

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Party Swings Into Action on National Anti-War Campaign

(Continued from Page 1) quota of \$100 for the Anti-War Fund Drive. We have accepted our quota with the determination to go over the top. Although money is scarce the comrades have assessed themselves a day's pay. Our sympathizers, having been shown by our anti-Coughlin drive that we mean business, are coming through better than we expected. By hard plugging we expect to get there."

BOSTON
Still from Massachusetts, Comrade Tracy sends in a slug of \$54 on its quota and adds: "To date the party members have pledged somewhere in the vicinity of \$125.00 and we are counting quite heavily on the social and indoor meeting, both of which will be held in September."

Two meetings per week are being held in different sections of the city, with the attendance around 75—which is small for Boston, but it seems an intense heat wave has been at work for a month and a half. "Four teams of two comrades each," continues Comrade Tracy, "have been assigned the task of door-to-door canvassing for signatures and the sale of pamphlets and Appeals. There is a general mobilization every Saturday afternoon for street sales of the Appeal and the pamphlets."

TOLEDO
The Toledo branch contributes an idea which other branches may be able to use. "The Party," writes Fred Howard, campaign director, "has carried on a downtown drive for petition signatures. We have a little stand with a slogan painted above it. This is put in the doorway of a vacant store in a busy section downtown. Pamphlets are also sold at the stand. . . .

FLINT
That branch is here again, with another dollar on its fund quota, another batch of petitions turned in, and the announced intention of outstripping every other branch in the union in campaign activity. "We have not set ourselves a membership quota," Comrade Geller reports, "because there is not much sense in it." In case you get the wrong idea he hastens to add: "We keep recruiting all the time. The campaign is an accelerating factor. Without setting any quota, it is my opinion Flint will have recruited ten new members during the campaign period. We are unusually fortunate in this respect, having a world of contacts, and can recruit with much less effort than the average branch. With us it is not a problem of recruiting members but of developing and solidifying our inexperienced people."

ST. PAUL
Two branches in different parts of the country have printed their own stickers with the slogan "Let the People Vote on War" and the local address. One of these is St. Paul, whose sticker is in bold red, and large size (4 by 10 inches). A mass meeting at the Party hall has been set for Sept. 15 to climax the campaign, and a tag day was held on Sunday, August 13 with eight comrades covering a working-class neighborhood. Another tag day is scheduled for the following Thursday.

BERKELEY
The other sticker has been printed by the Y.P.S.L. unit in Berkeley, California, also large size. Three thousand were printed, and the Berkeley com-

rades are farming them out to the other branches on the Coast. This unit functions in the University of California at Berkeley, and when school reopens, a mass meeting will be held, September 3. Meanwhile the Y.P.S.L. members are taking the petitions out every Sunday for door-to-door canvassing in working class districts.

NEW YORK CITY
The New York district is at present engaged in a three-ring-circus whirl of activity, as readers of the Appeal can note. The city election campaign, with its accompanying job of putting our candidates on the ballot by petition, is the first ring; and the other two are the anti-Coughlin demonstration and the War Referendum Campaign. Each of the three by itself would ordinarily require the mobilization of the entire membership; and the New York comrades are responding, therefore, threefold. But in any case, Comrade Frank, New York Organizer, promises that all of New York's quotas will be filled handily by campaign closing time. Thus far, the district has taken 1,600 Burnham pamphlets, and has gathered well over 1,000 signatures to the petition. September 16 will see a city-wide affair to raise money for both the war campaign and election drive.

PHILADELPHIA
"In the last two weeks," writes in the branch secretary of Philadelphia, "we have gained momentum and are sweeping ahead with our anti-war campaign. We are holding open air meetings and having large crowds. . . . We are getting our petitions filled up rapidly."

amendment to the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust acts which would exempt labor organizations from falling under their operation. President George Meany and all other officers of the New York State Federation of Labor were unanimously elected to succeed themselves for the coming year.

Green Defends Strikes
William Green, president of the AFL, addressing the opening session of the convention Tuesday also defended the WPA building trades strike. "We hold that the payment of the prevailing rate of wages to workers engaged by the government is a fundamental principle that we contend for with no compromising until the bitter end."

Anti-Coughlin Resolution
Green warned American labor of fascism. "The first great democratic organization wiped out in the totalitarian countries was the trade union, the leaders sent to concentration camps or to prison, the funds of the union confiscated, the headquarters taken over, the unions made illegal, no freedom of speech, no freedom of action, no freedom of assembly, no freedom of organization into democratic trade unions."

Demand More Schools
A series of resolutions demanding the expansion rather than the curtailment of education were passed unanimously. Condemning the "economy" cut of \$9,710,000 in state education which has resulted in a reduction of school services such as evening schools, resolutions were also passed asking the state legislature to put a halt to the shocking condition of overcrowded city schools.

The convention also adopted a resolution in support of an extensive program to build low-cost housing projects for workers. Other resolutions called for support of a national health insurance bill, support of the thirty-hour week, and for an

COUGHLINITES MEET UNDER POLICE GUARD

"Wouldn't Dare Talk Without Protection" Is Workers' Feeling

NEW YORK—Protected by the police from the wrath of 500 anti-fascists for the second week in a row, Coughlin's "Christian Front" held a meeting on Fordham Road and Valentine Avenue, the Bronx, Wednesday night. Fifty cops, five of them on horseback were necessary to protect the fascists from "the love of the people."

Before the meeting was over one woman had been trampled by a mounted policeman and many others were charged by the horses. The mounted cops repeatedly rode into the crowd every time workers took up the chant "Down with the Nazi agents."

Coughlin Praises Hitler
The main speaker for the fascists was one, McWilliams, who said he was captain and organizer of the Christian Mobilizers. McWilliams ranted about "taking power in the U.S. and giving the Jews what they deserve." "Hitler," said McWilliams, "was really a great man because he gave Czechoslovakia back to the Czechs."

Meanwhile, the cops, true to the democratic tradition, were busy suppressing anybody who wanted to uphold democratic rights of workers and religious minorities. Toward the end of the meeting one anti-fascist summed up the feelings of the whole crowd when he shouted at the speaker: "You wouldn't dare speak if you didn't have the cops to protect you."

Join the Socialist Workers Party

New York AFL Meet Raps Roosevelt Anti-Labor Stand

(Continued from Page 1) attempt to outlaw the sympathetic strike action of the Teamsters in support of the WPA building trades strikers. He warned the delegates of the likelihood that the army and navy would be used against the organized labor movement and as proof quoted an editorial from the July 22 Army and Navy Journal which took it for granted that the president's statement required troops to back it up.

Repulse Fascist Attempt to Rout Phila. Meeting

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15—Coughlin fascists last night made their first attempt here to break up the meeting of a working class organization.

The fascist hooligans converged on a platform at 31st and Norris Streets from which members of the Socialist Workers Party were bringing their anti-war message to the workers.

Answering the taunts of the hooligans, Joe Simmons of the Socialist Workers Party denounced Coughlin as a fascist demagogue who planned to enslave the American workers. A fascist thug sprang up. He was forcibly ejected from the crowd together with his gang.

The hooligans reassembled and returned in a group. Three hundred aroused workers gathered around the platform to defend it against the Coughlinites, and restored order.

In this concrete setting, the growing menace of Coughlin's fascist movement was explained by a number of speakers, who called for formation of a Workers Defense Guard. Names and addresses were collected for the guard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THEATRE PARTY August 23. The Downtown Branch is holding a theater party for "Pins and Needles" on Wednesday evening, August 23. This is the second edition of the play and it is shown at an air-conditioned theater. So, come all—keep cool to the showing of a swell labor musical show. Tickets can be obtained at special rates from Sylvia Caldwell at the National Office.

Stop Fascism In America!

Will Father Coughlin Become Dictator of the United States?

By JOSEPH HANSEN (FOURTH INSTALLMENT)

"It Can't Happen Here"

After the tragedy to the working class in Italy believers in the democratic and liberal form of capitalist government considered it impossible that it could happen elsewhere. They pointed to the "immaturity" of the Italian working class, the lack of a "democratic" tradition. In none of the "modern" countries, they proclaimed, could anyone be so gullible as to be taken in by a demagogue who did no more than salute, frown, shove out his jaw, orate, and march his followers around in black shirts.

This attitude was particularly true of the leaders of the most powerful labor movement in the world—Germany. Fascism take over power in Germany? Fantastic! There can be only one Mussolini, they proclaimed.

In response to this light-minded and irresponsible attitude toward Fascism, Mussolini himself sneered: "Fascism is a purely Italian phenomenon in its historical expression, but its doctrinal postulates have a universal character. . . . the fact that Fascism possesses a specific and original Italian stamp does not prevent its principles having an application in other countries, in other forms. . . ." (Preface by Mussolini to "The Universal Aspects of Fascism," 1927.)

The terrible capitalist contradiction of scarcity in the midst of plenty continued to deepen relentlessly in Germany.

The Powerful German Labor Movement

Before January 30, 1933, when President Hindenburg invited a man who called himself *Der Fuehrer* to become Chancellor of Germany and to form a new government, the German labor movement was considered as the most advanced section of the international working class in the capitalist world.

Out of a working population of approximately 16,000,000, more than 6,000,000 belonged to trade unions. Two of their political parties, the Social-Democratic Party of the Second International and the Communist Party of the Third International controlled between them approximately 12,000,000 votes. Many representatives of the workers were successfully elected to the legislature.

Not only had the workers succeeded in gaining union wages and union hours throughout the greater part of industry, but they owned "innumerable houses, manifold institutions, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, convalescent homes, labor secretariats, legal consulting agencies, labor universities, and vocational training schools. . . ." (*Labor Under Hitler*, a pamphlet attacking Hitler, printed under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor, p. 7.)

Well-printed magazines, newspapers and books were produced in great quantities by the workers. They enjoyed vacations at lodges and cultural centers owned by themselves. They had built up huge reserves for group insurance. They exerted a powerful influence not only through legislative representation but through wage commissions, labor courts, social administration, and workers' factory councils.

Twice—in 1919 and again in 1923—the workers had come within a handspan of establishing their own government in power. So powerful was the political drive of the working class that the capitalists were able to retain their position only because of the perfidy of certain key leaders of the workers. The might of the German labor movement shook the capitalist clutch on political power and national wealth again and again.

Union wages, union hours and the other important concessions which the workers had gained through militant struggles seemed as impervious to grasping capitalist fingers as a wall of polished granite.

Yet within twelve months of that fateful day on which President Hindenburg called *Der Fuehrer* to form a new government, this powerful labor movement was completely annihilated.

Those working class leaders who had not succeeded in utilizing their passports and airplane tickets suffered indescribable tortures behind the barbed wire of concentration camps. Many were killed outright, victims of the Brown Shirt followers of *Der Fuehrer*.

How was it possible for an obscure individual, starting with a "party" composed of only seven "crackpot agitators" who gained their livelihood as professional barflies, to sweep a modern powerful labor movement of millions with fire and murder unchecked and reduce it to bondage as miserable and horrible as that prevailing in the darkest days of the Middle Ages?

Depression Sweeps Germany

When the capitalist lords of industry in Germany saw the plants they controlled for their private benefit taken over by the workers in 1919, they thought it was the end of plush cushions and champagne parties for them. When the cowardly or shortsighted leaders of the workers handed the plants and the government back, the capitalists wiped beads of cold sweat from their brows and resolved that such a hairline escape should never occur again. What if the great masses of working people had actually put their own government in power!



NEW YORK CITY BRANCHES AT WORK:

For 10 days now all the comrades of New York City have been hard at work selling the Socialist Appeal, distributing tens of thousands of leaflets, selling the Coughlin pamphlet, etc.

Strenuous efforts have been made to boost Appeal circulation. The Branches have run far more street corner meetings than usual, have held local parades and demonstrations in the streets of the Bronx, East Side, Brooklyn, etc.

Abe Miller, local New York literature agent, has recommended the following goals in preparation for our mighty anti-Coughlin demonstration. These are now being carried out in action:

- (1) All branches are to double their Appeal bundle orders.
- (2) Branches ordering Appeals above their regular quota will receive them at a lower, special price.
- (3) In all parades and street

corner meetings, the Appeal is to be mounted on a placard and carried aloft for everyone to see.

(4) Branches are to devise publicity stunts and schemes for advertising the Appeal. The best methods are to have comrades wear Appeal poster signs when selling in the streets; to hire a horse and wagon and set up an Appeal float; to decorate branch headquarters; to distribute all back copies of the paper on hand.

(5) In addition, as part of the job in fulfilling New York's quota in the War Referendum Campaign, all comrades who are collecting names on the petition lists are carrying around subscription blanks and getting new readers for the Appeal.

And so we find the comrades of the New York Socialist Workers Party and Y.P.S.L. hard at work building our press. More power to them and let their energetic activity be an example to every branch throughout the country!

Workers of New York! Buy Your Socialist Appeal at the Following Newsstands

- MANHATTAN
Cherry & Katherine Sts., Monroe & Madison Sts.—K-K Stationery Store, Near Knickerbocker Village—Villard's General Store, Essex & Delancey Sts.—S.E. Houston & Clinton, Meinel Bookshop—Grand & Attorney Sts., Clinton & E. B'way, 5th St. & Ave. B—N.W. 9th St. & Ave. D—N.W. 2nd Ave. & 4th St. 17th St. & 2nd Ave. & 9th St. (Stuyvesant Casino), Ave. B & 10th St.—N.E. 2nd Ave. & 12th St. (near Cafe Royal), Waverly Pl. & B'way.—N.W. Biederman's—184 Second Ave. Univ. Pl. & 12th St.—N.E. 14th St. & Univ. Pl.—S.E. 14th St. & B'way.—S.E. 14th St. & 4th Ave.—S.W. 14th St. & 1st Stand S.E. 14th St. & 4th Ave.—2nd Stand S.E. 14th St. & 4th Ave.—S.W. 14th St. & 3rd Ave.—N.W. 14th St. opp. Jefferson Theatre, 14th St. & 2nd Ave.—N.W. 13th St. & Ave. A—14th St. & 3rd Ave.—N.E. 23rd St. & 7th Ave.—N.W. & St. & 8th Ave.—N.E. 42nd St. & 6th Ave.—S.W. 36th St. & 7th Ave.—N.E. 34th St. & 6th Ave. 38th St. & 8th Ave. 38th St. & 7th Ave.—N.W. & S.W. B'way, & 38th St.—N.E. 131 W. 38th St.—38th St. & 7th Ave. 8th St. & 6th Ave.—N.E. 51 Univ. Pl. Rand Book Store—7 E. 10th St. 23rd St. & 4th Ave.—S.W. 14th S.W. 42nd opp. Stern's—South side, 42nd St. & 6th Ave.—S.E. & S.W. 42nd St. & 7th Ave.—S.W. 64th St. & 65th St. & B'way. 72nd St. & B'way, 93rd St. & Columbus Ave. 96th St. & Cent'l. Pk. West. 110th St. & Columbus Ave.—N.E. 181st St. & St. Nicholas Ave. 157th St. & B'way—N.W. 145th St. & St. Nicholas Ave. (Wigerson's), Candy Store, 2nd Ave. & 90th St. & Madison Ave., cor. 103 St. & B'way. BRONX
Longwood Ave. & Southern Boulevard—S.W. 171st St. & Fulton Ave. S.W. 170th St. & Jerome Ave.—S.E. 167th St. & Jerome Ave. Jerome & Burnside Ave. 161st St. & Prospect Ave. Freeman St. & Southern Blvd. 174th St. & Boston Road. Kingsbridge Rd. & Jerome Ave. East Meholu Subway Station. 387 Sedgwick Ave. Meellan & Grand Concourse—S.E. BROOKLYN
Struss cor. Pitkin Ave. Tompkins cor. Myrtle Ave. Havemeyer cor. S. 4th St. Sutter cor. Van Soderen. Rockaway cor. Pitkin Ave. 475 Sutter Ave. Bay Parkway & 85th St. Ave. O' & 66th St. Brighton Beach. Ave. Q' & 5th St. 60th St. & New Utrecht Ave. 1510 Kings Highway. MacDonalld & Ditmars Ave. 9th Ave. & 40th. QUEENS
3023 Grand Ave. 31-10 Broadway.

ists got busy reconditioning their giant factories and mills for another bid at selling for private profit on the world market.

Despite the mountainous burden of the war debt and the mountainous burden of the reparations payments heaped upon the backs of the workers and poor farmers of Germany, the period of prosperity that culminated in 1929 made it possible to get by without too much danger of economic collapse.

American dollars poured into Germany in hope of a big return from reconditioned German industry and the period of eternal expansion, eternal progress, and endless vistas of profit kept the German capitalists from grumbling too much.

Wondrous improvements were made in the factory machines, embodying the latest developments of scientific inventive genius and super-efficient plant organization. But the enormous taxes needed to pay the staggering war debt kept the pocket books of the workers, the poor farmers, and the small merchants drained. No matter how they attempted to wriggle out of it, taxes continued to eat into their income. And the wild inflation that struck the German currency during the early twenties ate like a cancer into the savings of the poor. Bankruptcies increased. Young people coming from the schools faced a blank and forbidding future. The heightened efficiency of the factories threw increasing numbers of workers into the ranks of the starving unemployed.

The world-wide depression of the capitalist system which began in 1929 heightened this process to the point of frenzy. Germany had a total voting population of only 36,000,000 in 1930, but 6,000,000 were unemployed. In this same year it was estimated by an American newspaper correspondent after a careful survey that there were possibly 15,000,000 Germans on the verge of starvation.

To make matters worse the democratic capitalist government cut down on relief allowances and made it much more difficult to obtain help from relief officials, alleging that this would force the unemployed to get jobs and be absorbed by private industry.

The entire market dropped into a bottomless well. The German capitalists found themselves with the most modern and well-equipped factories in the world, but nowhere to sell products at a profit. The interest which they demanded for their investment reached almost zero. Goods clogged warehouses to the rafters.

The capitalists looked with hungry eyes at the union wages and union hours enjoyed by the workers. Nor did these men trained in the bandit warfare of imperialist competition fail to try out, in a scientific and experimental way on their electric adding machines, what totals could be estimated in the reserves of the trade union group insurance plans and savings accounts.

The more clear-sighted of the workers saw that the unendurable suffering from the crisis in the economic system could be ended in only one way—establishing a socialist state which would kick out the small handful of wealthy families who blocked the wheels of production, and start distributing goods to the ragged and hungry millions.

The capitalists decided to do something and to do it quick.

(Continued in next issue)