

LEFT JABS

Healing Stalin
Last week Stalin called in the coming year's quota of "cut-throats," "gangsters of the pen," "double dealers," "Fascist spies," "Trotskyist-Bukharinist scum," etc., for some boot licking practice in preparation for the fall confessionals. After reading the reports in the "D.W." and elsewhere we are ready to predict that if the boys do as well in the finals as they did in practice, we are due for some of the crawling, put frame-ups and murder on a mass production basis.

The Leader Spoke
The occasion for the orgy was a gathering humorously referred to as the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The place, Moscow. Of course the great man delivered an oration and all the speakers that followed hung around that speech like flies around a manure pile.

Stalin the Historian
Yaroslavsky, a veteran bootlicker, still paying hooky from the firing squad, praised Stalin as being responsible for a "veritable about face in the science of history" and for directing the new party history which gives Stalin credit for all the accomplishments of the men he murdered, exiled or jailed.

He Built Khabarovsk
A delegate from Khabarovsk told of the building up of that region—stopping at every paragraph to praise Allah—we mean Stalin—as the creator, founder and perpetrator of all that is good in Khabarovsk.

Manuilsky Goes to Town
Manuilsky next knelt by the boots of the "father of all mankind" and he really went to town. He heaped Stalin's drivel as an "historic report" "a valuable contribution" "unsurpassed in its profundity," etc., etc. Quotations from Stalin and no one else studied his speech. (It was published in full in the Daily Worker).

The Holy Father
Manuilsky continued. . . "The Spanish People enjoyed the support of the father of all working people, Comrade Stalin." . . (Loud applause). He spoke of the International Brigade as "men and women of the Stalin era" . . . "of the same temper as those who marched into the battle at Lake Hasun with the battle cry: 'For the Fatherland, for Communism, for Stalin.' (Applause). All delegates rise to their feet. Shouts of 'Long Live the Great Stalin! Hurrah!' (Stormy applause. 'Long live the Great Leader!' etc., etc.)

Gannes on the Stalin Speech
Just to show that 20th Century Americans can outplay even the Russian Stalinists at this game and no doubt with an eye on the editors job, Harry Gannes took up in the Daily Worker where Manuilsky left off. After a thorough slobbering over the fudger's boots, he licked his way to higher places as he went into a twittering ecstasy over the Stalin speech. "Historic speech" . . . "Most lucid possible manner" . . . "Stalin's report is making history" . . . "Masterful simplicity" . . . "How confident and powerfully calm was Stalin" . . . "How sharp and precise were Stalin's thrusts of irony and wit" . . . "Breath-taking in its brilliance" . . . "A work to be treasured" . . . "Its clarification is a joy." . . . "And all this about a drivelling piece of empty boasting and stupid lying, whose high and also low point was its whining appeal to Hitler for a deal."

"Glory Road"
The program for Earl Browder's talk on Religion at Boston's Community Church was as follows: 1—Hymn, "One Holy Church of God Appears." 2—Prayer. 3—Offering. 4—Hymn, "The Voice of God is Calling." 5—Earl Browder—"A Communist speaks to Protestants, Catholics, and Jews." 6—Hymn, "Arise Democracy." 7—Benediction.

W.P.A. at World's Fair
The W.P.A. is to have an exhibit at the New York World's Fair. Its theme will be "Work—the American Way Out of Unemployment." It is not likely that the firing of 1,000,000 W.P.A. workers while employment declines will be depicted in the exhibit.

Rosenberg Resigns
The National Office of the Socialist Workers Party announced that upon the request of the Political Committee of the Party, Irving Rosenberg, of Newark, N. J., submitted his resignation from the party in a letter declaring that the public effect of his present commercial activities has tended to have an injurious result for the party and its name. The resignation was accepted and a decision adopted to make it public.

Martin Convention Ends in Fiasco

RED-BAITING TONE DOMINATES; TIDE AGAINST MARTIN

(Continued from Page 1)

Muncie, Indiana. Cadillac is overwhelmingly for the C.I.O. Exaggerated Claims

Thus real figures already prove that Martin's following accounts for less than one-third of organized G.M. workers, and that every day reduces this figure substantially.

Similar estimates can be made for the Chrysler workers. Only Plymouth was officially represented in the original credentials report. Yet even here, large membership meetings of Plymouth workers showed an approximate 50-50 division of loyalties between Martin and the C.I.O. Neither Dodge, Dodge Truck, Dodge Forge, Chrysler Local 7, nor Chrysler Highland Park were officially listed.

Of the independents, neither the large Briggs body local, Hudson Motor, Studebaker, Murray Body, nor Nash were accounted for in the first report. Only Packard and Seaman Body of Wisconsin were listed. But the true figures would show a 50-50 division in Packard and a decisive majority for the C.I.O. in Seaman Body.

Naturally large claims were made of support at the Ford Motor Co. But so negligible are the actually organized here, it is futile to devote even an extra sentence to these claims. If the C.I.O. makes claims of a similar nature, they will be just as false.

Small Unions Represented
Who then was represented at Martin's convention? Only the smallest local unions, unimportant parts and accessory plants which carry no decisive weight in the automobile industry. For the most part, these were legitimate delegates, even if their membership figures were padded to a greater or lesser degree.

With this tiny minority Martin could not justifiably maintain his wild statement that this convention represented "75 percent of the auto workers organized in the U.A.W.," nor could he hope to have his union respected as the bona fide auto workers organization after the convention.

Hence it was necessary to ring into the convention the so-called "rank and file" delegations as authoritative bodies. The "rank and file" was alleged to represent the majority of workers in Dodge, Dodge Truck, Chrysler, Chrysler Highland Park, Chevrolet Gear and Axle, Hudson Motor, Briggs and Murray Body, G.M. on the West Coast, Fisher Body of Cleveland and every other local where Martin's following was only a tiny portion of the membership.

The delegates in large part represented nobody but themselves. Many of them were picked off the street. Others had not worked in their plants, e.g. the Murray Body delegation, for upwards of a year. But Martin needed them to maintain the fiction of his majority support in the union. And also—

Whatever struggle there was at this convention revolved around the seating of the "rank and file" and the inevitable consequences of this action. It took place behind closed doors in what was called a "conference of the whole." Lovestonites fearful of their inevitable displacement and crucifixion united with representatives of small locals, jealous of their democratic rights and their power at the convention, and fought bitterly against the seating of the "rank and file." They were soundly trounced by the well-oiled Martin machine.

Dispute Martin's Powers
These padded rolls were soon to have their effect at the convention. The first major dispute, in closed session also, concerned the extension of Martin's powers as president. The original proposal was to give Martin power to appoint the International Executive Board members. This was too much for even many of the "rank and file" delegates to swallow and it was voted down by an overwhelming vote. But—and it is not

State Moves to Curtail Aid to N. Y. Job-Seekers

Budget Slash to Result in Mass Firing in Agency Staffs; Youth Hardest Hit

NEW YORK—A new blow was struck at the unemployed when it was announced this week that mass staff firings and the shutting down of local offices of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance, New York's free employment agency and unemployment insurance office, would result from a recent slash in the state budget.

The harshest cut was made on the junior division of the employment service which has been attempting to assist the jobless youth under the age of 21. The staff of the junior division was slashed by more than 37 per cent in New York City, and 9 of the 18 junior division offices have been shut down.

Already, 197 placement and insurance interviewers have received dismissal notices. More than half are slated to go on March 15, while the remainder will be fired because of the budget cut are civil service appointees.

Virtual Shutdown
One of the most important functions of the Division of Placement and Unemployment Insurance was to visit employers in New York State for the purpose of soliciting jobs for the unemployed. It is admitted by the Division administration that less than 3 per cent of the employers have been visited during the last year because the Division office has been understaffed. The present cut in staff means a virtual shutdown of the job service for the unemployed.

Because the youth have added handicaps to face when it comes to finding work, the Division had maintained a Junior service. The present shutdown of offices and

reduction of staff has forced the youth to compete for the same jobs with more experienced adult workers.

In the Bronx all Junior Division offices have been shut. Youth are asked to apply for jobs and unemployment insurance in the adult offices. All youth who have formerly applied to the East 149th St. office are now forced to report to the office at 80 Lafayette St. in downtown Manhattan. In Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens a similar crisis is in existence.

Shift Staff to Insurance Work
The Central Placement office, which formerly handled all types of placement work is being closed except for professional and technical job placement. In some offices the entire interviewing staff has been transferred from placement to insurance work.

Persons entitled to unemployment insurance have been obliged to wait months for their checks. The present reduction in staff will delay the issuance of checks still more.

On top of this it was announced that work on unemployment insurance formerly done in Albany will now be shifted to the understaffed offices in New York City. A backlog of 350,000 claims for unemployment insurance has been sent from Albany to the local offices. This work, which needs careful checking, actually demands an increase rather than a reduction in the staff.

The administration has offered to keep 98 of the civil service workers if they agree to take a salary cut of from \$300 to \$1800 a year. The S.C.M.W.A., Local 18, is fighting against the staff and salary cuts.

AFL-CIO Negotiations Adjourn Without Progress

NEW YORK, March 15—After a two hour conference last night at the Hotel Biltmore, the joint union committee representing the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations adjourned without making public the results of their discussions and agreed to meet again at the Department of Labor Building in Washington on March 24.

Harry C. Bates, spokesman for the joint committee, stated that the committee adjourned in order that A.F.L. representatives might confer with William Green, C.I.O. committee members had other important engagements which would

prevent them from meeting during the next ten days.

Both John L. Lewis and Philip Murray are now negotiating with coal operators for a new contract and Sidney Hillman, third member of the C.I.O. group has conferences in Washington scheduled.

The two hour conversation last night, it was reported, covered rival jurisdictions of unions in the A.F.L. and the C.I.O.

It is the general impression among labor bureaucrats that little progress has been made toward a program of unity acceptable to the delegates from the two labor camps.

This atmosphere which was created by Martin in a manner not unlike that of Gerald Smith or Father Coughlin. No speech, no resolution, no token of tribute was complete without a virulent attack on "reds" and "communists." The press has already reported the clause in the constitution barring membership to members of the Communist Party, Nazi or Fascist organizations. How far-reaching this clause is can be seen from the last words: (or members of any organization) which makes its interests and policies on union matters binding upon its members irrespective of the decisions interests and policies of the union.

Every radical must come under this axe—or bury his ideas under a bushel. Every progressive will be charged with membership in a radical organization if he differs with the machine.

As if this was not sufficient another resolution was introduced and passed affirming allegiance to "President Martin's philosophy" which condemns "Communism, Nazism, Fascism and all other isms opposed to democratic government." A delegate rose at this point and wanted the resolution referred back to committee in order that the I.L.L.A. the Lovestonites be included in the resolution. Martin's reply for the committee was significant. In the past Martin had always upheld the Lovestonites as good unionists. This time he ignored them entirely stating only that the resolution covered "all other philosophies opposed to democratic government and all work in the national union and all work in the nation." Like Caesar, the Lovestonites must have signed at this, the unkindest cut of all: "Et tu Brute?"

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1800 WORKERS STRIKE SERVEL ELECTROLUX CO.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
EVANSVILLE, IND., March 16—Local 1002, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union, today struck the Servel Electroflux plant. 1800 workers have quit work and thrown a picket line around the factory.

The company refused to meet the representatives of the union, Joe Hood, strike chairman, and Arthur Meloan, union organizer, and also refused to meet the government labor conciliator.

STRIKE FOR SIX-HOUR DAY VOTED BY N.Y. PLUMBERS

Unification of Two Locals Seen as Urgent

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
NEW YORK—The plumbers of Manhattan and the Bronx organized in Local 463 of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam fitters, voted on March 8 to strike for the 6-hour day. This is the second time within recent months that the plumbers are faced with a strike in the struggle for the 6-hour day.

For almost a year the Plumbers and Helpers like several other crafts in the building trade, had enjoyed the 6-hour day. Towards the end of last year however, the employers confronted the Local with an ultimatum setting Jan. 15, 1939 as the date when the plumbers are to start working 8 hours per day with a 25% reduction in pay. This ultimatum was rejected by the unanimous vote of the membership and on Jan. 15, the men were locked out.

On the third day of the lockout, the Assistant General President of the International Union, Mr. Masterson, came to New York to lend his hand to the employers in killing the 6-hour day. He together with General Organizer Leonard and the Local President Dodd in a conference with the plumbing contractors agreed to bring the members of the Local two proposals: one, the 8-hour day for \$13.50 per day for mechanics, and \$7.80 for helpers; two, the 7-hour day with \$12.60 per day for mechanics and \$7.35 for helpers.

Both propositions represented a wage cut and an increase in hours as against the old agreement under which the plumbers have been receiving \$12.00 per day for a 6-hour day, and the helpers \$7 for the same work day. In presenting the two proposals, to the membership of the Union, these officials ruled out the 6-hour day as something unattainable, intimating that the fight for the 6-hour day would not be backed by them or by the General Office.

Local officials with the notable exception of delegates Tobin and Heckler and Vice-President J. Cohen, argued for the 7-hour day. The Rank and File speakers stood solidly for the 6-hour day in accordance with the sentiment of the bulk of the membership.

But Mr. Masterson was determined that the mandate of the employers—to smash the 6-hour day—be carried out. He painted a glowing picture of a bright future for the industry and for the men employed in it, if the 6-hour day is given up. He attempted to frighten the membership of the Local with the threat that their charter would be lifted and given to another Local existing in the same trade in Manhattan and the Bronx, Local 463 Auxiliary, whose jurisdiction at present is confined to jobbing and alteration work, and which has a wage scale of \$9 for an 8-hour day.

Masterson promised that Local 463 will be able to share in the work at the Worlds Fair, which has been under the jurisdiction of Local 1, of Brooklyn and Queens, if the men would see eye to eye with him. This carried weight, since there is severe unemployment in the trade. To top it off, the President and Business Manager of the Local, the two highest ranking officials submitted their resignations, to take effect if the membership upholds the 6-hour day.

The vote taken at this meeting, Jan. 18, carried the 7-hour day proposition with the 10% cut in wages. But despite the pressure upon the membership, 40% of the votes cast, favored the 6-hour day. It must be pointed out that the whole vote was irregular. It was not taken at a special meeting provided by the constitution, but at a regular meeting of the Local and the membership books were not checked.

Following this vote, which ended the lockout, efforts have been made by members of the Local to declare the vote illegal on constitutional grounds, and to have a new vote taken. The President of

ELECTION VICTORY TO PROGRESSIVES IN AKRON COUNCIL

Bloc Wins Four Seats in Defeating CP Slanderers

By R. FERGUSON

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, Ohio, Jan. 15—Pointing out that all C.I.O. unionists must smash the reactionary influence of the Stalinists in the trade union movement, the Akron Industrial Union Council has decisively defeated the anti-progressive-Stalinist slate in its annual elections at the last two meetings.

The progressive bloc, representing all the large rubber locals and many miscellaneous C.I.O. unions, swept to victory in the elections by placing four out of five candidates in the Council offices, five out of six members on the Executive Board, and one trustee.

This great victory came only after the first elections had been challenged successfully by the Progressives on the grounds of election irregularities, wherein improperly credentialed delegates had voted and the Stalinist slate had gained a temporary victory.

Oppose C.F. Slanderers

The significance of this victory for progressive unionism can hardly be overestimated. But, if it accomplished nothing else, it has first of all removed the fear of the C.F. slander campaign from the workers. In fact, the progressive bloc gained wide support by virtue of its opposition to the Stalinist methods of labelling any opponent either a "fascist" or a "trotskyist." The labor movement is now in a position to discuss questions on their merits.

The election landslide, although some individual candidates won by only small margins, culminates a long period of struggle against the rule-or-ruin policy of the Stalinists. Rebellion against the C.P.'s attempts to underhandedly sabotage the militancy of the C.I.O. in the Goodyear strike of last May; opposition to their stooges' efforts to dominate undemocratically or smash small unions instead of cooperating with them; disgust with the do-nothing policy of the Workers Alliance, which claims jurisdiction over laid-off unionists and yet refuses to fight militantly for their interests; resentment against the "Keller boys" fake shouts for "unity" and "democracy" in the labor movement while they persistently and ruthlessly violate the elementary principles of fighting labor unity or slander their opponents "most democratically"; and finally, indignation at the Browdermen's blustering threats against certain A.F.L. leaders which might have disrupted the excellent cooperation that exists here—all these responses, and a hundred others, can be cited as the underlying causes for the growth of the Progressive group and its victory.

Now, seeing in practice that the Stalinists are not invincible, the Progressives can turn their faces towards the reconstruction of the old union movement of the "heroic" days of the C.I.O.

Local however, in a very high-handed manner refused to entertain any such motion.

After March 1, when the 7-hour day took effect the spirit of revolt among the plumbers grew more and more uncontrollable. This revolt was accentuated by the arrogance of the employers, who, not satisfied with the increase in hours and the reduction in the hourly rate of wages, have dragged the negotiations for the new agreement and pressed for other concessions.

At a special meeting, March 8, the membership voted five to one in favor of the 6-hour day. At another special meeting, March 11, the conference Board negotiating an agreement with the employers, was removed from office and delegate Heckler was elected Chairman of the new committee to negotiate the agreement. March 18 was set as the deadline for strike action.

The membership also voted unanimously to approach Local 463 Auxiliary, the jobbing and alteration Local, to prevail upon them to carry on joint negotiations with the employers for a common agreement that will include all plumbing in the city.

This motion was intended as a step towards the unification of the two locals, which is the need of the hour. There is no conceivable reason why the amalgamation of the locals which everyone claims to favor, should not take effect immediately. It is the task of the Rank and File in both of these Locals to press for immediate unification which would guarantee victory for the 6-hour day not only on new construction but for all plumbing work.

APPEAL ARMY

"My friends certainly do like to read the paper. They honestly think it is very good."—A reader in New Castle, Penna.

"The fine appearance, militant style, and improved contents of the semi-weekly APPEAL make it possible for us to sell more copies."—H.M., agent of East Chicago, Ind.

"In the past weeks we have systematized the sales of the Appeal. Each active comrade in the St. Louis branch takes at least 3 copies of each issue. Comrades have been assigned to cover important streets with the Appeals."—J. Carter, St. Louis, Mo.

MAY DAY APPEAL PLANS:
Preparations are now under way for the special May-Day issue of the Appeal. This issue will be an extra large paper, containing many features. We are planning to have it in the hands of each and every branch before May Day and in sufficient time to sell at all demonstrations and parades.

Instructions are now going out to all branches about greetings, prices, etc. The time to act is now—in advance. Let's make this May Day issue of the Appeal a real success!

ALL-TIME RECORD HIGH FOR APPEAL SUBS!

This week, just as we had predicted, we hit an all-time record high for new subscriptions. The

results are more than pleasing and we feel confident that if it is kept up for the next few weeks of our drive for 1,000 new Appeal readers, we'll make it.

Special mention should be given Boston, Minneapolis, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Newark for their splendid efforts this past week. Over the top on the 1,000 new readers campaign!

Here's the list:

MINNEAPOLIS	29
New York City	26
Chicago	24
Los Angeles	10
Boston	10
Newark	5
Foreign	4
Ohio	4
St. Louis	4
Philadelphia	3
St. Paul	3
Missouri	2
New Jersey	2
California	2
Connecticut	2
Minnesota	1
Washington	1
Pennsylvania	1
Total	120

We have a new bundle order agent in England. Pioneer Bookshop of London which takes 10 copies of each issue.

Also, our agent of Kent, Ohio has already doubled his order to 10 per issue.

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Monday, March 20th at 7:15 P.M.
SAM GORDON—The role of Progressive Blocs in Trade Unions.

Monday, March 20th at 8:50 P.M.
MAX SHACHTMAN—Changes in America's Political Structure.

Tuesday, March 21st at 7 P.M.
JOHN G. WRIGHT—The Sixth World Congress of the Comintern.

Tuesday, March 21st at 8:50 P.M.
DELMORE SCHWARTZ—Contemporary Poetry.

Wednesday, March 22nd at 8:00 P.M.
GEORGE NOVACK—The Role of the Working Class in the Civil War.

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DON'T BE A FOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YORK, N. Y.—How many times have you heard someone say to you, "Don't be a fool"? Hundreds, perhaps thousands of times? Well, before complete frustration sets in and ruins your sense of humor, your desire to be yourself and your ability to win friends and influence people you had better attend the All-Fools' day masquerade at Irving Plaza at 9 P. M. on April 1.

Let yourself go—be yourself—act your mental age all for the small sum of 49 cents (without costume, 65 cents) and know that the funds are for the S. W. P.

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STUMP THE EXPERTS! If you stump some of our brightest "big-shots" with your questions, you'll receive a prize at the "QUESTION MARK DANCE" Saturday, March 25—916 9th Ave., N.Y.C. Send in your questions. Refreshments, eats, etc. Admission, 30c.