

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

CIO and Stalin

The heaviest blow ever delivered against the Stalinists in the CIO was given this week by Stalin through his agreement with Hitler.

Symbolic of days to come was the public attack Wednesday by Heywood Brown, president ally in the CIO, on the new Stalin line. Brown denounced the Stalin-Hitler pact in his national column!

It is no exaggeration to say that the bottom of the Stalinist strategy in the CIO dropped out this week.

A revulsion against the cynical deal between Stalin and Hitler is bound to sweep the entire labor movement. And a chief stock-in-trade of the Stalinists within the CIO, "anti-Hitlerism", boomerangs against them with a terrific thud.

Very significantly, John L. Lewis has maintained a discreet silence about the pact, although William Green, president of the AFL, rushed to print to chuckle over the dilemma of the present C.I.O. line which is Stalinist-influenced.

CIO Liability

For it is becoming increasingly clear to everyone that the Stalinists are a terrible liability to Lewis and the CIO from any point of view. Experience teaches that neither they nor their policies can be trusted.

We know of many CIO unions in the East and middle-West where progressive tendencies have been slowly arising. Now they have been given another punch against the Stalinists. It was furnished by Stalin.

The taunts of the progressives in the labor movement will be exceeded only by the un-concealed chagrin of the Stalinist followers. Because there is no answer to the fact that the overwhelming majority of people interpret the pact as, "the Stalinists and fascists are getting together."

Many big CIO unions are holding conventions soon, including the national CIO. This places the C. P. in an inextricable dilemma. What happens to the carload of Stalinist resolutions that usually swamped progressives?

Where will the resolution on collective security be? The one which Harry Bridges, Joe Curran, Mervin Rathbone, and other C.P.ers defended at the last CIO convention.

No More Boycott?

What about the CIO national resolution to boycott German goods? And the one on peace and democracy? What kind of speech can John Brophy, Stalinized director of the CIO, give two weeks from now to the United Rubber Workers of America convention? Last year he talked against Hitlerism. Picture the headaches of the Stalinists in the auto workers unions trying to defend a Hitler-Stalin pact!

In the S.W.O.C. only a few weeks ago, David J. Macdonald, secretary-treasurer, with the approval of Phillip Murray, took a blast at "communism." Steel Labor, official publication of the S.W.O.C., carried an editorial repudiating all "isms."

Clearing their skirts of Stalinist association will be a major activity of many CIO leaders in the next period who previously went along. Of course, red-baiting, amalgams, etc. will be far too common and dangerous.

And the Militants?

From our point of view, however, the important question is what happens to the hundreds of union militants who joined the Stalinists under the illusion that it was a "progressive party." Their first reaction inevitably will be, "We've been sold out!" All the fine talk by Stalinist organizers that "Our Party is the only real opponent of Hitler," will mock the militants.

Obviously, if there is a serious dent in the ranks of the Stalinists—and it seems probable—it will come first from these healthy proletarian elements. Already there are reports of how Stalinist members in the CIO wince and duck when razzed by the cry, "Hell Stalin!"

A friend at the teachers union convention now meeting in Buffalo wrote today, that the Stalinists were dazed and punch drunk by the news of the pact.

A crack up of Stalinist forces

Minneapolis Labor Raises Bail Fund for Indicted WPA Strikers

Federal Grand Jury Hands Down 103 Indictments—Unionists Organize Against Outrage—23 Already Under Arrest

Outraged at the bloodthirsty tactics being followed by U. S. Attorney Victor Anderson and the boss press towards the 103 indicted WPA strikers, a broad committee representing the Minneapolis labor movement met Tuesday afternoon and voted unanimously to begin immediately the raising of a bail fund to free all those indicted. The committee, chosen by representatives of the Central Labor Union, the Building Trades Council, the Teamsters Joint Council, and the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, aims to raise a bail fund sufficient to gain the release of every single one of the victimized strikers.

A speakers committee, headed by Claude Skeldon of the Electrical Workers Union Local 292 and V. R. Dunne of Local 544, is sending speakers to all union meetings, appealing for cash donations to the bail fund and for property to be listed to guarantee the bail bond.

Special Meeting Tuesday

In addition, a letter is being sent out by officials of the Central Labor Union, summoning the executive boards of all Minneapolis AFL unions to a special meeting next Tuesday evening, August 29th, 8 p.m., at the Central Labor Union. The meeting will discuss plans to rally labor support for the victims of WPA.

The federal grand jury which began its investigation into the Minneapolis WPA strike on July 24, paused last Friday to hand down indictments against over one hundred Minneapolis citizens, workers on WPA. Most of those named were charged with violating Section 28 of the Roosevelt-Woodrum Relief Bill, making it a felony to interfere with relief clients working on WPA. The law carries a penalty of up to two years in prison.

U. S. Attorney Victor Anderson, who is known to have high political ambitions, has announced he is not through yet, and that his jury will reconvene August 28 to consider further evidence being gathered by Murphy's G-men.

Provocative Tactics an Outrage
Up to press time, 23 of those indicted were under arrest. The manner in which some of the arrests were carried out was a downright outrage. U.S. deputy marshalls barged into the homes of the victims at all hours of the night, handcuffed the WPA workers and carted them off to jail. All this was done to the tune of lurid headlines and pictures in the daily boss press. The Minneapolis Tribune and the Star-Journal vied with one another to make the arrested strikers appear as criminals.

In order to sustain the atmosphere of a deep dark crime, the court and Anderson refused to divulge the names of those indicted, so that those named could give themselves up. Instead the authorities, undoubtedly acting at the direction of the national administration, preferred to continue their stupid and sensational policy of breaking into citizens' homes and making newspaper headlines.

Monstrous Bail Set
Federal Judge Bell, supposedly a liberal, joined in the drive against organized labor by setting monstrously high bail for those arrested. Up to Wednesday noon, bail for each striker ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000, certainly a ridiculous figure for honest workmen and citizens earning \$60.50 a month, almost all of whom are long-time residents of Minneapolis and the heads of families.

Among the indicted are said to be no less than forty women, former workers on the WPA sewing project. The deputy marshalls are understood to be plotting a roundup of these women on Thursday and Friday. Almost all the women are breadwinners for families. While these women are shackled in jail, their families must continue to eat and be cared for, which raises an additional problem for the labor movement.

Lengthy Trials Seen
Attorneys John Goldie, Tom Koehelmacker and Gilbert Carlson, all well-known in labor circles, sat in Tuesday afternoon's meeting at the Central Labor Union. The attorneys pointed out that though the

in the labor movement is now on the order of the day! Incidentally, will the Stalinists be forced to employ a new technique against labor progressives in the future? Once they called them "Trotskyite-fascists," or simply "Trotskyites." Will they now snarl and call them "dirty anti-fascists"?

Roosevelt and Murphy, as have numerous union and unemployed groups throughout the nation.

Stand by WPA Victims
The entire labor movement, and every member of organized labor, must assume the responsibility for protecting and vindicating the rights of the defendants who are being victimized by the government and the boss press.

The entire conduct of U. S. Attorney Anderson, Attorney General Frank Murphy and the grand jury investigation, accompanied by lurid and lying newspaper publicity, is deliberately designed to make the public believe these WPA workers are criminals, which is certainly untrue. Their only crime is that they are unemployed and that they are union men and women, devoted to labor's cause. The defendants took a brave and generous stand for union principles. It is the responsibility of organized labor to stand by THEM in their hour of need. The rapid raising of a bail fund to gain the freedom of all defendants will be a fitting answer to the high-handed tactics of the federal authorities.

Protests Flow In

Protests against the vindictive attitude of the Roosevelt administration towards the Minneapolis WPA strikers continued to pour in. Last Sunday the Iowa State Drivers Council adopted a stiff resolution protesting the victimization of the strikers. The Sailors Union of the Pacific, which has had a good deal of experience with government strike-breaking, has sent a protest resolution to

The Berlin-Moscow Treaty

ARTICLE I

The two contracting parties obligate themselves to refrain from every act of force, every aggressive action and every attack against one another, including any single action or that taken in conjunction with other powers.

(This means that the Soviet Union gives Hitler a free hand not only in Poland, but also wherever else he may choose in the future to strike.)

ARTICLE II

In case one of the parties of this treaty should become the object of warlike acts by a third power, the other party will in no way support this third power.

(This means that Stalin promises not to help any power which may desire to block Hitler's "aggressions".)

ARTICLE III

The governments of the two contracting parties in the future will constantly remain in consultation with one another in order to inform each other regarding questions of common interest.

(This means that both Stalin and Hitler are now bound by ties of deep mutual interest and that they will act in union in the international political arena.)

ARTICLE IV

Neither of the high contracting parties will associate itself with any other grouping of powers which directly or indirectly is aimed at the other party.

(This means that Russian participation in any bloc of powers aimed at Hitler is henceforth excluded.)

ARTICLE V

In the event of a conflict between the contracting parties concerning any question, the two parties will adjust this difference or conflict exclusively by friendly exchange of opinions or if necessary, by an arbitration commission.

(This means confirmation of the intimate relations now obtaining between Stalin and Hitler.)

ARTICLE VI

The present treaty will extend for a period of ten years with the condition that if neither of the contracting parties announces its abrogation within one year of expiration of this period, it will continue in force automatically for another period of five years.

(This means that both Stalin and Hitler look forward to a long, happy and mutually profitable relationship.)

ARTICLE VII

The present treaty shall be ratified within the shortest possible time. The exchange of ratification documents shall take place in Berlin. The treaty becomes effective immediately upon signature.

(This means that ratification is but a formality, and will be accomplished without delay.)

Stalin's Democratic Front



Stalin Talk a Fake, Cry Aroused Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

"It's the lowest, meanest thing that Stalin has ever done," cried an infuriated worker. The others picked up the cry. The local Stalinists, bewildered, confused, incoherently begging for a chance to "explain," were routed.

Group Discussions

Wednesday afternoon, as thousands poured out of their shops in the Garment District, denunciation of Stalinist foreign policy echoed up and down 7th Avenue. Everywhere workers gathered in knots and groups, the latest editions under their arms, arguing animatedly.

"All of Stalin's rabble-rousing talk against Hitlerism in the past was a lousy fake," declared one worker. "He was just spitting into the wind."

On the corner of 39th Street and Seventh Avenue, large groups of workers stayed way past the dinner hour discussing the pact.

"Look what it means for the Polish Jews," said an irate worker to a lone Stalinist apologist. "Stalin, your Stalin, your fearless, wonderful Stalin has handed the Jews of Poland into Hitler's hands. That's progressive you want to tell me. That's the peace policy of the Soviet Union in action you want to tell me," he continued.

"Listen you—I don't know what to call you—from now on Stalin's hands are as bloody as Hitler's as far as I'm concerned."

The Stalinist apologist, surrounded by angry workers, answered meekly. "The Soviet Union is still the beacon of the struggle against fascism."

No Defenders

But those willing to defend this latest turn in Soviet diplomacy were rarely to be seen or heard. As this writer sought painstakingly yesterday for bona-fide Stalinist comment, he could find no one in the Garment District willing to admit he was a Stalinist.

It was almost in desperation that we finally hit it up towards the Garment Center Kremlin at 151 West 33rd St., where, we were informed, a Stalinist educational forum was in progress. Once arrived, we stopped a moment to ponder. What if someone were to recognize this Trotskyist stalwart? Indeed, we might hardly be surprised if, in keeping with this latest turn in Soviet foreign policy, someone were to denounce us as a counter-revolutionary spy in the pay of the nefarious Democracies. A moment later, we had entered the party gates.

Explaining the Dialectics
Through the half open door we could see a Communist party fraction listening to a functionary "explaining" the pact.

"We must understand," said the plaintive voice, "that the Non-Aggression Pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union is another expression of the dialectic process. By that I mean," said the plaintive voice, "that the coming together of Germany and the Soviet Union signifies, in the language of dialectics, the unity of opposites."

The plaintive voice concluded. "The Soviet Union hopes by this pact with Nazi Germany to accelerate the process of drawing the democracies into action for peace."

Apprehensive over the reactions created by the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact, the Stalinists, where they felt they were sufficiently entrenched,

attempted to hold street corner meetings. Wednesday night the Stalinists took to the corner of Brighton Beach Avenue and 6th Street in Brooklyn to explain and defend the pact.

"The pact is a great step forward to stop fascism dead in its tracks and help Poland by forcing Chamberlain and Daladier to fight against Hitler," declared a local Stalinist clairvoyant.

"The Soviet Union," the speaker continued, "is a paradise for Jews and oppressed peoples of all races and creeds." The speaker grew eloquent about the "struggle" of the Stalinist party against the Coughlinites.

"Where," interposed a lone worker, "where was the Communist party at the time of the projected parade of the Coughlinites into Union Square?" The spell had been broken. "Yeah," cried the assembled workers, "where was the Communist Party?"

The speaker dodged the mass question. "Chamberlain is the enemy of all mankind. Watch, keep your eyes on the Munich-men," the speaker hollered.

Meeting Routed
The lone worker, who already had behind him the mass support of the crowd, called out, "Don't talk about Chamberlain. Everyone expects Chamberlain to sell out the workers. But must we also expect the same thing from Stalin?"

The crowd took up the cry. "What about it, what about it?"

For the first time in years the Stalinists suffered rout in one of their major New York strongholds. Silent, confused, the Stalinists packed up and left the corner. From ten o'clock onward, workers milled on the corner, bitterly denouncing the Stalin betrayal.

Uptown, in the Bronx, workers stayed on the streets way past their retiring time, arguing, discussing, putting every Stalinist to rout and stampe.

But through all the bitterness, there was much derisive laughter. The workers laughed long and heartily when a cowed Stalinist remarked that "After all, Stalin will use his personal relations with Hitler to convince the Chancellor that he shouldn't persecute the Jews."

Tenth Anniversary of Russian Bulletin

This Sunday, Aug. 27, the "Friends of the Russian Bulletin," will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the publication's existence. There will be a boat ride to Rye Beach, leaving the Battery at 10:15 a.m. . . an all day picnic at Playland, with varied amusements . . . return boat leaves at 8:00 p.m. . . dancing and floor show on boat. Tickets are available at the National Office, 116 University Place, for only one dollar. In case of rain, the outing will be held on Sunday, September 10.

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Stop Fascism In America!

Will Father Coughlin Become Dictator of the United States?

By JOSEPH HANSEN

(SIXTH INSTALLMENT)

During the World War the French had used Negro troops from their colonies to fight where the carnage was the bloodiest at the front. The United States, too, sent over large numbers of colored troops. All these Negroes fought with unparalleled bravery and thus won the special hate of the German patriots. Men like Hitler feared the Negroes and considered them on the same level as apes.

Hitler played on this hate. He wove fantastic stories about the Negroes that would have shocked even a Southern Bourbon lynch-lover.

Who was responsible for bringing the Negroes to the Rhine? The Jews, stormed Hitler. It was the Jews in the first place who instigated education for the Negroes, "born half-ape." This act of the Jews was "nothing less than a sin against the will of the eternal Creator." (Mein Kampf, p. 640.)

"African negroes rape our women and children. . ." (Mein Kampf, p. 532.)

"The black disgrace works havoc on the Rhine. Women, girls and children pay for the bestial negroes' lust with their death. An uninterrupted stream of poison and disease flows into the blood of our people." (Mein Kampf, p. 540.)

"It was and is the Jews who bring the negro to the Rhine, always with the same concealed thought and the clear goal of destroying, by the bastardization which would necessarily set in, the white race which they hate." (Mein Kampf, p. 449.)

Through a lurid campaign such as this against the Negroes who had fought on the side of the Allies in the World War Hitler brought his audiences to the seething point, then he directed this rage against the Jews who lived in Germany.

"This infection of our blood, which hundreds of thousands of our people overlook as though blind, is moreover promoted systematically by the Jews today. Systematically these black parasites of the nations ravish our innocent young blonde girls and thus destroy something that can never again be replaced in this world." (Mein Kampf, p. 826.)

"The personification of the Devil, as the symbol of all evil, assumes the living appearance of the Jew." (Mein Kampf, p. 447.)

"Therefore I believe today that I am acting in the sense of the Almighty Creator: BY WARDING OFF THE JEWS I AM FIGHTING FOR THE LORD'S WORK." (Mein Kampf, p. 84.)

Der Fuehrer went to enormous lengths to describe how the "international bankers," and "loan capital," these and the "Bolsheviks" and the capitalists were all one and the same: THE JEWS.

But not even this propaganda painted with hell flames was enough. Something else was needed. Action. Der Fuehrer provided that too.

Hitler's Brown Shirts Go Into Action

Beginning very cautiously, by merely spreading Hitler's literature far and wide, the Brown Shirts soon initiated bolder actions.

They beat up workers.

No one stopped them.

They broke into the headquarters of trade unions and wrecked them, throwing typewriters out of the windows, breaking the furniture to kindling wood.

No one stopped them.

They tortured workers—not in the "refined" Italian way with castor oil, but by stripping their victim, man or woman, naked, strapping him down to a table, and then beating him unconscious with rubber hoses.

No one stopped them.

In fact the police helped the Brown Shirts. If a worker attempted to defend himself from the Brown Shirts, then the police arrested him.

When the Brown Shirts became strong enough to flaunt arms, the police furnished large quantities.

The Brown Shirts began killing workers in the streets.

All over Germany, workers suffered from these murderous attacks of the Brown Shirts.

Still no one stopped them.

Der Fuehrer stepped up the brutality of his campaign. From the Rhine to the Baltic, he organized small militant groups of Brown Shirts to break up gatherings of workers.

Hitler describes one of the encounters between his men and the workers in the following words:

"My men rushed into the attack like wolves. They hurled themselves on their adversaries in packs of eight or ten and began to drive them out of the hall by showering them with blows. The hubbub lasted twenty minutes. By this time, our adversaries, of whom there were perhaps seven or eight hundred, had most of them been thrown out of the hall and driven down the stairs by my men, of whom there were less than fifty. . . That evening we really learned many things." (Quoted in Fascism and Big Business, p. 101-2. See also Mein Kampf, p. 748.)

After that evening, Der Fuehrer called his men Storm Troopers.

(Continued in next issue)

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