

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Major concentration point of the C.I.O. organization work in the next period is the packing-house industry.

This was emphasized last week by John L. Lewis, speaking in Chicago, home of the "Big Four" packers, Armour, Swift, Wilson and Cudahy.

There is a twofold aim in the C.I.O. concentration on this industry. One is organizational; the other is political.

The Socialist Workers Party is going forward with its fight against Coughlin fascism despite any and all attacks.

Workers Defense Guards The need for the formation of Workers Defense Guards was the keynote of all speeches. The

Pew industries in America have the notorious reputation for terrible working conditions as the packing houses, especially in the Chicago area. Many years ago Upton Sinclair achieved international fame with his devastating expose of these conditions in his novel, "The Jungle."

A basis for unionism was always present because of the rotten conditions. The A.F.L. didn't succeed in the past, and the C.I.O. muffed its big opportunity two years ago because the Stalinists were in complete charge of the packing house campaign.

One must add, however, that in certain sections of the country, where the A.F.L. has progressive leaders, they do have good and strong unions in packing houses. In Ohio, for example.

Recently, the C.I.O. had a resurgence in the packing industry. Top C.I.O. leaders have been directing the work. A national convention of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee was held in Chicago.

Delegates from 94 local unions attended, and the P.W.O.C. claimed 78,000 out of the 129,000 directly employed in this industry.

In 14 Armour plants, the P.W.O.C. has been certified by the National Labor Relations Board as sole collective bargaining agent.

In most of the Chicago plants, there is a dispute between the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. on the question of representation. National Labor Relations Board elections probably will be used to settle this question.

Principal Demands The principal C.I.O. demands in the proposal for a signed contract include full recognition of the union, reduction in the speedup, establishment of a proper seniority system, and the elimination of health hazards, as well as wage adjustments.

In his speech, Lewis indicated a realization of the need of working with the farmers in connection with the packing house drive. Just as milk companies try to play off the truck drivers and the dairy producers, the meat packers seek to divide those who work on the farm and those who toil in the packing houses.

It will be a real job to offset this device of the "Big Four" packers.

Calling on Roosevelt to force the big companies to sign agreements indicates that Lewis, urged on by the Stalinists, still has many illusions.

Anti-Fascists Arrested At New Haven Meeting

Despite Police Persecution S.W.P. Branch Continues Fight Against Coughlin Fascism

(Continued from Page 1) The cops. All their personal papers were examined carefully.

Friends put up the extravagant bail asked by the police and the well-known labor lawyer James Belford, offered his services to fight the case in court.

Workers Turn Out The people who attended the Monday night meeting and were witnesses to the police interference with free speech, came again the next night and listened to the speakers.

"We are not intimidated or afraid," said the chairman at the start of the meeting. "We are aware of our rights, and we mean to fight to keep them. The Socialist Workers Party is going forward with its fight against Coughlin fascism despite any and all attacks."

Workers Defense Guards The need for the formation of Workers Defense Guards was the keynote of all speeches. The

desire of the workers of New Haven for real action against the fascists could immediately be seen by the enthusiastic response. Large numbers of the Anti-Coughlin pamphlet were sold. And the embryo of Workers Defense Guards appeared for the first time on the streets of New Haven when young workers gave spontaneous assistance to the meeting, guarding it against hoodlum attacks and maintaining order in the audience so that the police would not have a pretext for breaking up the rally. Many of these young workers have already turned in their names for the first corps of Workers Defense Guards.

The Coughlin movement is invading the city, recently opening up a big headquarters in the center of the town and carrying on the regular sales of their literature (without a license, you can bet) on the main streets.

Lundeborg Raps Stalinist Trick

"Have you stopped beating your wife? Answer yes or no!" This old lawyer's trick was dug up by the Stalinists to use against the militant leaders of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, on the occasion of the Harry Bridges deportation hearings.

A stooge introduced into the San Francisco membership meeting a resolution to have the union go on record for suspending "any official of the S.U.P. that shall testify against Harry Bridges at his forthcoming hearing on deportation charges." Have you stopped beating your wife? Answer yes or no!

Lundeborg's Answer Harry Lundeborg, militant secretary-treasurer of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, answered this slimy trick with the following statement which the membership ordered published in "West Coast Sailors" of July 13, after they had voted down the Stalinist resolution: "The introduction of this proposed resolution is an insult both to the membership and the officials of the S.U.P. It is an attempt on the part of the author to continue against the S.U.P. officials the slimy slander campaign waged by the C.P. hangers-on for the past two years in connection with the deportation proceedings against Bridges.

Opposes Deportation "I also want to state for the record that so far as deporting Bridges is concerned I am opposed to it—in my opinion a man who cannot show a clear strike record in 1921, so far as the seamen's strikes are concerned, and a man who has been a known and bold enemy of the S.U.P. to the extent of walking through S.U.P. picket lines, is a rat—but Union Labor should take care of these kind of birds—and will—and they should not attempt to make a phoney 'labor martyr' of him by holding pink-tea government inquiries regarding deporting him.

Case Workers Fired Everybody knows, furthermore, that the Relief Administration is reducing its staff. Dismissal notices for 15 percent of the clerical workers and 25 percent of the professional staff are now in the mail. Everything is being conducted in the dark.

Incidentally, while the comrats scream their high heads off about the deportation of Harry Bridges, at the same time in New Orleans, in an inter-union fight between two groups of N.M.U. men, Joe Curran and Steve Harty put the finger on Arthur Thomas, secretary of the N.M.U. in the Gulf, and had him picked up by immigration authorities because he is 'illegally' in the country."

clever statesman could find a way of maintaining that the referendum could never apply.

In order to bring the proposal back to its clear original form, and to put it on the most solid foundation, three changes in the current versions are necessary:

(1) It should call for a direct, popular, referendum vote in the case of any and all wars. This is the only safeguard. History has shown that diplomats in each and every country are always able to claim that any war into which their nation enters is a "defensive" war. Calling a war defensive is only a way of trying to make it look respectable. The people who should decide whether to fight a war, are also the ones to decide whether or not a given war is defensive.

(2) The referendum decision should be required not merely prior to any declaration of war, but prior to the use of any of the armed forces of the United States in any armed conflict whatsoever. Nowadays wars are sometimes not "declared", but undeclared wars can be just as destructive as any others. The point is for the people to decide not only the partly formal question of the declaration of war, but the concrete question of the war itself, which means armed conflict.

(3) In the war referendum, the right to vote should be given to all of the age of 18 and over. Those who are 18 and over are called upon to die in the war, are drafted. If they are old enough to fight in the war, they are old enough to vote on the question of entering it.

The people want the war referendum. That is the unchallenged fact. What must be done is for the people themselves to take the fight for the referendum into their own hands. Nothing has been or will be done by waiting for Congressmen and Senators. The issue of the referendum must be brought into every trade union, farm organization and farmers' cooperative, every fraternal society and club and youth group. Rallies, petitions, speeches, meetings, canvassings must gather the already vast but unorganized support of the referendum into a powerful, united force. Before the assembled might of the people, the secret diplomats, the star-chamber heroes, the war-mongers and their fellow conspirators, will be routed into the open and compelled to give their accounting.

Let the people decide! (The end)

Another Vicious Swipe At Chicago's Jobless

"Economy Drive" Hits Needy While Ward-Heelers, Politicians Draw Fat Salaries

By S. B. GRANT (Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO—At the behest of Chicago businessmen a new system of work relief is being installed. Every able-bodied man (they don't tell us who is going to decide his fitness) will be compelled to work for every cent in excess of fifteen dollars in his monthly budget. He will be paid fifty cents an hour. A man whose family receives thirty dollars will thus have to work thirty hours. In other words he will have to repay the city for the right to starve.

Leo M. Lyons, head of the Chicago Relief Administration has not yet given full details concerning the type of work he wants relievers to do, but he has indicated that they will do clean-up and scavenging labor—washing grimy street signs, picking up after the well-to-do. From now on the only difference between clients and chain-gang victims is that the boys on the chain gang have more security—are better clothed and fed.

This latest knife-in-the-back is particularly vicious because it prevents the unemployed from supplementing their starvation handouts by picking up the few miserable odd jobs that in many cases have thus far kept them going.

Case Workers Fired Everybody knows, furthermore, that the Relief Administration is reducing its staff. Dismissal notices for 15 percent of the clerical workers and 25 percent of the professional staff are now in the mail. Everything is being conducted in the dark.

"We have lived through a nightmare in the last two weeks. The government imposed a war loan. From the Jewish community of our town (about fifty thousand people) one million zlotys (equivalent to \$200,000) were demanded within five days. But no such sum could be collected within this period and a penalty of an additional quarter of a million zlotys was imposed. A citizens' committee was formed, it taxed every last person to the utmost and still the required sum could not be gotten together. Another penalty was imposed by the authorities on top of the first one. People walked around like in a daze, they cried, implored, some became hysterical, a few fainted. . . . It was no use. The entire Jewish community was threatened with banishment, with concentration camps if the demanded sum was not produced. (Grodno lies in the military zone). Finally 1,333,000 zlotys was collected. This was acceptable to the authorities. Every last person from the well-to-do to the poorest paid. People sold their last belongings—sewing machines, bedding, chairs, were piled in the market auction place.

"And today came the demand to pay for the gas masks which the government distributed some time ago. . . . How very difficult it is to live these days!"

Scissorbill Sam Acts His Part, But Fails To Spike Militancy

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) HUTCHINSON, Kansas—"Scissorbill Sam, the bosses' man," is sometimes born that way, but mostly he's made by a little careful grooming.

Take, for instance, Donald F. Dunn, a foreman on a W. P. A. project here. Occasional news stories in the paper praised him for his "industry" and "loyalty" and "patriotism." Then the Sunday paper gave him a half-page story with pictures about how he had built himself a house out of scraps and junk. It was a good job. It made a Scissorbill Sam out of him.

Acts His Part So that when the W. P. A. strike came along, Dunn was all primed to give the papers what they wanted. "This thing of organizing the relief workers is all wrong," said Dunn, and he said lots more which the paper gladly printed.

But in spite of Scissorbill Sam and the paper, there is a lot of resentment and militant feeling here.

A few weeks ago when the city closed down the airport W. P. A. project for lack of funds, a band of W. P. A. workers led

Many businessmen are of the opinion that the unemployed have to be taught obedience and docility, have to be taught to lick gratefully the hand that tosses them their daily, wormy food.

Bloodhounds The drive for efficiency goes on in a hot search for "frauds" and mistakes in budgeting. Professional bloodhounds known as auditors have been hired at \$150 a month to sniff out mistakes in addition made by case workers. No case where the client was getting too little has yet been reported.

When the Social Workers Union (affiliated with the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, all fixed up with Labor's Nonpartisan League, strikes 100 per cent forbidden in its contract) timidly suggested that these auditors be laid off the Administration furiously said no.

And while the economy drive goes on, and while the Tribune daily raises its snout to howl that the poor and the social workers are in a conspiracy to destroy America, the ward heelers, soft job holders, cheap crooks, political tapeworms, sit around with their bellies in their laps drawing, in salaries and graft, the money that belongs to the unemployed.

A LETTER FROM POLAND

Grodno, Poland. June 20th, 1939.

"How is it that they don't want to take us into the A.F.L.?" Another worker said sure, we are willing to help them but after this is all over, where do we stand? Is the A.F.L. going to protect us too like the skilled labor or will it leave us holding the bag without any protection?

That is what I want to emphasize. A good many laborers want to help, but the A.F.L. isn't asking them, and they don't want to organize into the independent unemployed organizations because they feel these don't have the power and protection of the A.F.L. So they don't know what to do.

The big thing that ought to come out of this strike should be the A.F.L. beginning to organize the W.P.A. common labor even if they don't have the money for high dues.

Yours truly, A W.P.A. WORKER. Newark, N. J.

F.D.R.'S POLICY WOULD WRECK UNION BASIS Editor: I have just finished reading the current issue, No. 51, of the Appeal. It is one of the best so far. Clear, incisive, and with excellent coverage, and a swell first page. It seems to me, though, that the Appeal has missed up in perhaps the most important factor in the W.P.A. mess. The present drive is primarily for the purpose of completely destroying the unions by wrecking their fundamental basis, the union wage. (The capitalist press to confuse the issue calls it the prevailing wage.) A secondary and quite incidental aspect of the W.P.A. wrecking drive is that an enormous mass of labor will be thrown on the market to further depress wages.



ON THE W.P.A. DISTRIBUTION FRONT

The W.P.A. strike is still going strong and so is the mass distribution of the Appeal to the strikers.

The Rochester, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, East St. Louis, etc. branches all took extra bundles of the last issue.

Branches must send in their extra orders in advance—by airmail or by telegram—so as to assure prompt delivery.

THE BRANCHES AT WORK

"We are going to work immediately on a systematic sub drive here and want to get the most complete file of expired subs you have available. This time we promise action!"—El Booth, new literature agent of San Francisco.

"We are beginning to sell the Appeal in the streets, and we are also preparing a printed leaflet on the Appeal. I am sure that in the future we shall be able to meet our bills as they come along"—Sol Thomas, Philadelphia agent.

New York City is beginning to get results on its campaign for renewal subscriptions. Under the able direction of comrade Milt "Swachime" Alvin, comrades are visiting all names on the lists of expired subscriptions and getting re-

WORKERS' FORUM

Roosevelt's war preparedness steam roller. True, the Appeal has mentioned all this but only incidentally and has given it only very minor prominence whereas it should be the other way around.

I figure it this way. In order to be a successful and powerful participant in the coming slaughter, the American owning class have to accumulate as rapidly as possible a tremendous amount of war material, just as the British owning class, the Italian owning class, etc., are doing. As usual, John Q. Worker, is the goat. John Q. Worker has to be squeezed and squeezed and squeezed.

But there is an obstacle in the way. John Q. Worker has got himself a union and a union wage and the owners can't get his pay so that they can buy more gunpowder as easily as they might like. So they look around and look around and finally decide to call on their pals in the government for help. A pretty little scheme is cooked up. The government has a W.P.A. and through it the principle of the union wage will be smashed in a big way. Lots of publicity, etc., so the lesson will sink deep.

Then with the principle smashed, the owning class will be able to do what they wanted to do in the first place, namely cut wages so they can turn the difference into guns, etc. To help the campaign along, the union wage is called the prevailing wage. And John Q. Worker has his wages cut (the 18 months business) to help him forget the real issue, the wrecking of the backbone of his union, the wrecking of the union wage. The role of the Stalinists in trying to whitewash "My Friendnnds" by blaming the Tories is obvious to John Q. Worker whose backside tells him who really is delivering the kicks.

NEWSTANDS

A STANDING OFFER TO BRANCHES: The Appeal is always ready to send sample copies to lists of contacts supplied by branch literature agents. It has been our policy to do this all along and we want to continue.

Just send in your lists to the Manager and the sample copies will be mailed out—with no cost to the branches.

Table with columns: Location, Count. Lists new subscriptions for various cities like New York, Chicago, etc.

John Malone is taking a bundle of 35 per issue while covering the W.P.A. strike in Strea-ter, Illinois.

The new branch established by our Canadian comrades in Calgary, Alta., is already taking a small bundle of Appeals.

MONKEYS WELL FED, JOBLESS STARVE

(Continued from Page 1) to the 22,037 on the rolls. For the month of July they are to receive an average of \$3.31 each for food, 11 cents for rent and nothing at all for clothing, the smallest appropriations here in any month since a public relief agency was set up in 1933. Further reductions are expected in August and subsequent months, according to John K. Rowland, local Social Security Administrator.

Relief grants to non-citizen families will be discontinued. About 800 additional families with one member classified as "employable" will be removed from the rolls after getting a final grant of food for two weeks. There is practically no likelihood of these persons getting on W. P. A. or in private industry.

by a man named W. P. Golding put the heat on the city commission so well that they "reconsidered" the shutdown, raised the necessary funds by a quick action bond issue and put the men back to work pronto.

Buy the Socialist Appeal at Your Newsstand

Informal House Box 245 Kerhonkson, N. Y. (Near Ellenville) 120 acres of woodland in the Catskills. 40 acres of pine for sunbathing; handball, ping pong, archery; swimming and horseback riding nearby; dancing.

Join the Socialist Workers Party