

# In the Trade Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

(Concluded from last issue)

The C. I. O. convention in Massachusetts performed a remarkable feat in the anti-war resolution it approved. Remarkable not in the content of the resolution, but in the amazing "compromise" worked out by the majority of the delegates against the protests of a small progressive minority.

The resolution, as passed, said in the resolves, "that this convention records itself as being unalterably opposed to imperialistic war, to militarism . . ." but the last clause of this same paragraph, "and to the preparations for war," was deleted!

Strike Out Anti-War Paragraphs

This is no accident of confused workers thinking one way and voting another. For two other paragraphs in the resolution were also rejected. And they are extremely significant because they characterize the war.

They read: "in all the wars the working people make all the sacrifices at home and at the front in a cause not their own, while the employers reap all the profits," and, "the same arguments are now being used for preparation for the coming war as were being used in 1918, such as making the world safe for democracy, government by consent of the governed."

These paragraphs were stricken out by the resolutions committee after the resolution was submitted to them. On the floor, a small minority fought to have the original resolution passed but failed.

Compared to the stand of the national C. I. O. convention on another "war for democracy" the Massachusetts C. I. O. is far to the "left" in words but the failure to get specific and serious about fighting imperialism reduces the convention stand to nothing.

Its value is solely that it gives progressive unionists a legal argument for continuing their anti-war propaganda within the unions basing themselves on the "stand" of the state C. I. O.

The Stalinists voted for the ambiguous and chopped up resolution, Salvatore Camello, of the J.R.W.A., gave the cue for the Stalinists when he spoke against fighting war preparations. "We may be forced within a short time to defend ourselves against the fascist nations," he declared in Daily Worker style.

Knife Unemployed Organization

The customary job of knifing any serious organization of the unemployed was done by the Stalinists. The organization committee of the convention unanimously approved a resolution calling for the organization of the unemployed into federal workers unions chartered by the C. I. O., on the basis of the following program. A federal works job for every worker not employed by private industry; union scale of wages and hours on WPA work.

The report of the committee was not brought to the floor until a half hour before adjournment. There, Don Carson and John Poulos, Lynn labor leaders, put up a fight for passage of this vital resolution. The Stalinists attacked it as "stepping on the jurisdiction of the Workers Alliance," and "changing national C. I. O. policy."

We've often wondered who gave the Workers Alliance its so-called jurisdiction? Earl Browder? As for national C.I.O. policy, David Lasser has moved heaven and earth to get a C.I.O. national charter and John L. Lewis has cold-shouldered him. Both arguments of the Stalinists are completely phoney. Well, the resolution was referred to the incoming executive board which is supposed to kill it, if the Stalinists get their way.

"They're Trotskyists"

Better cooperation beforehand by all progressives could have brought a different result. It takes more than indignation to smash the influence of the Stalinist wrecking machine.

Of course, Michael Widman, of the United Mine Workers who was re-elected chairman of the state organization, can hardly be called a friend of the Stalinists. Quite the contrary; and this should assist in putting the dampers on their ambitious plans to capture the entire state organizations.

Perhaps one of the surprising—to the delegates involved—lessons of the convention was to discover that they were "Trotskyists!" Each time dozens of delegates voted for a progressive idea of any kind, the Stalinists passed the rumor around, "They're Trotskyists!"

## Stalinists Seek To Break Auto Union WPA Division

### W. A. A. Is Dangerous Substitute for Great Auto Union Achievement

(Continued from Page 1)

gling, conferences and uncertainty. The International Executive Board finally met again and approved the project and the campaign was again due to get started. The organizational staff then found that George F. Addes would not provide receipt books to collect the dues. Some more delay, a few more weeks lost.

Jobless Join

The idea of one industrial union for all W.P.A. workers is so obviously the only way of organization and the W.P.A. workers were so eager to ally themselves with a powerful union movement, they began pouring into the newly formed auxiliary by the thousands. As soon as they learned of the wretched intrigues afoot, they quickly put the squeeze on the Executive Board and the machinations of the Stalinists were stymied for the time being, as far as Detroit was concerned. The dues books and the union buttons began arriving and the campaign was on its way.

In the short space of a few months the U.A.W. organized one of the finest W.P.A. organizations that this country has seen since 1933. The union had a membership of some 15,000 workers; the union spoke with the full weight and authority of the powerful U.A.W. and was already preparing to launch an aggressive drive for a 75c hourly wage minimum and a 30 hour week. The U.A.W. factional fight flared up again in the fall and the W.P.A. organization was shoved into the distant background.

Move to Ditch W.P.A. Men

Driven out of Detroit, the Stalinists began their burrowing and disruption in Toledo, Cleveland, South Bend and other auto centers. Richard Reisinger, Paul Milley and Ellsworth Kramer, Regional Directors of Ohio, claimed that the U.A.W. auxiliary only applied to Michigan. In Ohio they were going to organize the W.P.A. workers on a craft basis and charge the workers \$1.00 monthly dues. The Workers Alliance would organize all the "unorganized workers" and charge only 50c monthly dues—a transparent trick to turn all of the

W.P.A. workers over to the Stalinist Workers Alliance. For months, they resisted, with might and main, all attempts to organize the W.P.A. workers of Ohio, Indiana and other industrial states of the mid-west.

Now with Martin committing hari-kiri, the C.P. is beginning to control the International Executive Board of the U.A.W. It is already proceeding to ditch the W.P.A. organizations, and dump them, if possible, into the Workers Alliance.

The Cleveland C.I.O. Council voted the W.P.A. auxiliary an illegal body and expelled it out of the C.I.O. The Toledo C.I.O. Council voted to disband the W.P.A. auxiliary to promote a spurious reorganization plan. The progressives gathered their forces in the council and succeeded in postponing the measure, however, until a further meeting. The South Bend C.I.O. council ordered the W.P.A. auxiliary to disband and the members to join the Workers Alliance. All three of these councils are under the control of the Communist Party hatchet gang.

The militants of the U.A.W. as well as the whole C.I.O. have got to stop the wreckers cold—reorganize the unemployed and W.P.A. workers; help weld them into one solid, loyal union organization that can march forward with the necessary solidarity and strength to smash all of labor's traitors and foes.

S.W.O.C. FORCES END OF INDIANA COMPANY UNION

Dissolution Voted By Inland Steel Outfit

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

EAST CHICAGO, Ind., Feb. 27.—A mass meeting called by the company dominated Steel Workers Independent Union Inc. of the Inland Steel Company was turned into a complete rout last Monday evening when a packed hall of militant Steel Workers Organizing Committee men "captured" the meeting. This event marked the complete collapse of the scab Independent Union.

The Independent Union, Inc. was formed at the Inland Steel Co. just prior to the Little Steel strike in an attempt by the company to head off the strike and break the S.W.O.C. During the strike this scab outfit attempted to lead a back-to-work movement by hiring thugs and gangsters to break the picket line. Only the size and militancy of the S.W.O.C. picket line prevented them.

Proved a Company Union

During the National Labor Relations Board hearings into the case of the Inland Lodge of the S.W.O.C. after the strike, it was proved conclusively that the Independent Union was a company union. In its ruling, the Labor Board ordered the scab union disbanded on the grounds that it was an illegal union.

For some time now this discredited scab outfit has attempted to head off the reorganizing drive of the S.W.O.C. in the gigantic plant of the Inland Steel Co. Last Monday afternoon it distributed leaflets to the workers announcing that it was sponsoring a mass meeting in the evening. At the scheduled time militant rank and file S.W.O.C. men packed the hall. When it became apparent that the few Independent Union men present were too frightened to open the meeting, the C.I.O. men vociferously elected a leading C.I.O. militant as chairman.

Deride Profit Sharing

Speaker after speaker then got up and to the accompaniment of tremendous applause, extolled the virtues of the C.I.O. and derided the scab Independents. When one of the Independent leaders took the floor and spoke on Profit Sharing (a matter which the Independents have feebly been agitating for), he was soon shouted down and booed derisively. A C.I.O. man then exposed Profit Sharing for what it is—a means of deluding the workers by making them give up militant action in the hope of obtaining some fake profits.

The meeting reached a climax when a motion was adopted unanimously that the Independent Union, Inc. declare itself dissolved and disbanded. The tumultuous meeting adjourned with the hall ringing to the cry: "The Independent Union is dead—Long live the C.I.O.!"

SHERIDAN SANDWICH SHOPPE

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

MANY NEGROES ATTEND JAMES FRESNO MEETING

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

FRESNO, Cal., Feb. 23.—The meeting addressed by C. L. R. James in Fresno was received with great enthusiasm by nearly one hundred workers. This was the most successful meeting of the Socialist Workers Party has supported here. It laid the basis for party growth among both colored and white workers.

Several Stalinists attended the meeting but were unable to win any support from the audience. In spite of the fact that the location of the meeting made it unfavorable for Negro attendance, 20 or more were present. James considered this Negro attendance an indication of the political awakening of the race.

A majority of the Negroes as well as many white workers, gave their names and addresses to the

## Tanner, Bates Charges Dropped

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SAN FRANCISCO.—The police of this city have dropped all proceedings against the six persons arrested for picketing the recent pro-France rally.

The case, involving Myra Tanner and Roland Bates, Y.P.S.L. members, aroused the indignation of various trades unions and liberal organizations. At Berkeley University, student meetings were held to protest the arrests. A petition asking for the release of the pickets secured 900 signatures on the campus.

## LIBERATION SEEN NEAR FOR FRAMED HARLAN MINERS

### Frame-Up Was Part of Anti-Union Terror

By MARTIN HARVEY

The prospect of freedom for four Harlan miners, serving life sentences for conspiring to kill three company gunmen, is brighter than ever before, Herbert Mahler, Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Miners Defense Committee, intimated in an interview recently.

Jim Reynolds, W. B. Jones, Chester Poore, and Al Benson, members of the United Mine Workers of America, were tried for murder as a result of the famous Battle of Everts. On the morning of May 5, 1931, a band of deputized company mineguards swooped down on a picket line in Everts, a mining town in Harlan County, Ky., and opened fire without warning or provocation. In that fight three company gunmen and one union miner were slain.

Perjured Evidence

Forty-three miners were originally indicted for direct murder but only seven were finally convicted of "conspiracy to murder." These convictions were made possible only by perjured evidence and illegal importation of jurors from the wealthy, farming, Blue Grass country. The authorities never attempted to apprehend the murderer of the union miner.

Three of the seven life-terms were set free in 1935 by former Governor Ruby P. Laffoon. He declined to act in the case of the remaining four, saying: "I've started the ball rolling on the Harlan cases. Let Governor-elect Chandler show where he stands. He campaigned as a friend of labor."

Frame-up Demonstrated

Evidence presented before Governor Chandler at two pardon hearings demonstrated conclusively that the union men were framed. Proof of the perjury of the prosecution witnesses, recanted by State witnesses, and appeals from 46 of the 47 living jurors and two of the three trial judges for pardons for the prisoners were presented to the Governor. The Democratic Chief Executive, however, refused to act, as did Lieutenant-Governor Keen Johnson to whom Chandler passed the buck.

The LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee investigated conditions in Harlan County but, despite the demands of the Defense Committee, refused to consider the frame-up of the union workers.

Fight for Their Freedom

The cause of these workers who are wasting away their lives in the prisons of Kentucky because they fought in the ranks of labor, is the cause of the whole working class. The pardon granted to Tom Mooney a month ago, however, has caused many workers to forget that the slate of capitalist justice is far from clean.

## Billings Again Denied Pardon by Calif. Board

By NORMAN MINT (Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 24.—The campaign to free Warren K. Billings from Folsom Prison today received its first serious setback when the California Advisory Pardon Board, by a vote of 3 to 2, refused to recommend a pardon for him.

Following the Board's decision Billings announced that his fight to secure complete vindication would go on. As a twice convicted "criminal," Billings must secure a recommendation from the State Supreme Court before Governor Olson can pardon him. Since the Court refused to grant clemency following a hearing several years ago, the Advisory Board's ruling indicates that another Supreme Court ruling against Billings will be forthcoming.

The board members voting to perpetuate the notorious frame-up were Attorney General Earl Warren, Warden Plummer of Folsom, and Clarence Morrill, chief of the State Department of Criminal Identification. An inspection of the records of these gentlemen reveals how such a decision is possible less than two months after the freeing of Tom Mooney, who was convicted on the same charge.

Enemies of Labor

Earl Warren, as District Attorney of Alameda County in 1936, engineered the conviction of leaders of the Marine Fireman's Union on a false murder charge and by this act gained the dubious fame that elected him Attorney General.

Plummer is a former Los Angeles police official, while Clarence Morrill's department—a virtual California edition of the Gestapo—for years has been the directing center of all frame-up and vigilante action against militant workers' activities in the state.

Through this reactionary decision against Billings the Board reveals that the legal institutions of California, despite the change from a Republican to a Democratic regime, remain completely dominated by the same interests which perpetrated the Mooney-Billings frame-up more than 24 years ago. All Stalinist ballyhoo to the contrary, the Democratic Olson government is a hopeless captive of the Republican machine and can do nothing without its consent.

Billings Must Be Freed

With Mooney freed and vindicated, the continued imprisonment of Billings—whose conviction rests upon the same charges—becomes more and more a burning outrage which demands the energetic intervention of Labor.

In the first speeches after his release, Mooney pledged himself to carry on an unending fight for the release of his comrade Billings. But instead of putting himself at the head of a determined army of labor fighters and preparing to smash the criminal ring that sent him to prison, Mooney seems perfectly content to turn over the struggle for Billings' release to Olson's legal wizards. Meanwhile Mooney himself leads (in person!) three cheers for Billings' jailors.

they accede to the company demands in order to put the company in a better competitive position. He proposed more efficiency, better management, less waste, more "cooperation" from the workers.

The resolution of the workers in response to the company's and Mr. Golden's demands points out that further cutting of wages means nothing but further reducing the purchasing power of the workers and throwing more men out of employment. The workers favor greater efficiency, better management, less waste, if it leads to "less human labor."

The resolution unequivocally opposes a wage cut, and demands that the problem of unemployment at Mullins as well as on a national scale must be solved through the reduction of hours of work while maintaining present weekly earnings.

The lodge ended its resolution with a demand that the national organization of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee begin a well-advertised, aggressive campaign for a 30 hour week at a \$30 minimum wage. The resolution was introduced by Erwin Bauer, vice-president of the lodge.

## Akron Lodge Wants WOC To Demand 30 Hour Week

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 18.—Challenging the proposal of Clinton S. Golden, Northeastern Director of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, that the workers of the Mullins Manufacturing Corporation cooperate better with the management (accept a wage cut), Lodge 1538 of the S.W.O.C. passed a resolution today unanimously demanding that the S.W.O.C. immediately launch a campaign throughout the steel industry for a 30 hour week at a minimum of \$30 wage.

The Mullins Manufacturing Corp. showed a net loss, according to company kept books, of \$450,000 for 1938 despite the fact that it had bid on contracts amounting to \$21,000,000 and received \$3,000,000 of it.

Wage Cut Asked

On the basis of this bookkeeping loss, the Mullins Manufacturing Corp. wrote to Mr. Golden, stating that they could not bear a similar loss for 1939 and that the workers should "cooperate better with the management," that is, take a wage cut.

Golden in turn addressed a meeting of the lodge officers and stewards representing the workers of the plant and asked that

they accede to the company demands in order to put the company in a better competitive position. He proposed more efficiency, better management, less waste, more "cooperation" from the workers.

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## The Dunce Hat For You, Ruth

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, O., Feb. 28.—Akron's star pupil in the Stalin school of falsification, Ruth McKenney, author of "Industrial Valley," allegedly about Akron, got the dunce cap from Thomas F. Burns, vice-president of the United Rubber Workers of America.

Miss McKenney attempted to inflate the role of the Communist party in building the U.R.W.A. to such an extent that Burns, an erstwhile admirer of her writing regretted that "you didn't permit Jim Keller (Organizer, Akron C.P.—Ed.) to write the story."

Further: "you had to go and mess up Jim Keller and John Williamson's (Ohio organizer, C.P.—Ed.) part in the strike . . . They were there, it is true, and they attempted from time to time to stick their nose in the affair but more often than not they were rebuffed."

"Pure Bunk"

# APPEAL ARMY

"This new Socialist Appeal is much, much better than the old and twice as interesting"—a reader in Houston, Texas.

"Send me 50 copies extra of this issue as Browder is speaking here Sunday. . . . We have comrades going out 3 nights a week in Boston, Roxbury and Dorchester on street sales. Thanks for the newshy appra. I am also trying to get the social committee to run a party to clean up our bill."—J.T., literature agent of Boston, Mass.

MODEL RED - BUILDERS SQUAD IN NEW YORK CITY: Comrade Stan "Newshound" Lauren of New York is now in charge of New York's Appeal Squad. The New York Red Builders under his able direction are now selling on busy street corners and in subways every day of the week. The Squad has about a dozen members already and Stan is out to double the size. The branches are being canvassed for "professional" salesmen and volunteer Red Builders to meet this quota.

These Red Builders are not only building Appeal circulation. They are Party organizers! MORE PROMOTION MATERIAL FROM APPEAL CENTER: (1) The Appeal Poster Shop is now busily at work putting out another one of its famous posters for the Appeal. This one will be a corker! The best yet! Comrade R. is putting all he's got into it.

(2) Parts 3 & 4 of the new Appeal Army Bulletin containing information on newsstand circulation and subscription-campaigns will soon be in the mails. SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN LAGGING BEHIND: With only five (5) weeks left to go, the sub-drive is just 25% completed.

We print below the achievements up to date. Some branches have done exceptionally well. Austin, Berkeley, and New York City are to be commended for their fine efforts so far.

But what of the 15 branches with the goose eggs? And here is one month of the sub-drive. How is your branch doing?

Branch	Quota	Obtained	Percent
Austin, Minn.	5	128	2560
Berkeley, Calif.	10	9	90
Houston, Texas	5	3	60
Akron, O.	10	5	50
Youngstown, O.	10	5	50
Quakertown, Pa.	10	5	50
New York City	200	94	47
Fargo, N. D.	5	2	40
Philadelphia, Pa.	40	13	33
Lynn, Mass.	25	8	32
Washington, D. C.	10	3	30
San Francisco, Calif.	10	3	30
Cleveland, O.	40	10	25
San Diego, Calif.	10	2	20
Chicago, Ill.	100	20	20
Newark, N. J.	50	10	20
Rochester, N. Y.	20	4	20
Columbus, O.	5	1	20
Allentown, Pa.	10	2	20
Los Angeles, Calif.	50	9	18
Boston, Mass.	30	5	17
New Haven, Conn.	10	1	10
Baltimore, Md.	10	1	10
Detroit, Mich.	50	6	12
St. Paul, Minn.	50	7	14
Minneapolis, Minn.	100	10	10
Toledo, O.	10	1	10
Oakland, Calif.	20	1	5
St. Louis, Mo.	25	1	4
Sacramento, Calif.	10	0	0
Denver, Colo.	10	0	0
Hartford, Conn.	10	0	0
East Chicago, Ind.	10	0	0
Evansville, Ind.	5	0	0
Kansas	5	0	0
Louisville, Ky.	5	0	0
Worcester, Mass.	5	0	0
Clayton, Mo.	10	0	0
Paterson, N. J.	10	0	0
Ithaca, N. Y.	5	0	0
Syracuse, N. Y.	10	0	0
Portland, Ore.	5	0	0
Reading, Pa.	5	0	0
Seattle, Wash.	5	0	0
Totals	1,035	252	25

## NOW IN SESSION

The MARXIST SCHOOL is being held at Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th Street, N. Y. C. Classes began on 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. 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. 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

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