

# POWERS MOVE TO BRINK OF WAR

## Painters Oust C.P. Machine

Progressives Hit Weinstock Gang in Vital Spot by Trouncing Stalinist Candidate—Elect Stevens Secretary-Treasurer

Culminating a two years' organized struggle waged by progressives in their union, New York painters last Saturday dealt the Stalinist machine in control of District Council 9 a decisive blow by electing L. J. Stevens as Secretary-Treasurer over the candidate supported by Louis Weinstock.

Stevens received 3,101 votes against 2,822 votes cast for M. Gainer, his Stalinist-backed opponent. Not even the attempt of one of their former stooges, one D. Pasini, to split the opposition vote by running on a third ticket, could save the wrecking crew's control. The third candidate only polled 514 votes. The progressives also took four out of the nine business agents' posts. Whether all of the five business agents elected on the C.P.'s so-called "rank and file ticket" will remain with them is problematical.

### Victory Foreseen

The election of Stevens was foreshadowed by the victory of the progressives in the primaries, when they carried six out of the ten locals and when Stevens for the second time defeated Chief Commissar Weinstock for the nomination in his own local, No. 848, thus eliminating him from the race. The progressive victory is all the more impressive when it is recalled that only last year, the Stalinist machine seemed to be impregnable, carrying its complete slate in the elections at that time.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this defeat of the rule-or-ruin boys. Taking over a union completely without leadership after the ousting of the discredited and corrupt Zausner administration, the Stalinists had the complete confidence of the membership. They made themselves at home in the union as if they had owned it for decades. Control of jobs gave them unlimited possibilities to build up their machine to proportions hitherto undreamed-of. For nearly two years they ruled unchallenged, despite mismanagement, sell-outs and treasury raids.

About a year and a half ago, a small group of left wingers in the union, including former members of the Communist Party disgusted with its degeneration, organized itself into the "Painters Educational Society." The P.E.S. began a barrage of technically poor, but textually highly effective leaflets against the Stalinist union-wreckers. Its prestige and forces grew until it became a rallying point for all opposition currents in the membership.

Shortly before last year's elections, the P.E.S. forces were instrumental in organizing the broad opposition into an Inter-Local Conference of Progressive Painters Clubs. It was under that banner that the successful fight was carried on, culminating in last Saturday's victory. The Thirteenth Street G.P.U. disciples spared no frame-ups, no terroristic methods in their attacks against the opposition. Up to the last minute they denounced the opposition as the handiwork of the hated Trotskyists. But all their Trotsky-baiting did not save them. The Inter-Local combined in its ranks all honest

(Continued on Page 3)

## COUNCILMEN IN ATTACK ON OTTO POPOVICH

Evade Needs of Jobless by Attacking U.P.W.U. Leader

By MARTIN DAVEY

Members of the New York City Council from Queens launched a bitter attack on Otto Popovich, a leader of the Jamaica Unemployed and Project Workers Union, at the June 20 meeting of the City Council following gains made by the unemployed union.

The U.P.W.U. had been fighting for the consideration of the cases of 17 unemployed workers. The Jamaica relief bureau rebuffed the union delegates with more than typical arrogance and cynicism. As a result the U.P.W.U. determined to picket the homes of all Queens Councilmen until the needy workers would be granted their just demands.

Bureau Changes Tone

The surprised "representatives of the people" tried at first to evade the demands made by the mass demonstration.

(Continued on Page 3)

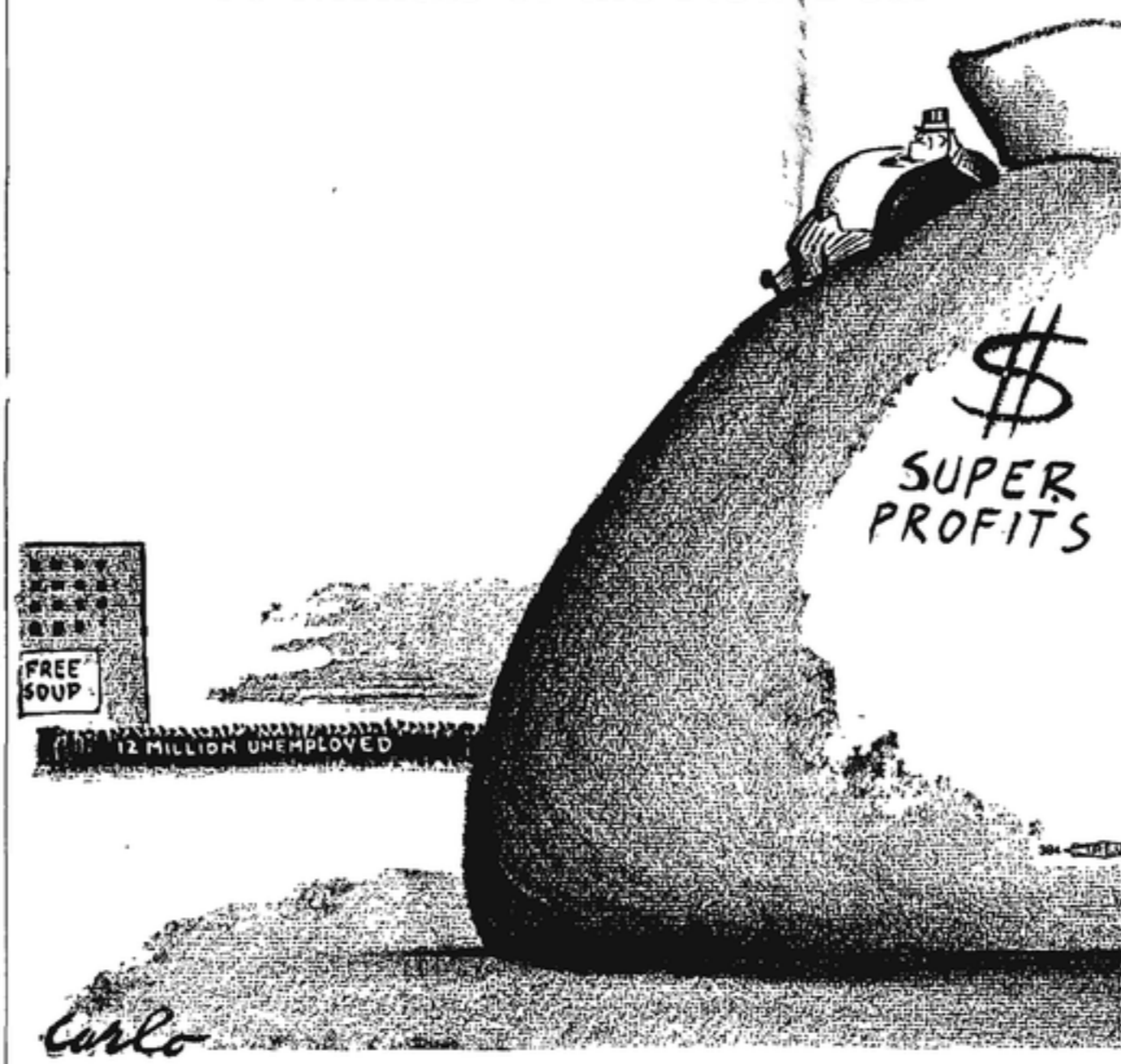
## National Campaign Launched For Framed Du Quoin Miners

Defense Committee Seeks Pardon for Youths Arrested During Illinois Mine Strife

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) CHICAGO—The Du Quoin Miners Defense Committee has launched a national campaign to rally support behind efforts to obtain pardons for five youths imprisoned in 1933 on charges growing out of the Southern Illinois warfare between the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers.

Both unions are supporting the campaign. Pres. Ray Edmondson of the U.M.W. in Illinois and Pres. Dave Reid of the Progressives, members of the executive board of the defense committee, recently signed a joint petition to Governor Horner asking for pardons for the five boys and assuring the Governor that their release would go far toward

## 75 Months of the New Deal



## F.D.R. Trying to Save War Deal By Four Billion Dollar Program

To save the War Deal's "new deal" smoke-screen from utter collapse, Roosevelt last week sent to Congress a \$3,860,000,000 pump-priming proposal, incorporating a number of obviously inadequate relief measures now pending in Congress. Approximately \$1,000,000,000 will be spent for self-liquidating projects during the presidential election year of 1940, half to secure the votes of the nation's disillusioned farm and factory population and the other half to appease business.

The entire amount is to be expended over a period of seven years—where it can attract private investment. The business index, it is now hoped, will

continue on a steady upgrade, at least up to the 1940 elections. The New Deal Congress, pursuing its own pre-election spending drive, added another \$3,435,000,000 to the administration program. After abolishing in its tax bill what remained of the undistributed profits tax—for the benefit of big business, it added \$1,000,000,000 for "small" business, \$300,000,000 for agriculture, a disputed \$400,000,000 for river-and-harbor improvement, and reluctantly tossed in \$1,735,000,000 for unemployment "relief."

### Roosevelt's Program

The Presidential plan, proposed in letters to Senate and House leaders, covers four general categories of loans: Transportation, \$1,250,000,000; Public Works and Housing, \$1,150,000,000; Agriculture, \$960,000,000; and Foreign Loans, \$500,000,000.

Significant is the War Deal's preoccupation with transportation, in view of the stiff opposition to be expected on such unpopular proposals as toll roads. For rapid war-time mobilization up-to-date rail and motor roads are an absolute essential.

This major expenditure is shrewdly underemphasized as such in the President's letter, broken as it is into two parts and placed under the general heading "Federal Works Agency." \$750,000,000 is allotted for "Express post roads: Self-liquidating toll roads, bridges, high-speed highways, and city by-passes." \$500,000,000 is handed to the heavily over-capitalized and virtually bankrupt railroads for "equipment", on irresistible terms.

The half-billion dollar provision for loans to Latin American countries in default of debts, is to be used for "development and reconstruction purposes in the foreign country", and should concretely promote

"our" interests with the "Good Neighbors" concerned.

The \$800,000,000 Housing allotment (see Page 4 for a critical analysis of New Deal Housing), comes just in time to rescue the United States Housing Authority from lingering death. With nearly one-quarter of the U.S.H.A.'s present borrowing power frozen due to lack of funds for low-rent subsidies, the additional appropriation is well-timed to set the wheels of the New Deal "slum-clearance" fraud into action again. \$350,000,000, the smallest appropriation listed in the President's letter, is similarly calculated to create just enough activity in the field of Public Works to establish the necessary New Deal background for 1940.

The American farm crisis, gravest in the world and incapable of capitalist solution except by war, has again been successfully soft-pedaled. Congress has arranged to buy the surpluses and the votes of some farmers. For the others, the President proposes that \$460,000,000 be spent for "rural electrification", to reach 1,250,000 families. These poverty-stricken rural families, although im-pressionable as voters, will still, when the seven-year program has finally been carried out, find themselves largely unable to purchase this service.

The remaining farm provision of the Roosevelt letter to Congress asks for \$500,000,000 for "Expansion of the self-liquidating portion of the program of the Farm Security Administration. (This is) for tenant farm purchases, rehabilitation program, loans for minor repairs, loans to resettlement co-operatives and loans for water facilities." This can be likened to the F.H.A. plan for small-home owners, and is similarly incapable of improving the lot of those most in need.

## War Crisis Simmers on Europe and Asia Fronts

Sarajevo "Incidents" Mount with Awaited Summer Crisis

This week marks the anniversary of Sarajevo—the little-remembered incident that touched off the tinder of the boss war of 1914-1918.

It is still five weeks to the anniversary of the actual outbreak of hostilities 25 years ago.

During those five weeks it is quite possible that the masters who rule us will send out the millions of us in all lands to writhe and die in another holocaust not of our making.

### U. S. Not Immune

And let no one bury his head ostrich-like and think this country, under the leadership of Roosevelt's War Deal, won't be plunged right into the conflict when it comes.

Like the diseased body it is, the capitalist world is breaking out into ugly flaming sores everywhere—Ethiopia, Spain, Austria, Czechoslovakia, China, Mongolia, Danzig, Poland—and we are part, a big part of the world and we can't expect some miracle to keep us immune.

### Crisis in Full Swing

The expected summer crisis is already in full swing. Japan's offensive against Britain on the China coast was only its opening phase. Open warfare has been raging for two months along the Manchukuo-Mongolian frontier—a continuation of the intermittent Soviet-Japanese war of the last six years.

Hitler has put 2,000,000 men under arms and his minions are trying to outshoot, out-threaten the British in the hope of snagging Danzig and the Polish Corridor—at the least possible cost. But whatever the cost,

(Continued on Page 3)

## SWP Convention Opens Friday

Public Mass Meeting Will Open Convention Session with Party Leaders as Reporters—Lengthy Agenda Covers All Fields of Work

Darkening war-clouds in Europe and the Far East which threaten to plunge the world into a catastrophe far more horrible than the plague of 1914-1918, give special symptomatic significance to the Anti-War Convention of the Socialist Workers Party which opens in New York City, Friday evening, June 30, 1939, at the Irving Plaza Hall, 15th Street and Irving Place.

Delegates from all parts of the country are arriving in the city, representing branches of the Party from coast to coast, prepared to deliberate on the problems presented by the convention agenda in the light of the past period of activity in a variety of class struggles.

## REVOLT AGAINST LEADERSHIP IN N.M.U. GROWS

Gulf Seamen Hit at Curran Bureaucracy In Autonomy Move

(By Staff Writer)

NEW YORK—In the past few days the National Maritime Union has moved rapidly toward complete disintegration as a direct consequence of revelations of official rottenness that have exposed accused and accusers alike. The Jerry King trial by the Curran-Communist Party dictatorship over the union has had swift aftermath in disillusioned reaction from end to end of the union.

In New York itself, the party stronghold in the N.M.U., seamen are taking the direct method of flatly refusing to pay dues to an officialdom self-convicted of every type of anti-union conduct. This spreading tactic was given major significance by the unanimous action of the entire crews of the SS Manhattan, and SS Washington, two of the largest passenger ships in the American commercial fleet. The seamen aboard turned thumbs down on the boarding union delegates.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Coughlin Followers Disrupt Meeting of 18,000 in N. Y.

Several Hurt in Fracas—Increasing Boldness of Fascists Is Menace to Labor

A gang of Coughlin's fascist followers, shouting "Social Justice" slogans and heckling the speaker, broke up a meeting of 18,000 held in Madison Square Garden last Sunday under the auspices of Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious cult against organized religion. The meeting was listening to ex-Judge Joseph Rutherford speak on "Peace and Government" when Coughlinites began to heckle the speaker, turning the meeting into a turmoil of fist-fights.

Judge Rutherford brought the mounting fury of the Coughlin hoodlums to a climax by assailing the Catholic Church as a supporter of Hitler.

"The Catholic Church supported Hitler, Mussolini and Franco in Spain," said Rutherford.

"You're a liar," a Coughlinite shouted. Rotten eggs and soda bottles hurtled toward the platform. Fists and canes swung and the battle began.

There is no doubt that the Coughlinites came to the meeting all prepared to disrupt and break it up. In the fracas that followed, many people were injured, eight hurt quite seriously.

This action by the Coughlinites is symptomatic of their increasing boldness in the use of direct action methods. Labor organizations, can next expect to receive the brunt of this terroristic fascist campaign in the coming period. The only answer is the defense of the workers' democratic rights, the defense of their meetings by the organized strength of Workers' Defense Guards.

Lengthy Agenda Saturday morning will open up the regular sessions of the convention, which has before it a lengthy agenda covering all phases of the party's work and its program of action for the coming period.

First on the order of the day will be a report and discussion of the political situation in the United States, to be followed by a report on the preparation of the party for the struggle against war, both before and after it breaks out.

Trade Union Work Other points on the agenda include the trade union work, the work among the unemployed, the question of the press—under which heading will be discussed plans for converting the Socialist Appeal into a three-times-a-week paper—a program of action for the party, to include a comprehensive plan for building up the party throughout the country by means of a staff of organizers, national speaking tours, a series of popular pamphlets for mass distribution, etc.

Prominent on the agenda is the question of organizing the struggle against fascism by (Continued on Page 2)

# Mass Meeting IRVING PLAZA Friday, June 30, 8 p. m. Admission 25c

## Greet the Opening of the Anti-War Convention of the Socialist Workers Party!

Chairman: James P. Cannon; Reporter for the Political Committee: Max Shachtman; Speakers: V. R. Dunne of Minneapolis, Glen Trimble of San Francisco, George Clarke of Detroit, Reuben Plaskett of Newark, Nathan Gould, National Secretary Y.P.S.L.

## Hear the Internationalist Position on War