

## In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Recently the New York Post carried a long story on the Hotel, Restaurant, Bartenders and Soda Dispensers Unions welding into one centralized group to organize the culinary and hotel services.

The step was hailed as a giant step forward towards industrial unionism of the A.F.L. unions involved. Announcement of the plans came from a reorganization meeting of the New York local joint executive board of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees International union and the Bartenders International union, A.F.L. affiliates.

The story spoke of the thirteen unions pooling their resources, establishing a \$50,000 organizing fund, etc.

### Too Good to Be True

Since it all sounded too good to be true, we asked a progressive food worker to write us his opinions on the matter. Excerpts from his letter follow:

"The information contained in the Post story is somewhat garbled and there is some misstatement of fact. Firstly, the Locals are not 'pooling' their resources. Instead, the Stalinist controlled Local Joint Board (similar to the district council of the Painters union but lacking to a great extent its authority at present) has assessed all Local Unions two cents per capita for the purpose of instituting a full-time appointed secretary of the L.J.B. and several departments.

"The depression has hit the C. P. despite Roosevelt and they need some signposts for their 'ex-leaders'."

"However, the main reason for this 'new centralization of authority' is the desire of the C. P. to wrest autonomy from the progressively inclined Locals, namely Locals 16 and 677—although according to the constitution they can only affect the former, which is a waiters union and shares jurisdiction with another Local in shops signed by them."

### Trend Against C. P.

"The reorganization is in no respect a step towards 'industrial unionism' as the story states. The Stalinists made a faint towards such organization two years ago—amalgamation of some craft locals. If it is attempted by them now, it will not be done voluntarily because it would weaken their position considerably (apparently all they are seeking is a cloak for maneuvers to usurp further control).

"The trend in all the food locals is against them and they face the possibility of being slaughtered at the polls in the coming elections—as they were in Local 677, and to a lesser extent in Local 16 a few months ago—unless they pull something spectacular or diabolical out of their bag of tricks."

### Negro Unionists

Worthy of study for progressive unionists is the material contained in the current Journal of Negro Education, published by Howard University and available at all the libraries, on the question of Negroes in the union movement.

This material is part of a general survey of the status of the Negro in American society (also very valuable insofar as information, etc. is concerned).

A special section is devoted to the presentation of the statistics of the number of Negroes in industry, types of work they do, etc.

Then a brief history of the Negro's role in the American labor movement in the past, his efforts to build independent unions, the policy and practices of the A.F.L. in relation to this problem, and the C.I.O. policy and practice towards the Negro is contained in this magazine.

Along with Spero and Harris' book, "The Black Worker," this material is the best we have been able to find for facts on this vital problem. Unfortunately, the material is too copious to be presented in this column. We can only recommend a reading of it.

## CONGRESS GIVES SIGNAL FOR MASS LAYOFFS

Strike of Construction Workers May Be Extended to PWA

(Continued from Page 1)

ommendation to Congress.

Strike Goes On  
In an interview given today to the Socialist Appeal, Thomas A. Murray, President of the Building and Construction Trades Council declared, "We're going right ahead with the strike. These people (WPA administration) insist on making fools of themselves. They are losing \$750,000 a week as long as they insist on holding out on the union."

Murray declared, in relation to Congress' refusal to restore the prevailing wage, "We never had much faith in Congress anyway."

Murray went on to say that Section 15B of the Relief Act, which gives Relief Administration Harrington discretion to restore the prevailing wage, gives the union, despite the action of Congress, a chance to affect this restoration.

"If Harrington doesn't come through," Murray said, "there is a very good possibility that we will extend the strike to the PWA Projects."

The PWA project workers on which the prevailing wage has been paid up to date, have indicated before their willingness to support their WPA brothers in this fight against the government's attack on union conditions.

## Arrest Guild Pickets for Annoying 'Persons Unknown'

Charged Originally with "Carrying" Signs On Sidewalk, Face New Charges in Court

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
LYNN, Mass., July 30—Three pickets, members of the Lynn Chapter of the American Newspaper Guild were arrested here while picketing in front of a large department store advertising in the paper (the Daily Evening Item) against which the editorial staff is striking.

For recognition of the Guild, better wages and a five day week. The men were wearing oil cloth sandwich signs announcing the fact of the store's continued advertising in the struck paper.

James E. Nolan, president of the Lynn Chapter of the Guild, was the first to be arrested. After refusing to stop picketing he was taken to the police station, there relieved of his tie, belt and suspenders and put in a cell. Shortly after he was joined by two other fellow picketers, Herbert L. Schon, local vice president, and Joseph M. Colburn, veteran labor reporter.

All three were booked on violation of a city ordinance prohibiting the carrying of signs or placards on a public sidewalk. They were later released, to await trial.

Prepared the next morning to fight the charges of violating an unconstitutional city ordinance, the men were astonished to find that the charges had been changed overnight. Instead of the ordinance, they were now faced with a most puzzling, if not absolutely unintelligible charge of "Annoying of Persons Unknown."

Attorney Samuel Angoff, for strikers, secured a continuance to next week.

## Statements by S.W.P. Candidates for Council

The Labor Movement Must Stop Fascism From Gaining Power

By GEORGE LYMAN PAINE  
Manhattan Candidate of S.W.P. for Councilman

The labor movement must stop fascism from ever gaining power in the United States.

Father Coughlin and his allies such as the German-American Bund, the Silver Shirts, the Ku Klux Klan, etc., who hope to establish a fascist dictatorship in America, have not only whipped up a tremendous wave of race hatred against the Jewish and Negro people in this country, but have now openly declared civil war on the labor movement.

It is only a question of time until these organizations begin a campaign of murder against the labor movement as did similar organizations in Italy and Germany.

The labor movement must immediately launch a campaign of independent labor politics. Labor must have its own government in Washington, D. C. Labor must build Defense Guards to protect its own headquarters, its own members, its very existence against Coughlin's "Christian Front" gangsters and similar anti-labor storm troops.

There is no other way to stop fascism from taking over the United States. That is the platform of the Socialist Workers Party. That is the platform on which I stand.

SWP Gives Workers An Opportunity to Vote against War

By MAX SHACHTMAN  
Bronx Candidate of the S.W.P. for Councilman

The decision of the Socialist Workers Party to run a candidate in the Bronx in the coming municipal elections signifies that the workers of that community will have an opportunity to vote this fall for the only militant and consistently anti-war party in the field.

The war danger—literally a life and death matter—is the all-dominating issue of our time. By voting for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party working men and working women can give the most clear-cut expression to their hatred of imperialist war and the imperialist war mongers. Such a vote, even on a local scale, will give important food for thought to those who are prepared to plunge the population of this country into a new world disaster.

### ALP Benefits

Voting for the councilman candidates of the Socialist Workers Party will in no way invalidate votes that are cast at the same time for the candidates of the American Labor Party. The proportional representation system that exists in New York makes it possible for the first choice votes, which we hope will go to the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party, to be transferred if necessary to the second choice votes, which most workers will give to the American Labor Party candidate.

I am honored by my nomination as one of the standard bearers of the revolutionary Socialist Workers Party in the coming elections. I can only pledge myself to do all within my power to justify this honor by an energetic campaign to bring the platform of our party to the widest possible circle of labor in the Bronx.

## Y.P.S.L. Will Open Summer Camp and School August 11

Camp 3 L's invites all members and friends of the revolutionary movement to participate in its four week program of fun and sports beginning on Friday, August 11.

The New York Division of the Young People's Socialist League is readying its summer camp for a gala opening. The camp is located six miles north of Brewster, Putnam County, N. Y. As the camp circular announces: "nested in the rolling hills of upstate New York, surrounded by a forest of evergreen and white birch, a modern country home located on 45 acres of land will be the scene of our summer camp."

National Chain  
When the New York camp

## LAUNCH DRIVE TO UNIONIZE WPA WORKERS

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)  
STREATOR, ILL., July 30—Over 500 WPA workers attended a mass meeting called by the Federal Workers' League in the City Park to launch the drive for 100% unionization of all WPA projects. Included among the speakers were Albert Gates and Lydia Biedel of Chicago, Ben Martin, FWL leader, John Malone, CIO organizer and Joe Tonielli, of the IWA. The keynote of the meeting was expressed by Martin when he said, "The workers of Streator have learned that their salvation does not lie with either the Republicans or the Democrats; the only place the workers can place confidence is in their own ranks. The solidarity of the working class can and has accomplished the only real gains that have been for labor."

## NEWARK CALLS ANTI-WAR MEET

NEWARK, N. J.—A "Let the People Vote on War" rally, on Sunday evening, Aug. 13, with Murray Weiss as the main speaker, will climax the first two weeks of the anti-war campaign program of the Newark S.W.P. and Yipsels. The meeting will be held in the S.W.P. Hall, 252 Market Street. Admission will be free.

The Newark comrades are also actively engaged in pushing daily sales of the Socialist Appeal on the streets, at factory gates, and house to house, as well as carrying out other aspects of the campaign allotted to them. They're going to meet their quotas in a shorter period and probably exceed them before the campaign is over, at their present rate of activity.

In addition to the "Let the People Vote on War" meeting on August 13, Newark has planned two other meetings for August. James Burnham, on August 20, will speak on "The New Deal Shows Its Teeth." On August 27, E. R. McKinney will speak on "Rights for the Colored Workers!"

opens, the last link in the plan for Y.P.S.L. Camps across the nation will be completed. Camp 3 L's like our other camps in California, Chicago, and Ohio, will feature a regional training school.

The Camp program will include all sorts of sports with swimming and boating facilities nearby. Campfires, outdoor socials, and overnight hikes will highlight the whirl of activities. Study and cultural groups will function regularly. Rates per week are: employed \$14; unemployed \$8. Per weekend: employed \$4; unemployed \$3.

For further information write to: Camp Director, 116 University Place, N. Y. C.

## BUREAUCRATS WIN ELECTIONS IN FUR UNION

Use Undemocratic Tricks in Fighting Progressive Forces

NEW YORK—Elections for officers of the Furriers Union have just been completed, and the Stalinist leadership re-elected itself by using every bureaucratic and undemocratic trick known to the trade union movement.

Before the election, the United Progressive Furriers, the opposition group in the union, demanded that they be permitted to have watchers at the polls to avoid repetition of stuffing ballot boxes which characterized past elections. The request for watchers was refused by the Stalinist administration.

The progressive group then offered to give up their opposition group if the elections were held in a democratic manner. The Stalinist election committee responded by removing the majority of progressive group candidates from the ballot on the grounds that the candidates were irregular in their dues payments. Every candidate of the United Progressive Furriers group was actually paid up in dues and the Stalinist "yes men" whose names were on the ballot were for the most part "not in good standing" as far as their dues payments to the union were concerned.

A few days before the election, the United Progressive Furriers requested the numbers of the candidates on the ballot so that they could make up their election slate. This request was refused.

Withdraw Candidates  
Finally, after the progressives had made every attempt to force an honest election—and every attempt failed—the United Progressive Furriers withdrew from participating in the elections.

It was reported by the administration that 6,300 workers voted in the election. Those opposition candidates whose names remained on the ballot polled a large section of the votes despite the election boycott. Nathan Kramer, opposition candidate for manager received 750 votes. Another 700 persons who were forced to vote and have their union books stamped to indicate that they had voted did so by casting blank ballots.

Count Own Ballots  
To top the whole election off, the Business Agents who were running for office, counted their own ballots.

This bureaucratic election that the Stalinists just palmed off on the membership of the Furriers Union still leaves the union membership with a leadership that has no intention of fighting for improvement of conditions on the job.

## THOUSANDS AT ANTI-WAR RALLIES CALLED BY NEW YORK S.W.P.

Six successful anti-war rallies covering all parts of the city opened the campaign by the New York district of the Socialist Workers Party for a referendum to let the people vote on war.

About 35,000 people altogether were reached by these

## APPEAL ARMY

Article No. 2 in the Press Building Series:  
HOW TO BUILD YOUR APPEAL & NEW INTERNATIONAL SQUAD:

The Appeal squad is a new development in our literature and circulation methods. It is an important step in our propaganda system and great stress must be laid upon it. In our drive to step up the circulation of the Appeal and New International, a large part of our success will depend on the development of these squads of professional salesmen.

The following branches have already tried this with real results to point to: New York City, Chicago, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Detroit and Newark.

ORGANIZING THE SQUAD:  
This is the job of the branch literature agent. Selection of squad salesmen should be from unemployed branch members, partly employed members and those who work full time but have a day or more per week to devote to this activity. Also, squad members should be selected from the local Y.P.S.L. unit.

The Squad needs some financing, especially to get going. The salesmen should be given part of the proceeds for their lunches. The Branch can make up the small loss by profits that come from Mass Street sales.

In addition, the Branch should regularly set aside a Press Fund which is to be utilized primarily for supporting such undertakings as a squad of regular, full-time salesmen.

THE SQUAD AT WORK:  
All squad assignments should be given out by the comrade in charge who is centrally located at Party headquarters.

Literature-agents should call the squad together for instructions as to what slogans they are to shout, how to handle their papers, etc. Then squad members are assigned to favorable locations and street corners. An accurate record of sales made at the assigned spot must be kept over a period of time. This will soon furnish proof as to which spots are the best "literature spots."

Every squad member must be equipped with an Appeal newsboy apron and an attractive poster which has been furnished by the Appeal poster shop.

One squad member can hold down a corner for several hours. He should keep moving around, shouting appropriate slogans, holding the Appeal open in front of him and selling. If the corner is a busy one, send out two or more squadsmen to cover it. At special times (union parades, union mass meetings, etc.) it is a good idea to send out the entire squad to work together for mass coverage.

The surest way of having your branch quota of Appeals and New Internationals mount is to organize your squad right now. Always be sure to supply the salesmen with copies of the current New International.

Next Week: Getting subscriptions for our press.

## WORKERS' FORUM

CATHOLIC OBJECTS TO APPEAL NEWS REPORT  
Dear Editor:

In the more than eight months that I have been bitterly engaged as a leader in the Chicago Hearst Guild strike, I have been a consistent reader of your paper. I will say in addition that I considered the Socialist Appeal a newspaper; truthful and fearless. I assumed that what I read in your news columns were factual accounts.

As a newspaper editor whose feeling for the working class is as honest and intense as that of yourself, I admired your excellent newspaper technique. As president of the Cathedral-Chicago Chapter, Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, I find little difference between us in approaching the main problem. We both want justice and equity for all workmen. I have no quarrel with the content of your editorial columns; they contain your personal views which are of no more value than my own.

In reading the account of the Socialist Appeal concerning the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee meeting for John L. Lewis here, I find with considerable astonishment that no mention was made of one highly important incident in that meeting and that was the

appearance on the platform of Bishop Shell of the Catholic Church. I cannot conceive that as good a newspaperman as yourself would have overlooked the fact, hence I am forced to conclude that your publishing association is just as venal, specious and subsidized as the Hearst, McCormick, Pulitzer and Ochs gangs. You have no more right to enter a propaganda handbill in the postoffice as a newspaper than the other publishers have and that they do so cannot be your defense.

I have no quarrel with your denunciations of Heywood Broun and nothing but commendation for your expose of Father Coughlin, a gentleman with whom I disagree as violently as do you. I think, as a newspaperman, that you should have informed your readers that Bishop Shell was there and then said what you pleased about him in your editorial comment. That is good newspaper work, something I fear your management cannot deliver.

Sincerely yours,  
Harry Cyril Read  
CHICAGO,  
August 4, 1939.

(Reference to Bishop Shell was omitted from the article published in the Appeal for no other reason than that our correspondent unfortunately failed to include it in his report. We particularly regret the omission if it gave the article a misleading tone, as Mr. Read seems to think it did. We welcome the aid given labor by any individual, including members of the church hierarchy. In cases where we disagree with the views of a particular individual it is our custom as Mr. Reed properly suggests, to comment editorially. However, we are surprised that Mr. Read should, on the basis of one instance of reportorial negligence, have concluded that our paper which has known to be truthful and objective has become "venal."—Ed.)

FROM A COMRADE IN CANADA

Dear Comrade Editor:  
Permit me to congratulate you comrades in the United States for having produced such an excellent paper.

The publicity you have given the WPA strike struggles, covering such a large area, is remarkable for a newspaper with modest resources.

Up here in Alberta the workers and farmers have had a double dose of political potage with disastrous results. Already the unemployed are reduced to a pauper status. But there are healthy symptoms of a return to independent working class action with more vigor, determination than ever before.

Wishing you every success.

Fraternally,  
Charles L.

August 1, 1939  
Calgary, Alberta

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## Who's Against the War Referendum?

## American Legion Distrusts the People

By HAL DRAPER

The American Legion—its national leadership—is opposed to letting the people vote on the issue of peace or war. It denounces the idea of a people's referendum before any start of armed warfare. And like the others who set themselves against this proposal, the Legion leaders give the show away when they get down to giving reasons.

A war referendum, says National Commander Doherty, would be

"productive of dissension and confusion and in the final analysis result in a divided nation. At best the decision would be a majority one. The proposed amendment implies lack of confidence on the part of our people in their Congressional representatives. This is not in accord with the facts. Other nations would readily interpret it as a sign of weakness." (N. Y. Times, Jan. 10, 1939.)

"To Hell With the Majority" (1) Mr. Doherty takes for granted that when the United States goes to war, there will be a substantial section of the

people who will be against that war, that there will be a "divided nation" which the referendum would only record. Who will have the majority in this division? Will the majority say "no," or will it succumb to the war hysteria?

Mr. Doherty doesn't care. A capitalist "democracy" doesn't stop its war plans just because the majority of the people are against them. As Doherty's Washington representative, Col. Taylor, pointed out: the expectation of an anti-war vote in a referendum is the best argument against holding any referendum—for these jingos to whom the people are so many cattle.

A Fascist Warning  
(2) A democratic vote would be a "sign of weakness!" Here Doherty repeats the essential argument which is made by... the fascists! The fascists say scornfully to the "democrats": "You are weak because you must depend on convincing your people to commit suicide; we merely order them; you must stop a little carefully to put your war plans across; we can drive forward without ask-

ing anyone." And Doherty's refutation is: On the war question, at least, there is and cannot be a speck of democracy permitted, in the "democracies" any more than in Germany or Italy.

(3) Mr. Doherty is serving notice that when war breaks out, if not before, the regime that will be established in this country will be TOTALITARIAN. Only one point of view—pro-war—could be expressed; for would not a "divided nation" be shown if free speech could be exercised by those against the war? Wouldn't the running of election candidates of an anti-war party provide a partial count of how many oppose the war, and therefore be impermissible?—The American people, says Doherty, will be divided by war; but it will be up to the government to hammer them into an appearance of "national unity" in the same way that Hitler gets his 99 percent votes.

No Reliance on Bosses!  
(4) If Congress really consists of representatives of the people, then its vote on the war should be a reflection of the

"divided nation." Mr. Doherty, however, does not seem to be worried about a divided Congress, if the President pops the question. He seems to have confidence that the 96 Senators and the 400 odd Representatives, who now have the power to plunge 130,000,000 people into the slaughter, WILL GO ALONG WHEN "THE DAY" COMES.

Every worker who has the same confidence in Congress as Mr. Doherty shows must say: TAKE THE WAR-MAKING POWER AWAY FROM WASHINGTON!

We DO lack confidence in the Congressional Representatives to represent the interests of the American masses. Moreover they have proved it themselves by refusing even to discuss the war referendum a week after the Gallup poll showed that 72 percent of the people favored it.

To rely on the bosses' men in Washington is to give them a free hand to lead us into war. TAKE THE WAR-MAKING POWER AWAY FROM WASHINGTON! LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

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116 University Pl., N.Y.C.

### Parade Precedes Rally

In Downtown Manhattan, the rally was preceded by a parade from the Party headquarters to the corner of Delancey and Norfolk Streets proceeding through the heart of the East Side. The size of the meeting and the enthusiasm of the workers in the audience which they heard made it the first such meeting in several weeks which the local Stalinists did not try to break up by heckling. One hundred ten signatures for the War Referendum Petition were secured, and over twenty pamphlets sold, in a short time.

The rally in Brownsville had been built up by a parade held the Wednesday before. A third of the meetings took place in the needle-trades market district during the noon hour of Friday. The other rallies were held in the Bronx, Boro Park, and the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

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