

The Plan that Went Awry

ON Tuesday, April 22, Executive Secretary Gerber called the Central Committee of Local New York to order about ten minutes before the scheduled time because it was obvious that a majority of the early comers were Right Wing delegates.

The session was one of the most important held in recent months, it being understood that the matter of the "reorganization" of the 17th Assembly District Branch (which is dealt with in full on another page) would be the *piece de resistance* of the evening. U. Solomon and Maximilian Cohen were nominated for the chair, Solomon obtaining a majority of the votes. A point of order was raised on the fact that the recalled delegates of the 17th A. D. participated in the voting. This was overruled and an appeal was taken from the decision of the chair, in which the chair was sustained—the recalled delegates voting solidly against the appellant.

On the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting a correction was made to the effect that Cohen and Joseph Brodsky had resigned from the platform committee. The Executive Secretary proceeded to read the credentials for the seating of new delegates, an objection being recorded to seating Algernon Lee, who was recently recalled as delegate from the 8th A. D. and who now appeared as a delegate from the 16th A. D., to which branch he had transferred, although not living within its territory. After the reading of the credentials of a few regularly elected delegates of both factions to whom no objection was made, Gerber read what purported to be the credentials for 13 delegates from the "reorganized" 17th A. D. A storm of disapproval forced the reading of the credentials of the 13 delegates who were elected at a regular meeting of the 17th A. D., and whose credentials were signed by the regular secretary of the branch.

On a motion Beckerman moved that the action of the City Executive Committee in handpicking 13 delegates be concurred in, and that the little band of machine-finished Comrades be seated. A point of order was immediately made that the recalled delegates should not be allowed to vote on this question. The chair ruled the point "not well taken" and his decision was challenged by Brahdy amid great confusion and continual interruptions from both sides. For a time the noise was deafening, the members of the 17th A. D. who were to be "reorganized" out of existence, and who crammed the back of the hall, adding considerably to the general excitement.

Quiet was finally obtained by the booming voice of Sipos, who succeeded in having all delegates from the 17th A. D. disenfranchised temporarily, the Rights apparently feeling that the chairman's previous ruling revealed a too obvious bias. Beckerman then took the floor in support of his motion, and after addressing himself to the subject for the space of a minute, launched into a bitter denunciation of the Left Wingers. Intoxicated by the power of his own vituperation he leaped from insult to insult, and finally succeeded in drawing cries of objection from the Left; Brahdy, finally getting the floor on a point of order, asked the chair to discipline the speaker. This the chair refused to do on the ground that unparliamentary language had been used by both sides, and at the same time expressed his pleasure at the way in which Beckerman had given tongue to what the entire Right was thinking. Renewed protests greeted this decision, and Beckerman finally announced his intention of yielding the floor, upon which the Rights set up a violent protest, Grossman seizing him by the shoulders and refusing to let him take his seat.

After Beckerman had finished, Cohen rose to an

amendment that a committee of seven, three from the Right, three from the Left and an impartial chairman, be appointed to investigate the entire matter of the 17th A. D. Vehement protests from the Right greeted the amendment, which would have halted the now obvious plan to jam through the "reorganization" scheme as a preliminary to the disenfranchising of the entire Left Wing. Gerber then took the floor in support of the original motion, declaring that he "had no wish to hide behind the bush," and intimating that they were determined to oust the Left Wing completely. Renewed pandemonium greeted these remarks, applause from the Right and protest from the Left.

Copstein, a member of the Executive Committee, got the floor and started to make a speech, when the machine gave him the cue to call the previous question. This he immediately did, the chair attempting to place the matter before the house. A point of order that it is not permissible to call the question after starting to make a speech was overruled. Appeal followed point of order and point of order succeeded appeal until it was announced that the chair was willing to take a roll-call vote on the matter of the previous question.

Cohen protested this decision on the ground that a committee representing 96 members of the 17th

A. D. was present, and that they should be heard before the vote was taken. This caused further uproar, the Rights wanting to jam the matter through without any hearing. Eisenbudd, a member of the 17th A. D. committee, took the floor, and insisted on his right to be heard. Violent opposition from the Right caused renewed uproar, during which several fist fights took place, following an assault from the Right on Hourwich. When the confusion was at its height a Police Captain was brought in by some of the Right Wingers and the meeting was adjourned.

A hurried caucus by the machine resulted in the announcement by Karlin, who had usurped the functions of chairman, that the Central Committee would not meet again until called by the Executive Committee. The plan to force through the "reorganization" scheme fell to pieces, and in a fit of pique the Right made the false move of illegally taking it upon themselves to suspend the Central Committee during the pleasure of the Executive Committee. This is illegal, as the Central Committee is a superior body to the Executive, but "whom the gods would destroy they first make mad" and the machine is going from illegality to illegality, until finally it must collapse of its own innate futility.

Saved by the Bourgeoisie

By A. Nyemanoff

IF the Socialist Party of America was not represented at the Berne Social Patriotic Conference, its honor and dignity in this instance were saved, not by the revolutionary act of its leaders, but through the action of the American Government, which deliberately delayed the issuance of passports to the three opportunists who were ready to start for Berne. In other words, the Party's honor was saved by its class enemies.

And yet, have the Party's leaders profited by the Berne lesson? Have they realized that their actions in that direction have been detrimental to the interests of the Party?

Not a bit. One of the delegates to the Berne Conference, the associate editor of the *New York Call*, James O'Neal, went to Europe at the first opportunity. The aim of his trip is to find out the state of affairs in the European Socialist movement. He intends to visit Huysmans, the Secretary of the "International Bureau" of the non-existent International, and have a talk with the Committee which was elected by the Berne Conference, which includes such personages as Troelstra, Branting and Henderson.

It really means that after all, diplomatic secret negotiations and the "feeling of the ground" will begin again for the purpose of effecting an understanding with the traitors. It means that compromise with the declared enemies of the working class will begin all over again. And all this will be done in spite of the will of the large masses of our Party, who have on several occasions expressed themselves as against any union with the Renaudels and Scheidemanns.

But in our Party's kitchen there is being cooked another dish which our National Executive Committee intends to offer to the Party members.

What took place in Berne on a large scale, the American Social-Patriots intend to duplicate in Buenos Ayres on a miniature scale.

At the invitation of Argentina's Social-Patriotic party in Buenos Ayres, towards the end of this

month a congress of representatives of all Socialist parties of the American continent will take place.

In the first place we must remember that the Argentine "Socialist" party, which calls this congress, was officially represented at the Berne Conference. The representatives of that party, during their sojourn in Europe, made a number of statements which clearly demonstrate the fact that they heartily support the bankrupt second International. If this is so, then our ways part. Our comrades in Argentina are not these, but the Left Socialists, who in 1918 severed their relations with the social-patriots.

The National Executive Committee of the American Socialist Party has decided already to participate and has delegated Dan Hogan, a member of the National Committee, to the Buenos Ayres congress.

The appointment of Dan Hogan was an act of fawning servility towards the American government. In Party circles Dan Hogan is well known as one of the most rabid social-patriots. As reported by the *New York Call*, during the war he was actively engaged in a number of affairs which had for their object the rousing of the "patriotic" spirit of the population. In short, he is one of the typical War Socialists, of whom there are more than plenty in Europe.

By appointing this lackey of the capitalist state as a representative of our Party at the Pan-American "Socialist" congress, no doubt the National Committee hoped that the State Department would put no obstacles to his departure for Buenos Ayres. But their calculations in this regard were wrong. The State Department has refused a passport to Dan Hogan, not because he was considered an "unreliable" person, but because the congress will be held in such an "unreliable" centre as Buenos Ayres.

Thus, once again the honor of our Party has been saved by our class enemies.