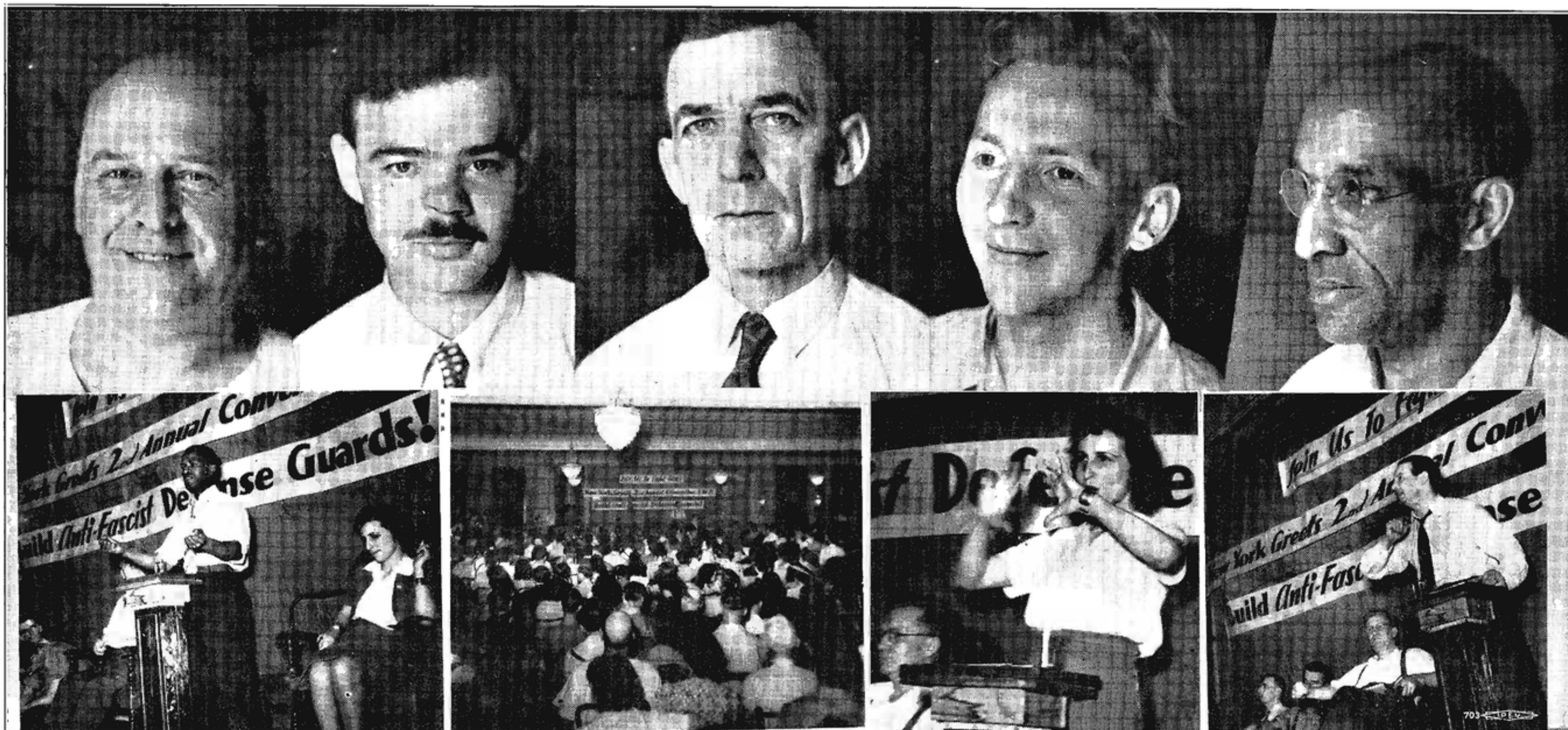


Men and Scenes at the National Anti-War Convention of the S.W.P.



In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Spontaneous and, in several cases, officially called strikes of A.F.L. craftsmen on W.P.A. construction projects began this week in protest against the destruction of the union scales under the new relief appropriation measure passed by Congress.

In the New York area the strikes were so widespread that Thomas Murray, president of the Building and Construction Council of Greater New York, has called a meeting of his organization and says that official strike sanction is likely.

Murray estimated that 90 per cent of the 32,283 skilled workers on W.P.A. in New York City have stopped work.

Resent A.F.L. Policy

Resentment against the reduction in wage rates is directed not only against the Roosevelt administration but also—and this is very important—against the A.F.L. top leadership in Washington for having allowed Congress to delete the prevailing wage clause in the relief appropriation measure.

Under the present schedule, thousands of workers have been notified that they will have to work 130 hours a month to get the same pay they have been getting, on a monthly basis.

Under the old rates paid on a union scale, craftsmen obtained from \$1 to \$2 an hour, and worked much less than 130 hours.

A comparison of the pay received before the reduction on an hourly basis with union scale of wages and the money to be earned under the new schedule shows that most skilled craftsmen will get 60 cents an hour less! And work many hours more!

Facts and Figures

Here is what the New York craftsmen got before:

Number	Hours	Pay	
per	per	per	
week	week	week	
Plasterer	166	39	\$78.00
Stone cutter	221	42	\$84.00
Stone setter	113	42	\$84.00
Electrician	1,514	42	\$84.00
Plumber	1,280	42	\$84.00
Steamfitter	627	42	\$84.00
Asbestos w/ker	268	42	\$84.00
Bricklayer	2,459	42	\$84.00
Stone mason	416	42	\$84.00
Structural iron worker	931	44	\$84.70
Sheet metal w/ker	922	46	\$85.10
Glazier	197	48	\$89.20
Rigger	172	48	\$89.20
Tile layer	316	48	\$89.20
Marble cutter or setter	254	48	\$89.20
Metallic lather	1,029	48	\$89.20
Dock builder	671	48	\$89.20
Compressor operator (p/able)	182	48	\$89.20
Carpenter	7,981	48	\$89.20

Jobless Go Without Relief, Officials Get New Cars

Rebelling Against Scabby Tactics of W.A.A., Oakland Jobless Form Fighting Union

By BILL MORGAN
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

OAKLAND, Cal., July 1—Twelve thousand workers, many of them aged and blind, are being forced to go ten days without the miserable dole on which they depend for food because "there are no funds", according to Mr. George Janssen, Chairman of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The State Relief Administration has announced a "surplus" of \$450,000 for the current year which will be spent for new automobiles for the use of relief officials. At the same time, 4,100 W.P.A. workers received dismissal notices.

Claiming that the county has no money for relief, Mr. Janssen urged that credit be extended to relief clients "until such time as funds are forthcoming" but since debts of relief clients are not recognized by the State Relief Administration, local grocery and meat stores have refused and continue to refuse the credit asked for by Mr. Janssen.

Plan Action

Alameda County has 7,834 aged, 479 blind and 2,500 needy children on its relief rolls. Other classifications raise the total to 12,000 according to official reports. If there are no funds forthcoming within the next ten days the physical condition of the workers will be a danger to the entire community.

There are indications, however, that the workers of Alameda County are not going to starve peacefully. Recent events in the Elmhurst and West Oakland sections have given rise to the formation of a new, fighting unemployed and project workers union despite the frantic efforts of the scabby Workers Alliance and its company union, Stalinist leadership.

Increasing unemployment.

COUGHLINITES GROW, ARE WELL FINANCED

(Continued from Page 1)

constant slashing of W.P.A. rolls and sharp reductions in relief funds plus the ever deepening reaction in California has been accepted by the Stalinists who see in the misery of the workers a golden opportunity to cram their phoney line down the throat of an unsuspecting working class. Using the once powerful Workers Alliance as a political football the Stalinists have wrecked all semblance of militant organization and maintain the Alliance as a post-card writing agency.

Face Workers' Wrath

Now these Stalinists are facing the wrath of an aroused and indignant working class composed of Negro and white workers of Mexican and Italian workers, of men, women and youth of all sections of the county.

Within the Alliance there is turmoil at every meeting. At every local meeting there are expulsions and "trials". Many workers are voting with their feet and the Alliance grows smaller week by week. And on top of everything, the Youth local of the Alliance recently drew up and unanimously adopted a militant anti-war program which demands jobs for youth at trade union wages and that all war funds be used for the unemployed. The bureaucrats are now "investigating" the Youth.

Name-Calling Futile

The use of intimidation and name-calling is the Stalinists' only defense. The youth who want to fight against boss war are called agents of Trotsky and, as one member of the Youth Local remarked when this charge was made at a meeting, "If Trotsky and the Fourth International agree with us why should we remain here with these pie-card artists!"

The workers who want to conduct a struggle for their right to live, to eat, to have decent homes and to get jobs at decent wages and who dare to expose the reactionary line of the Stalinists in the Alliance are called agents of the Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Farmers by the flanks in the Alliance who hope to confuse and confound the workers of Oakland. But the name-calling campaign is not producing the desired results because now the workers are asking themselves, "Just who are the agents of the Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Farmers—those who want to fight for jobs and homes or those who are trying to keep us quiet?"

Anti-War Convention Ends With Spirited Action Program

Organization Discussion and Election of National Committee Brings Sessions to Close

(Continued from Page 1)

Under discussion with the war problem. Realizing that the tempo of work must be increased, critical of the party's failure to grow as fast as it should have grown, the convention decided to convert the party into a campaign party which pushing boldly and vigorously ahead on the various problems of the labor movement will build the party into a movement of truly mass proportions.

Items Discussed

As reported in the last issue of the Appeal, the first items taken up and decided by the convention were the main political resolution on the Perspectives of United States Imperialism and the preparation of the party for the coming war, the growth of fascism, the fight against it, and the Workers Defense Guard, and the Negro question (see page 3 for the resolution on Negro work).

Following the disposition of the above points, the convention discussed the situation of the unemployed, the party press, the program of action (printed on page 1) and the tasks of the coming period. Several items were unfortunately not taken up by the convention because of the amount of time given to the other points on the agenda, notably the program of action. These were referred to the new National Committee for the elaboration of specific programs on each point.

Organization Work

In the discussion of the program of action the desire of the members to make of the party a campaign party which will draw the masses into the orbit of its work was especially manifested. Eight hours of solid discussion were devoted to the organization resolution—the first time in its history the party has devoted so much time to what is essentially the key to the party's success. In the course of the discussion, the party's weaknesses came in for considerable criticism.

In the credentials report which will be printed in the coming issue in tabulated form, it was pointed out that the party is a young party. The average age of the delegates was 28 years. Yet the greater part of the delegates had years and years of experience in the trade union and political movement behind them. And most significant, the greater part of the delegates were experienced trade unionists.

These delegates who lent the youth and vigor of their ideas to the convention problems are now on their way back to California, Detroit, Minneapolis, etc., to put their vitality, spirit, enthusiasm, and energy to the execution of the convention decisions.

They carry the message of revolutionary socialism. In the battle for the emancipation of mankind they wield the might of Marxism. In the day to day struggles of the masses they carry with them the intelligence of revolutionary politics. An invincible army of proletarian revolution they march forward.

Long live the Socialist Workers Party! Long live the Fourth International! Forward to Socialist Victory!

Coughlin's movement is growing, and growing dangerously. If it is to be stopped it must be stopped NOW. And the only way to stop it is by organizing labor defense guards in every union local in the country.



PRESS REPORT AT PARTY CONVENTION:

One of the most constructive aspects of our Convention was the Press Report given by comrade Abern and the discussion that followed.

Practically every delegate who was in any way connected with distribution and handling of our literature spoke on the various problems he faces. Many valuable experiences and hints as to the best methods of selling the Appeal and New International were given.

In the next few months it is the intention of our National Office—after carrying through certain centralization and reorganization steps—to devote a major portion of its time to the problem of organizing a broader distribution on a more dynamic basis. Old, careless methods must give way to the streamlined methods of our Campaign Party!

We also want to thank those delegates who, as branch literature agents, came up to the Appeal business office for a report and a talk on their problems. All in all, it was highly worth while.

OAKLAND BRANCH GETS DOWN TO WORK!

"Enclosed find a payment of \$5.51 on our account. We expect to be completely paid up by July 15 and on July 21 we are having a mass meeting at

which a special speaker will take up a collection for the paper.

"The branch now sells the Appeal at union meetings and does house-to-house canvassing. It will be only a matter of time before we will be in a position to double our present bundle. Systematic work shows great improvement and we now sell all our papers. When the 3-a-week Appeal comes through you can count on Oakland doing its share—and then some!"

—Bill Morgan, Oakland organizer.

The subscription list slowed up slightly this past week because of Convention activity. But New York emerged out of its temporary slump and heads the list. Here's the new subs obtained this past week:

NEW YORK CITY 11
Chicago 8
Massachusetts 7
Minneapolis 4
Los Angeles 2
Newark 1
Washington, D. C. 1
Detroit 1
Rochester 1
St. Louis 1
Pennsylvania 1

Total 38

Washington, D. C. has increased its bundle order by 4 per issue and has an additional literature agent in Comrade N.

SHOE WORKERS OUT ON STRIKE

WORCESTER, Mass.—Eight cutters and one hundred stitchers working for the National Shoe Manufacturing Co. which employs about 300 workers, have been out on strike for a week, demanding the return of a 10% cut which they received a year ago.

There is no union at the plant. An independent union (with the reputation of being a company union), the A.F.L. and the United Shoe Workers of America (C.I.O.) have all tried to contact the workers. The C.I.O. union has made some headway with about twenty workers signing up. The workers would have nothing to do with the other unions.

I.L.G.W. LOCAL DISCUSSES FORMING DEFENSE GUARDS

(Continued from Page 1)

tempt to deprive any worker or workers' organization of its constitutional rights," Milton explained. "The Coughlin gangsters have already broken into a workers' headquarters—the Debs Labor School—and have succeeded in breaking up numerous meetings of labor organizations in the city. Last week they tried to break up an American Labor Party meeting where Michael Quill, president of the Transport Workers Union, was the speaker; fortunately the transport workers were prepared.

"Organized labor in New York has a membership of more than a million. Together with other workers' organizations and the anti-fascists in the general population, it would be a cinch to organize 50,000 anti-fascist labor guards, if the labor unions get behind the idea."

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