to frustrate their attempt at self-organization results in violent struggle instead of peaceful negotiations between labor and management."

The Committee recalled the Harlan County events where the coal operators "subverted and corrupted the office of High Sheriff in the years of 1934-37 through many extraordinary financial favors rendered to High-Sheriff Theodore R. Middleton, who entered upon his term of public office as a man of small means and in three years amassed a fortune of over \$100,000."

(Continued from Page 1) ted that they—the Stalinists—had made an agreement hours before the meeting to keep the pickets across the street. The law-and-order alliance for the defense of fascist propaganda is complete!

The Oakland comrades have already arranged for a militant defense against the scheduled police frame-up. A jury trial will be demanded and Austin Lewis, prominent labor attorney, has volunteered his services. The Stalinist-controlled International Labor Defense, under the pressure of the massed participants at the jail, at first went bail for all six arrested, but the present "line" of stoolpigeoning via the capitalist press indicates that this bail will quickly be withdrawn from our comrades. A new bail of \$500 or \$1,000 is threatened. An independent, nation-wide drive must begin immediately to provide the funds and the labor-liberal mass protest necessary to free these victims of a police, Stalinist, pro-fascist united front!

Send funds to Tanner-Bates Defense Committee, c/o Glen Trimble, chairman, 2013 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

Wreckers Raid Sea Radio Union Local, Oust Sec'y.

Rank and File Raise Defense Fund Against Illegal Action

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK.—Another demonstration of what happens in a union under the domination of the Stalinist wrecking crew occurred in the American Radio Telegraphers Association last week when Stalinist wreckers Mervyn Rathborne, A.R.T.A. president, and Fyle and Jordan of the International Executive Board raided the offices of Marine Local No. 2 with a Joe Curran goon squad and suspended Fred Howe, newly elected local secretary.

This action climaxed a long series of maneuvers by this Stalinist clique to smash all opposition to their wrecking policies. The officers and members of Local No. 2 are leaders of the rank and file movement to oust Rathborne and his Kremlin cohorts and to restore democracy and militancy to the union.

Illegal Action The suspension of Secretary Howe constitutes a flagrant violation of the constitution of the A.R.T.A. which permits the International to intervene in local affairs only to the extent of suspending a local charter, and then only after the offending local has been given an opportunity to appear before the International Executive Board to defend itself against whatever charges have been leveled against it.

As the basis for his illegal action Rathborne charged that Fred Howe as local secretary had signed agreements without the approval of the International office. He gave Howe absolutely no opportunity to answer the charge but seized the local's records and property in true G.P.U. gangster fashion.

At the present time the rank and file, who in the overwhelming majority oppose the Stalinists, are raising a defense fund. Stalinists have been circulating a petition calling for suspension and trial of Secretary Howe in the local, but have been unable to obtain any signatures from the membership.

An unfortunate phase of the rank and file fight against the Stalinist crew was their threat, under the pressure of Stalinist provocation, to withdraw from the International if gangster tactics on the part of Rathborne, Fyle, and Jordan continued. Such a threat on the part of a local could only play into the hands of the wreckers. In place of threats to withdraw they must extend their fight by appealing to the entire membership of the A.R.T.A. to support them in their fight against the wreckers.

OMAHA TRUCKERS WIN UNION SHOP, WAGE INCREASE

(Continued from Page 1) 2 1/2% with no dead-heading provisions.

Get Standard Scale Drivers will receive the standard scale of 75c hourly for pickup, except on the Kansas City run where a pickup scale of 55c will prevail. Runs within a 75-mile radius of the various Nebraska terminals will pay 55c per hour. Other runs inside Nebraska and from Nebraska to Sioux City, Carroll and Anita, Iowa, will pay 60c hourly.

The closed shop, with a modification on hiring new men, will prevail, and all teamsters will return to their jobs according to their seniority as of September 9, 1938, the day the trucking tie-up began.

The over-road contract with the Omaha operators will run until October 31, 1940, a year beyond the expiration date of the standard pact. However, in case wage scales in the area are raised in the meantime, corresponding changes will be made by the Omaha bosses on all operations involved.

City Wage Gains Under the new Omaha city contract, both drivers and dockmen receive a straight 7 1/2% hourly increase, from 45c to 52 1/2c, which amounts to a weekly wage increase of \$4.05. The 9-hour day, 54-hour week, with time and one-half for overtime, will prevail in the city.

STALINIST ATTEMPT ON JAMES MEETING DEFEATED DENVER, Col.—An attempt by the Stalinists to prevent C. L. R. James from addressing a meeting in this city on Feb. 13 by calling the police, failed when pastor Rev. Edgar Wahlberg in whose church the meeting was being held intervened.

Their ruse in calling the police having proved fruitless, the Stalinists tried to disconcert the speaker by moving about, and leaving the hall one by one. The audience of over 300 people which had gathered to hear James despite the inclement weather were only relieved by the departure of the Stalinists.

James showed in his speech that the desperate attempt by England's rulers to maintain the status quo cannot save the Empire from wreckage on the rocks of colonial revolt. As everywhere where James has spoken, his lecture was enthusiastically received.

HUNGRY MOTHER TRIES "HOLD UP"

Mrs. Mary Cusack, mother of two children, lives in the richest city of the world—New York City. Yet Mrs. Mary Cusack had no food in her home with which to feed her two children.

On Feb. 14, therefore, she walked out of her home in the Bay Ridge area, having first taken a toy pistol from among the playthings of her children. With this toy pistol she walked into the subway station at Fourth Avenue and Fifty-ninth St., and tried to hold up the station agent.

But Mrs. Mary Cusack is not a rich financier, or a politician-protected big-time gangster schooled in the ways of robbery. So her attempt at a "hold-up" failed. At the Fourth Avenue police station she was booked on charges of felonious assault and attempted robbery. Thus ended her "career in crime."

The newspapers reporting the case, have not yet published the news that money and food has been given to the hungry family. It may be given—now that their plight has been exposed before the public.

So does capitalism take care of its victims. Now it will either punish her, or show its magnanimity by letting her off easy—so that she may continue to starve.

In either event, the situation is perfectly clear. The crime committed, in the case of Mrs. Cusack, does not lie in the social system that deprived her of food. The crime is, of course, that she made a desperate attempt to get food.

With the five major companies now operating under union agreements, about 70 per cent of the teamsters have returned to their jobs. Only 35 or 40 small outfits continue to accept the dictates of the Omaha Business Men's Association and refuse to sign with General Drivers Union Local 554. Local 554 will mop up on the rest of the operators within the next few days.

22-Week Struggle The strike was one of the hardest-fought struggles of recent years. There are no tougher boss organizations in the United States than the hide-bound Omaha Business Men's Association. During the tie-up, armed strike-breakers were set to attacking union members and union headquarters; strikers were denied relief; the vile Nebraska anti-picketing law was invoked; over 200 strikers were arrested; the banks, the landlords and the merchants were mobilized and used against the strikers; attempts were made to suppress the union's fighting weekly strike paper.

Even now, with the strike all but over, the Omaha Business Men's Association is refusing to recognize the settlement, and is trying to organize a boycott against those companies who have finally broken ranks and signed with Local 554. They fear the growth of unionism in the state, and are ready to resort to this sort of industrial cannibalism in the vain hope they can stay the onward-march of organized labor.

All during the struggle, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters gave generous financial and moral support to the embattled strikers and enabled them to maintain the unconquerable spirit which finally carried them through to victory. Members of the 11-state Area Negotiating Committee—Mike Healy of Chicago, "Red" O'Laughlin, of Detroit, T. T. Neal of Kansas City, Joe Szkolowski of Milwaukee, Carl Keul of Des Moines, and Farrell Dobbs of Minneapolis, secretary of the Committee—spent many days in the thick of the fight.

During the five-month tie-up in Omaha, the Area Committee pressed steadily forward with its campaign for the standard over-road pact. Since September, 1938, trucking operations out of Des Moines, Chicago, Sioux Falls, Kansas City and Detroit were brought under terms of the standard pact.

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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. 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.

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