

fraction work was entirely neglected. In those unions which are still in our Confederation we have absolutely no fraction.

The weak spot in our position is that no congress has been called since 1925. All attacks of the Yellows and of the hostile unions which are represented in our center, that we have the leadership illegally as we do not want to call a congress, it is hard to fight these attacks, as it is true that a trade union center cannot work 5-6 years without a congress. It has already been tried in various quarters to force this congress upon us. Some weeks ago, at the presentation of a flag, Machado promised them his support in the calling of a congress, "in order to call a congress ~~of the labor movement, of which he has always been a friend.~~" The yellow unions have several times proposed financial aid to call the congress. I think that if the yellow unions and those that are still with us, make any agreement about a congress, it will be the sharpest weapon against us. The Torcedores will support such a congress wholeheartedly. In order not to create any misunderstanding, I wish to emphasize that there is no other center beside the Confederation and it is therefore possible that the calling of a general workers congress under the demagogic slogan of "unity" will be successful. That such a slogan can find support among the masses was shown to me in the case where ~~it cost me a lot of work to convince our own comrade, the secretary of the Federation and member of the C.C. of the Party, that it is absolutely out of the question to call a congress with the money which the yellow Torcedores union is offering.~~ It is clear a slogan "A congress of the unions at any price, with or without the Reds" will find many supporters among the masses. It must be taken in consideration that the Party as well as the Confederation have already compromised themselves several times through a united front with the treacherous leaders of the yellow unions. If then afterwards we call those ^{with whom} we have formed a "united front", it does not make ~~any impression~~ a good impression.

It can be seen from the facts shortly mentioned above, that it is a question of first-class importance to call a congress. A congress of our own. That it is absolutely high time to prepare already for this congress. If we do not call the congress, it will be called by our enemies. As the political crisis will not be solved, the Nationalists will at last come to power, or, if the status quo remains (which is absolutely impossible), those who will not have the power, will be interested rather to have a yellow, half-yellow Confederation and to help strangle us. A congress, prepared by us under revolutionary slogans, ~~with participation of the province, can lead us out of this blind alley and at last form a clear line of demarcation between the revolutionary and the yellow trade union movement.~~ A congress called by us, will lead to a regrouping in the relation of forces in the working class in our favor. It will not be an agitational congress like the CSUM had in Mexico, where a grand bluff was made but practically no organization built and where only declaration of affiliation were made. The preparations must start already now and this will be our argument against the prepared attack.

At the same time with the preparation of the congress we must prepare for the formation of an agricultural workers union. We have now the possibility to do this in connection ~~with the Zafra.~~ I ~~will~~ send you through other channels a manifesto about the Zafra which we will use in our paper for this agitation.

I wrote already previously about the general secretary of the Confederation, Pilar Herera, a Negro, non-party port worker. He was quite good as an agitational figure, but for a quiet time and with a firm Party leadership. He has taken a position of "benevolent neutrality" towards the Party. The united fronts were very desirable to him. He was very flattered by the role he played in them. A very sentimental guy, ambitious and bureaucratized. When the Party demanded a break with the "Comitet Conjunto" he obeyed only under great pressure and sent private letters to the Yellows that it was only put through by a majority of votes and that he personally is against this left tactic. The Yellows very cleverly made use of his ambition and always told him that he is a victim of the Communists. Nobody in the Party was interested what this man