Mpls. Rescinds Dismissal Slips for WPA Unskilled

OHIO A.F.L. FOR UNITY WITH C.I.O.

Progressive State Convention Blocks Green Moves

By PAUL FIELDING

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

AKRON, O., July 21—The Ohio State Federation of Labor today ended its 55th annual convention, the largest and most progressive in its history, with the following record:

1. Called for unity between the A.F.L. and the C.I.O. after President William Green and Homer Martin made special trips to Akron to prevent passage of such a resolution.

2. Vigorously condemned Congress for the W.P.A. starvation law.

3. Supported the Bigelow pension plan which would pay all aged persons $50 a month to be raised by an income tax on higher brackets and a tax on idle capital.

4. Passed by an overwhelming majority a resolution asking the Governor of North Carolina to free Fred Beal, victim of the 1929 Gastonia strike-frame-up.

5. Criticized certain leaders for claiming to adhere to a "non-partisan" political policy while supporting Republican or Democratic candidates.

On the debit side was an almost unanimous endorsement of Roosevelt for a third term. Despite the fact that the New Deal was criticized for the W.P.A. law, this resolution passed with only 35 dissenting votes.

Other convention business concerned greater labor solidarity, passage of social legislation and strengthening the affiliated unions. Compared to previous conventions, this annual meeting was miles ahead in the progressive nature of the actions taken.

Green Flops

Both Green and Martin were rushed to Akron when the demand for A.F.L. and C.I.O. unity was voiced in a number of resolutions and indicated plainly by the majority of the delegates.

Both Green and Martin spoke for several hours, attempting to incite a lynch spirit against the C.I.O. and ordering the delegates to shun all peace gestures toward it. They succeeded in weakening the resolution passed—which urged "the A.F.L. to continue its efforts to bring about unity"—but failed to prevent its adoption.

Butchers' Unity Resolution

The sentiment of the majority was nearer to the resolution unanimously adopted by the Ohio state branch convention of the Butchers Union a few days before, which stated: "The interests of Organized Labor are jeopardized by the present disunity . . . which is directly attributable to high ranking officials of both the C.I.O. and the A.F.L."

Beal Defense Endorsed

Although the resolution calling for the release of Fred Beal was rejected by the committee whose chairman used a red-baiting attack, it was overwhelmingly adopted after Sam Pollock, delegate of the Butchers Union demanded its passage in the interest of civil liberties.

A "harmony slate" was elected to head the state body after the Teamsters made a successful bid for power. Thomas Lyden, Youngstown bus driver, was re-elected president. A coalition, the "harmony slate," was drawn up after a compromise between the Teamsters and a section of the building Trades, headed by John Breidenbach, vice-president from Dayton, who leads the right wing. Breidenbach has been rapped for his support of Republican Governor Bricker of Ohio.

The convention went on record favoring a low-cost, government housing project and the Wagner National Health Bill.

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Skilled Men Continue Fight for Union Wage

(Continued from Page 1)

Negotiations between the Joint Action Committee and the W.P.A. administrator continued through Tuesday evening. The substance of the terms of the Joint Action Committee was conceded in a five-point plan which was then presented for vote to the striking unions and unemployed organizations.

Though the administration insisted on inserting as point No. 1 that the "five-day rule stands and all 403's stand", point No. 2 states:

"Those who have received 403's who desire to return to work will be promptly reassigned work as rapidly as the peaceful and orderly operation of the available projects within the quota limitations permit if they will sign an affidavit in the W.P.A. assignment office that they have not engaged in illegal activities in violation of the federal law in conjunction with the difficulty over the past few weeks."

Printed affidavits, simply attesting that the signers have not engaged in illegal activities during the strike, were to be provided by the administration.

Only Exception

So far Minneapolis is the only place where the W.P.A. administration has retreated from its national policy of maintaining dismissal of all workers absent five days during the strike. The settlement was voted after fifteen days of militant strike action which closed down the projects completely.

High Spot in Strike

As a result of unity of the organized unemployed with the trade union movement, the W.P.A. strike reached its highest pitch in Minneapolis.

For years the Minneapolis Central Labor Union has supported the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 in its struggle for the rights of the unemployed, and the Federal Workers Section showed in this strike that it knows the responsibilities of a disciplined section of the organized labor movement.

Building Trades Led

The Building Trades Council, led by Walter Frank and others, took the lead in endorsing the strike and directing the struggle. The W.P.A. strike was then endorsed by the Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union, and then the Central Labor Union proper.

The Federal Workers Section voted full support to the Building Trades Council in the strike and placed itself under the leadership of the Joint Action Committee. The praiseworthy role played by the Federal Workers Section is fully appreciated by the Central Labor and the relationship between the two bodies will be firmer than ever in the coming struggles.

The morale of the returning strikers is excellent, and the devastating result to the New Deal's reputation cannot be overestimated.

When a leading member of the Central Labor Union entered the hall Thursday morning and someone twitted him about the President's "You can't strike" statement, this official flared up: "Don't talk to me about the New Deal and Roosevelt—that's all over now."

An official of one of the building trades unions says: "What's all this about differences between the Democrats and Republicans? I can't see it. I counted up the Democrats and Republicans in Congress and how they voted on this thing and I can't see any difference between them. Roosevelt and Harrington sounded just as tough as the 'Tory Republicans.'"

"Roosevelt Wuz Tricked"

Only the Stalinist leadership fails to publicly express the mass disillusionment with Roosevelt. The Workers Alliance leadership here has even got the brass to tell its members, even now, that "Roosevelt wuz tricked into signing the Relief Bill. He didn't know what was in it. Murphy wuz tricked too. He is being used by the Garnercrats."

Plenty of Workers Alliance members and even some stewards, all good militants, have come over and joined the Federal Workers Section since the strike began.

The strike has completely convinced hundreds of hitherto-unorganized W.P.A. workers on the value of organization, and the Federal Workers Section came through the strike with a much larger membership than it had at the start.

The Joint Action Committee of the Building Trades Council and the organized unemployed will keep a vigilant watch to see that the W.P.A. administration lives up to the settlement agreement and doesn't try to chisel and victimise the W.P.A. strikers.

Act for Relief

The Joint Action Committee has directed its attention to the problem of direct relief for the strikers. Yesterday morning the Committee met with the Welfare Board and forced through a vote to maintain supplementary aid for all W.P.A. workers. "Supplementary aid" is a budgetary system, initiated by the Minneapolis labor movement, whereby W.P.A. workers with large families receive direct relief in addition to their small W.P.A. wage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GARDEN BEER Party—Saturday, July 29. Games, entertainment, ping pong tournament. Downtown Labor Center, 51 E. 7th St.

CAMP SEVEN OAKS. Eatontown, N. J. Tennis, swimming, ping-pong. Plumbing. $2.50 per day. $14 a week. Make reservations, please! Phone: Eatontown 515.

PICNIC AT PELHAM! Swim, sun, eat, play ball! Sunday, July 31, at Pelham Bay Park. East Side I.R.T. to Pelham Bay Station 11 A.M. Auspices Lower East Side. Subscription 15 cents.

The August issue of THE NEW INTERNATIONAL is off the press, featuring an answer by Leon Trotsky to the "Renegades from Marxism." Order your copy immediately from the NEW INTERNATIONAL 116 University Place, N. Y. C.

Pledging 100 Percent Support to the Strike!

Ed Palmquist, leader of the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, Minneapolis, instructing the F.W.S. Committee of Five Hundred on how to close the city's projects at a mass meeting in the special W.P.A. strike headquarters set up by Local 544.

Jail Workers Under High Bail for Protesting Franco Celebration

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

NEWARK—Spanish and Portuguese Catholic workers, who congregated in front of St. Joseph's Church in Newark two months ago to protest the turning of a mass for peace into a brazen celebration of Franco's victory are being held for trial before a grand jury on charges of "unlawful assembly", with bail for some placed as high as five hundred dollars.

The imprisoned workers, against whom the case has been worked up by the reactionary Catholic Lawyers' Guild, are representative of the Spanish and Portuguese working class families living in the Ironbound (Down Neck) section of Newark, many of whom had relatives and friends in the Spanish Loyalist army.

Several hundred workers surged in front of the church, on May 7, dismayed and angry, when the mass which their priest, Vidal, had announced would be for peace turned out to be a fascist field-day, with the Spanish and Portuguese consuls attending in uniform, the Franco flag of slavery waving from the church mast, and the priest giving a fascist salute on entering the church. When they tried to persuade other parishioners not to participate in the infamous affair, pro-fascists summoned the police.

Police Grill Workers

Seven were arrested, mostly young people not yet of age. Anxious to find a "ringleader", the police concentrated on two middle-aged persons who were among the arrested, questioning them for hours. "What do you have against Franco?" and "Why are you for the Loyalists?" were among the questions hurled at them. They were held practically incommunicado, all their protestations meeting with more abuse and with threats of deportation and revocation of citizenship. Yet these people were not criminals. They were honest, simple working people outraged to the very bottom of their hearts by the open partiality of the priest for fascism.

Charged at first with disturbing the peace, they were held on unusually high bail of one hundred dollars, which they were unable to pay.

But the Catholic Lawyers' Guild, dissatisfied with the insignificant charges against the defendants, asked the judge to hold up the hearing until they could "work up the case".

Bail Quintupled

When these gentlemen, who do the dirty work for the big corporations, gangsters, gamblers, bookmakers and crooks, had so successfully worked up their case that they succeeded, at the hearing, in having the defendants held for "unlawful assembly" the judge demanded increased bail for them, up to five hundred dollars.

The case is now awaiting the grand jury. If there are any convictions—and there is every reason to believe that the court is trying to make an example of this case to stifle any anti-Franco demonstrations in this country, the cause of democratic liberties will suffer a tremendous set-back. If these Spanish - Portuguese workers are convicted of "unlawful assembly", then any little demonstration, any picketing, can be a basis for charges of "unlawful assembly" and of railroading to jail.

We must defend the victims of Franco agents in this country. The case of these Spanish-Portuguese Loyalists is our case. We must help them by organizing proper defense, by collecting necessary funds and by bringing it to the attention of every working class organization and enlisting its aid and sympathy.

At a Minneapolis Strike Meeting

One of the mass meetings held by W.P.A. strikers in the Minneapolis Parade Grounds with 5,000 workers present. Speakers representing the Building Trades Unions, Local 544's Federal Workers Section, the C.I.O. and the Workers Alliance told the assembled workers that the fight of the Building Trades is the fight of American labor.

'Guard Against F.B.I. Frameups' Is Union Warning

(Continued from Page 1)

be on the alert to resist the first hostile move against the union movement.

"Watch the F.B.I. and Murphy. On guard against frameups."

The day before this scathing editorial appeared, Victor Anderson, U. S. District Attorney, had announced convening of a federal grand jury this Monday at which he will seek indictments against persons involved in the W.P.A. strike.

"The Attorney General's direction that all violations in this matter be speedily and vigorously prosecuted will be strictly adhered to and followed," said Anderson.

Anderson made his statement after talking by telephone with Attorney General Murphy.

The Minneapolis Journal carried a screaming eight-column headline, "Strike Prosecution Opens Monday."

"The investigation will be a difficult and thorough job", declared Murphy at his Thursday press conference. He refused to amplify to reporters his statement the previous week that "a small group in Minneapolis exploited the strike." Blusteringly he declared that "no labor leaders in Minneapolis or elsewhere have influence enough to prevent my department from doing a thorough job."

Russian Bulletin Out

The Tenth Anniversary issue of the Russian Opposition Bulletin has just arrived. The issue is almost entirely composed of articles by L. D. Trotsky with an especially interesting article about the ten years' existence of the Bulletin.

The magazine can be obtained at the Labor Bookshop, 116 University Place, New York City.

Court Fines Philadelphia Anti-Fascist

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

PHILADELPHIA, July 22—A twenty-five dollar fine and costs was imposed on Lou Roberts, a militant anti-fascist, one of the participants in the picket line that the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Peoples Socialist League led at the Metropolitan Opera House, Friday July 14.

The magistrate commended the police who had denied the demonstrators their constitutional rights to protest against the meeting the Coughlinites were holding to hear their "Fuehrer" speak to them over a direct telephone connection from Royal Oak, Mich.

The fine and costs were paid by the legal defense staff of the S.W.P. The defense lawyer attempted to point out that the ordinance that Roberts was accused of violating was held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the Hague case in Jersey City but the magistrate would not listen.

Despite the denial of elementary rights of picketing and demonstrating against the fascists, the S.W.P. and the Y.P.S.L. will continue their struggle against the fascists.

THE WELL-BRED ENGLISHMAN

Under the heading, "Visiting the World's Fair—Tact for the Englishman in America," along with helpful hints on American slang and the problem of overheated hotel rooms, the New York correspondent of the highly-respected Manchester Guardian Weekly includes the following suggestion (issue of June 30):

"On the subject of the war itself, it is well to step carefully. The average American is in a greatly disillusioned mood nowadays about his country's participation in that conflict. If you begin a conversation with the premise that the war was an unavoidable evil, that it was a sacrifice in the cause of civilization, and that the Americans should not regret the part they played, you are probably in for a painful discussion."

APPEAL ARMY

NOTE: This week we are beginning a series of articles—to be printed in this column once each week—on various problems of APPEAL distribution. These articles will cover such matters as newsstand circulation, street sales, getting subscriptions, etc. It is intended to be of assistance to all literature agents and comrades who conduct the hard work of building a mass circulation for the SOCIALIST APPEAL.

Literature agents are urged to send THEIR contributions to the column.

This first column on building newsstand circulation is based on a newsstand bulletin issued by Abe Miller, New York APPEAL agent.

* * *

ON BUILDING NEWSSTAND CIRCULATION:

Selection of Newsstand: They should be selected in the neighborhood where the Party local carries on its activity—near where it holds street meetings, street sales, headquarters, etc. Newsstands near the home of a Party member—particularly candy stores—should be used.

Newsstand Promotion: (a) The chairman at all street corner meetings should announce the address of the nearest newsstand carrying the **Appeal.**

(b) When you sell the **Appeal** be sure to tell the buyer where his nearest **Appeal** newsstand is.

(c) Send penny postal cards to your friends and contacts, announcing the contents of the paper and giving a newsstand address. This is effective for special articles in the **Appeal.**

(d) Leaflets containing newsstand addresses should be inserted in all **Appeals** sold at meetings, etc.

(e) Organize the branch membership behind the effort to increase newsstand circulation by setting newsstand quotas for all members. Keep a graph of all individual newsstand sales and all new ones added to the list. New York City has over 100 newsstands that now carry the **Appeal** and is adding more each day!

(f) Give out cards, leaflets, etc. to the neighbors and tenants living in the vicinity of the newsstand.

Delivery to Newsstands: This must always be done regularly, twice each week. It must always be on time. The same comrade must do this, by working out a route for himself. A large route can be covered by bicycle or a car, if available. The important thing is **regularity and punctuality.**

Y.P.S.L. Co-Operation: In New York City every Y.P.S.L. has been instructed to purchase his **Appeal** from his local newsstand. We recommend this same system for all Y.P.S.L. units. Where no Party Branch can handle newsstands in a particular section, it is the duty of the Y.P.S.L. unit to handle them.

Next week: Mass Street Sales.

SOCIALIST APPEAL & NEW INTERNATIONAL Can be Obtained at the Following Newsstands

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