

In the Trade Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

An idea of the problems before the progressive railroad workers in this country and some of the proposals advanced to solve them is contained in a little printed pamphlet which was put out by the Minneapolis Railroad Council in 1935.

"Why are the workers in the railroad industry kept divided into 21 separate labor organizations?" the pamphlet asks.

"How much does it cost the railroad men per year to maintain 21 organizations; 21 sets of officials; 21 journals; 21 conventions; 21 headquarters, and 21 sets of local lodge halls?" the pamphlet continues.

Among the general demands raised by the progressives who published this pamphlet were: (a) For a six hour day with out reduction in pay.

(b) For two men on every locomotive for convenience and safety.

(c) Against the consolidation of terminals unless it benefits the workers.

(d) For an adequate retirement system. We can add that with the permanent technological and secular unemployment problem mentioned in a previous column this demand takes on special significance.

(e) A joint national agreement between all legitimate railroad unions and all railroad companies. Of course, progress along this line has been noted but inadvertently through the compromise proposals, for example, adopted last fall with President Roosevelt's intervention.

(f) That all union demands be made jointly and backed by all the crafts.

(g) That all demands be taken to the railroad companies direct and not taken to legislative bodies or the Interstate Commerce Commission. It hardly needs elaborating that the whole tendency of the union officialdom has been the opposite with the tragic effect of tying the railroad workers to the government machine.

(h) That our present useless and expensive legislative boards and lobbies be abolished and that our Brotherhood leadership be requested to join with the rest of the labor movement for the building of a workers political party.

In explanation, it is pointed out that too many millions of the dues-payers' money has been dumped into this useless lobbying process, most of which has landed in the pockets of the lobbyist, commonly known as "legislative representatives."

The lobby simply cannot take the place of a good labor union, and it is time for us to quit the lobby and build the union by the united effort of the 21 crafts to amalgamate and organize the railroad workers, the pamphlet points out.

To which we can only add a hearty amen.

Trotsky Letter To Modern Quarterly

Comrade Trotsky sent the following letter to the editors of the Modern Quarterly on March 6:

"Gentlemen: I disagree completely with the general tendency of your review and therefore ask that you remove my name from your list of contributors.

Sincerely yours, Leon Trotsky Coyocacan, D.F.

Hudson Will Run In Mpls. Election

Well-Known Militant Will Stand for Mayor on Ticket of the S.W.P.

(Continued from Page 1) from the camp of independent working-class political action.

Under these circumstances, the Socialist Workers Party is filing its candidate for mayor. It calls on all workers to vote for its candidate, Carlos Hudson.

With the collapse of the Farmer-Labor Association in Minneapolis and Minnesota, the workers and farmers are organized organizationally where they were twenty years ago, when they first concluded that capitalist political parties ofered them no future.

Minneapolis workers and friends of labor can indicate their desire to make a clean break with boss politics, and their intention to aid in the building of an independent, nation-wide labor party, by voting for Carlos Hudson.

A Labor Program All other majority candidates stand for the continuation of the cruel profit system that is condemning millions to starvation, that is breeding fascism, and that even now is forcing another horrible imperialist war upon the masses of the United States.

The Socialist Workers Party advocates:

1. Opposition to any war conducted by a bosses' government. Opposition to the new 'war for democracy' being prepared by Roosevelt-Landon. Such a war would first of all fasten a fascist dictatorship on the masses in the United States. All war funds go to the unemployed. Not a penny nor a man to the bosses' war. A popular referendum on any and all wars. Support only the world-wide war of the workers to free humanity from a dying profit system.

2. The maintenance and increase of direct relief in Minneapolis. Eliminate red tape and delays in relief and unemployment compensation payments.

3. No cuts on W.P.A. A job for every worker at a minimum of \$20 weekly for thirty hours of work, or at trade union wages when these are higher.

4. A twenty-billion dollar federal public works and housing program. A state housing act. A municipal housing authority controlled by the union movement.

5. Municipal support to the setting up of consumers' co-operatives. Cut out the excess profits of the middlemen. Give the farmers a decent price for what they produce.

6. Free school books for grade, high school and university students. Free street car and bus transportation for students. No wage cuts for school employees. Free hot lunches or undernourished children. More funds for education. Real academic freedom for teachers and students. No tuition for union students.

7. No use of police against strikers. Extend the movement to build union defense guards against fascists and vigilantes.

8. Cheaper public utility rates with no decrease in wages for workers engaged in such industries. For two-man

SAUNDERS FOUND GUILTY BY JUDGE

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) NEW YORK—The case of Peter Saunders, Negro worker arrested on February 20 at the Anti-Nazi Demonstration called by the Socialist Workers Party, finally came to trial here today after having been adjourned six times since the arrest.

The decision, which took eight minutes to read, was handed down by Magistrate Rothenberg in Tombs Court. Rothenberg found Saunders guilty of the "disorderly conduct" charge and fined him \$15. On the question of "crucifix to animals" the Magistrate declared that there was absolutely no evidence, and dismissed the charge.

Saunders had been held under higher bail than any of the others arrested at the same time and on the same charge and had been subjected to the "third degree" in the police station after his arrest. The Magistrate sent a copy of Saunders' testimony on the hearing given him by the police, to Police Commissioner Valentine and promised to look into the matter further.

Saunders was defended by the American Fund for Political Prisoners and part of his fine was furnished by the organization.

Program Adopted at World Congress Is Published by S.W.P.

The program and resolutions of the Founding Conference of the Fourth International, which met last summer in Switzerland, are now available in their full text in a volume which has just been published by the Socialist Workers Party.

Included in this 127-page, well-printed little volume is an introduction written by Max Shachtman which traces the development of the movement for the Fourth International from the time when the slogan for its creation was first raised by the International Communist League in 1933, to the time it was actually organized at a conference attended by delegates of parties in every section of the globe.

No worker can understand the problems of socialist activity under the conditions of capitalism in its death agony without acquainting himself with these decisions. For every member and sympathizer of the Fourth International it is an indispensable guide-book in the winning of the masses to revolutionary socialism.

Copies sell at 25c each, and may be ordered through the National Office, 116 University Place, New York City. In bundles of five or more, copies may be bought for 18c each.

CP Perils Union of Insurance Agents

Executive Board Suspended Because Majority Opposes Wrecking Crew Policies

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

NEW YORK, April 6—Unable to maintain complete control of Local 30, the insurance agents local here, Lewis Merrill, Stalinist head of the United Office and Professional Workers Union, suspended all seven members of the Local's Executive Board last Monday.

The Executive Board had a majority elected on the basis of their fight for maintenance and extension of democratic procedure in the union. As members of the board, they opposed the exceedingly high per capita extracted from the union members by the international office, and also the high-handed manner in which Merrill foisted paid organizers on them from outside of the insurance agents ranks.

Merrill's high handed action, reminiscent of the bureaucratic high jinks of Homer Martin against the Stalinists howled hypocritically, came as the culmination of a long fight in which the Local resisted his attempts to dictate to it. The

immediate issue was the dismissal of Merrill's appointee, Organizer Shepherd, from the Local's payroll by the Executive Board.

To protect his henchman, Merrill railroaded through a repeal of the dismissal by the Joint Regional Council, an outfit strongly padded with his factional followers. When the Executive Board then appealed to Allan Haywood, regional director of the C.I.O., Merrill replied with the suspension which is intended to provoke a new election in which Merrill hopes to secure a Stalinist majority. It is not yet clear what stand Haywood is taking, although he has been named by Merrill to head a committee to take charge of all of Local 30's affairs.

Progressives Prepare Progressives in the union are preparing to fight against the suspensions at a membership meeting called for April 11. They point out that Merrill's action is completely unconstitutional. The By-Laws of the U.O.P.W.U. require that written charges shall be brought before the International Executive Board before any action of suspending a Local body can be taken. No such charges have been presented.

While eight members of the board have instituted legal action on this basis, the progressives intend to concentrate their main fire at the membership on the following basis:

1. Refusal to recognize Merrill's suspensions. 2. Disaffiliation from the U.O.P.W.U. 3. Request from the C.I.O. for an industrial charter covering all insurance companies. 4. Local autonomy—all officers and organizers to be elected by the Local membership. 5. Trade union democracy—against machine rule by political appointees.

A strong fight looms against this latest outrage of the Stalinist wrecking crew. Apparently the Merrills are not satisfied with driving more than 500 members of Local 16 over to the A.F. of L. They are intent to carry out their usual line all the way through. Rule or ruin is their policy. It is up to the membership of Local 30 to judge them accordingly.

employed youth and the possibilities of unemployed youth organizations. The valuable experiences in organizing N.Y.A. workers in Minneapolis were discussed together with experiences in other sections.

Lou Backer, National Director of the "Jobs for Youth" Campaign (see April issue, Challenge of Youth) outlined the plans for the Campaign. It was the opinion of the National Council that the excellent pamphlet, "Youth Want Jobs," recently issued by the League (10,000 copies) could be disposed of very easily. A minimum of 20,000 signatures to the "Jobs for Youth" petitions being circulated during the Campaign, will be obtained.

Other points taken up at the Plenum included anti-fascist work, regional schools and summer-camps.

Y.P.S.L. National Council Meeting Discusses Growth of Organization

The first Plenum of the newly elected National Council of the Young People's Socialist League—Fourth International—met in Akron, Ohio on the week-end of March 31 with 20 members and alternates present. National Council members from Minneapolis, Chicago, Ohio, New York, California and Massachusetts attended.

The Plenum was opened with the singing of the Internationale. A report by the Socialist Workers Party representative, Martin Abern, who outlined the political and organizational tasks before the Party and the League followed. Comrade Abern also reported on the progress of the Party, the Twice-a-week Appeal, trade union work, Workers Defense Guards and the international situation.

Membership Gains The most important task of the Plenum was to evaluate the work of the past four months and plan the work for the coming period. Nathan Gould, National Secretary, made this report. The accomplishments and failures of the League were discussed in the light of the National Convention decisions to overhaul the organizational structure of the League to correspond with the fighting nature of our movement. The education and training of the membership for the Socialist Revolution and the task of winning the youth by the presentation of the Transitional Program in a colorful and dramatic manner formed the major part of the discussion.

Comrade Gould's report showed that since the National Convention (November, 1938) the League has gained 186 new members and organized new units in Fresno, California, New Brunswick, N. J., and Lynn, Mass. He pointed out that throughout the country our organization has participated, together with the Party, in numerous anti-fascist activities and is now well on the way to becoming a real youth organization whose name, program and activities are known to thousands of youth.

One element swung the election in Kelly's favor. We refer to the active and militant support rendered to him by the A. F. of L., the C.I.O., Labor's Non-Partisan League, the liberals and the Communist Party. While the latter is no great shakes as a vote getter, the fact is that the trade union movement in this city does control or manipulate almost a quarter of a million votes. Therein lies the margin of victory (or possible defeat) for the local Democratic machine. If Kelly can thank anyone for his victory, he can thank organized labor.

The crying need of the

lined the financial possibilities involved. It was reported that the Challenge of Youth had increased its paid circulation from 2,000 to 5,000 copies and was still going up with the April issue. During the next period it will be the task of the League to increase the list of subscribers to insure the issuance of the twice-monthly paper.

A lengthy discussion on the war preparations of the American government and the anti-war tasks of the League, was held. It was pointed out that the main task of the League was to expose the war preparations of the Roosevelt imperialist government and to rally the youth of the United States to the realization that "the main enemy is at home!"

Unemployed Work A very important discussion was held on work among un-

employed youth and the possibilities of unemployed youth organizations. The valuable experiences in organizing N.Y.A. workers in Minneapolis were discussed together with experiences in other sections.

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Labor Skates Help To Reelect Mayor Kelly

Independent Labor Action Seen as Need After Chicago Election Campaign

(Continued from Page 1) in the Gold Coast wards, the districts inhabited by the small home owner, the white collar worker and small business man. But it would be false to assume that in his more than 600,000 vote no workers or unemployed votes could be counted. It would be just as false to conclude that all of Kelly's 800,000 votes were workers' votes. And that is so even granting that a majority of the workers cast their ballots for the Mayor.

It must be borne in mind too, that Kelly was publicly acclaimed and supported by wide sections of the financial and business interests, the department store magnates, reactionaries, as well as by the trade unions and the liberals.

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AKRON YPSL UNDER PROBE; FIVE JAILED

(Continued from Page 1) scutor ordered a probe of Y.P.S.L. high school activities. He threatened to suppress the Y.P.S.L. if he found them violating any laws.

The Y.P.S.L. issued a counter-statement declaring that the police, Stine and the Chamber of Commerce should be investigated, and that they were investigating them. It further welcomed any inquiry into its activities by the workers of Akron.

Its militant activity in connection with the campaign to increase N.Y.A. benefits to youth has already brought many young workers into contact with it. Until the arrests and wide publicity, these youths had not heard of the Y.P.S.L.

At the time of their arrest, the five boys were distributing leaflets calling for increased N.Y.A. appropriations, conversion of the armaments budget into a public works fund for the unemployed and decent jobs for all who need them.

Youths Manhandled Previously, Stine had torn the leaflets from one youth, and sent some young hoodlums to beat him up. On Friday, H. S. Vincent, assistant superintendent of schools, ran out of the building, his arms flailing, and threatened them with violence. He then called the police, a result of his stool-pigeons.

who manhandled the youths, and clamped an iron claw upon the wrist of one. He then proceeded to torture him as a "object lesson to the 500 students whom the Ypsel had been addressing.

The trespassing charge is a flagrant frame-up, because the five boys were not on school property but in the street at the time of their arrest. The investigation is obviously part of the larger reactionary campaign against all working class organizations.

Appeal for Support The Y.P.S.L. has issued an appeal to Akron labor for funds for the defense of the five. It has pledged to fight the case to the end.

The probe is merely the latest in a series of provocations against Ypsels and S.W.P. members. Through the activities of Stine, who is trying to make a name for himself as a crusader against the "Reds," Comrade Sol Goldberg was refused permission to do cadet-teaching in the public schools and was forced to withdraw from the Teachers' College at Akron University. Others have been fired from their jobs as a result of his stool-pigeons.

After a short introduction by James Rosenthal, chairman of the Workers' Benefit Association, Bernie Simmer, business agent of the warehouse union, Local No. 20297, took the chair for the meeting. The speakers, including William Gydeson representing the Teamsters Joint Council and Lawrence Pfeffer of the Building Trades Council, attacked the 15 percent cut made last month on the already inadequate relief budgets in St. Paul. A further cut of 20 percent is threatened if the W.P.A. rolls are reduced, throwing this additional group on the local relief rolls.

Resolutions were passed condemning the national war appropriations and calling for the turning over of all war funds to the unemployed; demanding the passage of a housing act now before the Minnesota legislature; thanking the local trade union movement for its aid in fighting these cuts and calling for the continuance of co-operation between the unions and the Workers' Benefit Association as the organization of the W.P.A. and relief workers.



NOTICE: We regret the one day delay in the last issue of the Socialist Appeal. It was unavoidable, due to the necessity of changing printers.

We assure our readers and agents that henceforth the Appeal will continue to appear on its regularly scheduled days.

BRANCHES AT WORK: "We are conducting two street sales every week starting this week and I hope to dispose of the bundle order in this way. Also, we are running an affair to clear up the Appeal bill on April 22 or April 29."—C. J. Hartman, agent of Philadelphia.

"We sold and distributed our bundle of 200 Appeals last Saturday at the W.P.A. demonstration sponsored by the C.I.O. Since most of the auto delegates were at the demonstration, we reached them at the best possible time. The paper was just right for that affair, as well as the article on Auto Organizers."—Art Preis, Cleveland Party Organizer.

MAY DAY ISSUE: As previously announced, the May-Day issue of the Appeal will be a special, feature 8-pager containing a host of interesting features related to May Day.

So far only two branches (Allentown and Boston) have placed their extra May Day orders. There is only a few weeks left. All orders must be in no later than Saturday, April 22. Send it in right now.

Stockholders Bask on Promenade Decks It is estimated that 5,700 persons will desert the Easter parades of their respective home towns for the promenade decks of eleven lines that are scheduled to leave this week on cruises to Bermuda, Nassau, Kingston, Havana, and West Indies ports.

The Swedish American liner Kungsholm will lead the procession with 500 passengers. On the following day seven liners will depart carrying most of the holiday crowd, starting with the French liner De Grasse on a cruise to the West Indies.

In addition to the numbers sailing on special cruises several thousands will depart over the week-end on regular trips to South America, Central America, the West Indies, and on transatlantic and West Coast trips.

—New York Times

—San Francisco Call-Bulletin

SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN DRAWS TO CLOSE: There is only another week left on the sub-campaign. Unfortunately, the sub drive has slowed down considerably and unless a last minute, strenuous effort is made we will not reach the total quota set.

We intend to announce all prize winners next week. However, nobody has definitely won yet so there is still time for any branch to come into first place. One week left to complete your quotas!

Here's the list for the past week:

Table with 2 columns: City, Quota. Includes New York City (10), Missouri (6), Minneapolis (6), New York State (4), Newark (4), Detroit (3), California (2), Wisconsin (2), Allentown, Pa. (1), Foreign (1), Chicago (1). Total 40.

Several new bundle orders and agents came in this week:

- (1) From Johannesburg, So. Africa, a group of Trotskyists are taking a bundle of 24 per issue. (2) J.T.S. of Wiseton, Sask., Canada, begins with a new bundle of 4 per issue. (3) And George Whiteside of Whitewater, Kansas is taking a bundle of 4 also.

Don't forget about the May Day 8-page APPEAL!

SOCIETY NOTES

Vacationing At San Quentin San Quentin shops and jute mills hummed with normal activity today while forty-two ringleaders in the prison's latest menu-mutiny remained in solitary confinement.

The ringleaders, described as youthful inmates, were meted the additional punishment of having to stand at rigid attention on an 18-inch spot in front of their cells for an unbroken hour each day. They were rationed a diet of bread and water, with one full meal every other day.

The second hunger strike within two months, which kept 1,600 of the 5,300 inmates in the world's largest prison away from the mess hall, ended yesterday.

MINN. JOBLESS PROTEST RELIEF AND WPA CUTS

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) ST. PAUL, Minn.—Speakers from organized labor joined with representatives of the unemployed to protest the W.P.A. cuts and lowered relief standards at a mass meeting of 500 W.P.A. and relief workers held by the Workers' Benefit Association March 3 in the auditorium of the State Office Building.

After a short introduction by James Rosenthal, chairman of the Workers' Benefit Association, Bernie Simmer, business agent of the warehouse union, Local No. 20297, took the chair for the meeting. The speakers, including William Gydeson representing the Teamsters Joint Council and Lawrence Pfeffer of the Building Trades Council, attacked the 15 percent cut made last month on the already inadequate relief budgets in St. Paul. A further cut of 20 percent is threatened if the W.P.A. rolls are reduced, throwing this additional group on the local relief rolls.

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THE MARXIST SCHOOL

Monday, April 10 at 7:15 P.M.: SAM GORDON—The Trade Unions and the Transitional Program of the 4th International Monday, April 10 at 8:50 P.M.: JAMES BURNHAM—Third Party Movements—Middle Class Politics Tuesday, April 11 at 7 P.M.: JOHN G. WRIGHT—Theory of Permanent Revolution All classes held at IRVING PLAZA, Irving Place and 15th Street, N. Y. C. Admission: 25 cents per lecture

Ends April 15th Spring Sale—20 per cent Off! THOUSANDS OF TITLES

Table with 3 columns: Title, List, Now. Includes History of the Russian Revolution (2.98 to 2.39), The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution (6.00 to 4.50), Revolution Betrayed (2.50 to .69), My Life (5.00 to 2.80), The Third International After Lenin (2.50 to .75), The Stalin School of Falsification (2.50 to 1.00), Russia, Twenty Years After (2.50 to .90).