

WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. IV, No. 29.

New York, Saturday, July 20, 1935

Five Cents

At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE

THE columns of the C.P. press are now reeking with opportunism. It is especially hard to keep track of the crude reformist concoctions now being palmed off as communist ideology in the Daily Worker. One day the editor oozes with bright ideas for Americanizing the Stalinized membership and hurls this baseball deft at the American Legion officers: "We challenge them to a game—the best team of Young Communists against the best of the Legion sponsored teams." Inculcated with this great American virtue of sportsmanship, the editor has fired a blast at one of Storm Trooper Hearst's Communist-devouring ministers, Reverend Pierce. However, judging by the ammunition used by the Daily Worker, the blast was but a boomerang. Making his protest for the Daily Worker in the name of religion, Reverend James K. Morse, Minister of the First Congregational Church of Hackensack, N. J., thus thundered: "... We have such men as Hearst spreading his dishonest and unpatriotic propaganda... The article by Reverend Pierce is an insult to the churches and synagogues in this country."

Here is the inedible fruit of the 180% degree turn being made mechanically and desperately by the C.P. leadership today. If this keeps up long, it's impossible to say what will come of it all. Here is a broad foundation for a large superstructure of inference. But for the moment we disdain all inference. To the extent that villainy has crept into these travesties against Marxism-Leninism, it is by necessity, inevitably flowing from the ultra-leftist insanity of yesterday. Insofar as mere foolishness is involved here, we are prepared to charge it to "heavenly compulsion" as Father Divine would say. Yet, one question we would like to pose: how long will the rank and file proletarian membership stand for this?

ONE does not have to cudgel his brain in the least to rise above the din of demagoguery accompanying the discussion of Roosevelt's new tax program. The American big business men will still be far better off than their British or French colleagues-in-plenty, even if the Roosevelt proposal should ever be given a birth certificate of legality. In Great Britain the proportion of the total revenue gotten thru income taxes is much higher (31%) and accounts for a greater share of revenue than in the U. S. In "our" Republic it is only 26% and 59 cents out of every dollar collected by the government comes thru indirect taxes. In the U. S. the Federal Government has relied on imposing burdens on the average man thru levies on tobacco, alcoholic beverages, gasoline, etc. In France 53% of the revenue is gotten this way. Even in Fascist Italy it is 48% and in Nazi Germany 47%, or still 12% better than in the U. S. from the point of view of indirect taxes paid outright by the average person who isn't wealthy. But nothing can stop Wall Street's champions from unfurling their bank accounts. Such is the foundation of the code of morality in a dollar democracy.

SOMETIMES we feel like praying that someone should invent a birth-control device for restricting the outpouring of "Magna Chartas" of Labor. Our most recent hope and prayer for such an invention are occasioned by the enactment into law of the Wagner Labor Disputes Act and the lavish praise showered upon it by "Dear Bill" Green. What this "Magna Charta" is and what it may be are thus frankly told us by this hero of labor's latest Runnymede, Wagner himself: 1) "... The bill gives added protection to workers who wish to exercise their free choice to remain completely unorganized. ... 2) There is nothing in the bill which favors the closed shop. It provides merely that closed-shop agreements may be made, but only in those states where they are now legal, by voluntary agreements between employers and employees. In fact, the bill somewhat narrows the now existing law sanctioning such agreements by stipulating that they shall be valid only when desired by the employer and the majority of the workers to be covered by them."

Great friend of labor, this senator is! Such are the friends Green and Will have been making for labor. Such friendship can be crowned only with grief for the workers. God save us from our "friends" and those who wish them on us! Then we will be able to begin cleaning up on our enemies.

ANESTHIZERS FOR ETHIOPIA



Cloak Victory A Tribute To Organized Militancy

Bosses Feel Power of Union as Quiet Stoppage Wins All Vital Points

By B. BRILL

After negotiating almost three months with the three employers' associations, the so-called inside manufacturers, the jobbers and the contractors, the Cloakmakers' Union of the I.L.G.W.U. succeeded in securing an agreement for a period of two years without resorting to a general strike, something for which the union was well prepared.

The main bone of contention was the question of contractor limitation and jobber responsibility. On these matters the union could not be budged, for an agreement without these provisions would have been meaningless and worthless. Limitation of contractors offers the union the opportunity to control conditions of labor and thereby prevent the return of the sweatshop.

Slight wonder, therefore, that the jobbers, a very irresponsible but powerful group of employers controlling about 50% of the ladies garment industry, opposed vigorously the limitation clause in the old agreement and refused to renew it. With the abolition of NRA, these jobbers mistakenly believed their opportunity had come to rid themselves of union control and return to the good old days of cut-throat competition among the contractors at the expense of the workers.

With the union prepared to bring out 40,000 workers on strike, Governor Lehman intervened proposing that the expired agreement serve as the basis for negotiating a new one. The bosses grudgingly accepted the recommendations thus opening the road for the settlement.

How does the union control conditions thru "limitation." First of all the number of contractors allowed to a jobber or

manufacturer depends upon his production capacity and the work is divided equally among the contractors, according to the number of workers employed in their shops. Thus competition between contractors for work is restricted and each worker is assured of his share of the work.

Price settlement per garment is not made with the contractor or sub-manufacturer but with the jobber who is obliged to pay the same price per garment to all of his contractors and who is kept responsible for the conditions of labor in all of his contractors' shops. This further eliminates the price—therefore wage-slashing competition and gives the workers a sense of security.

Finally no contractor is permitted to work for more than one jobber thus eliminating the multiplicity of prices in the same shop.

It goes without saying that the union also demanded the renewal of all other clauses of the old agreement. In addition the union demanded the 30 hour work week and a 20% increase in wage scales. The former was not insisted upon and the latter demand was left to the impartial Chairman for investigation and recommendation not later than May 1936.

In a number of respects the new agreement is an improvement over the old one. A number of clauses were clarified and strengthened in favor of the union. The great task before the union and its members is to enforce this agreement 100%.

It is interesting to note that the employers recognize the great strength of the cloakmakers. Mr. Samuel Klein, executive director of the Industrial Council, complains bitterly that "The production of tens of thousands of early Fall garments has been paralyzed by this quiet but altogether effective demonstration of power. Except for the production of samples in isolated instances, our factories were just as quiet as if a powerful and determined industry-wide strike were under way."

And this condition was secured by a statement in the press calling upon the cloakmakers not to work on Fall garments until an agreement is signed! Again this proves that what counts in negotiations is not so much clever tactics as the solid organized power of the workers.

However, the new agreement is not perfect. No provision is made for recognition of conditions for the designers. Clarity is also needed on the proposed Labor Buro, its character and scope. But by and large the settlement must be scored as a victory for the cloakmakers in the I.L.G.W.U.

ISSUE OF "NEGRO VOICE" MARKS CPO ADVANCE

Last week witnessed the initial number of "The Negro Voice," organ of the Harlem Section of the Communist Party (Opposition).

The Voice will be a monthly magazine, selling for five cents, containing articles on specific Negro problems and the Communist position on them.

Union Fight Exposes Scab Center In West Haverstraw

Hirsam Mills, Tenant in Open-Shop "Terminal" Falsifies Union Position to Workers After State Supreme Court Grants Injunction

Nestled in the wooded hills that line the Hudson north of New York lies the tiny crossroads village of Garnersville. A beautiful rustic spot is Garnersville—and one of the most vicious scab-nests in the East. This is the home of the Haverstraw Industrial Terminal.

The attention of organized labor has been focussed on the open-shop Terminal by the storm and stress accompanying the "lock-out" of the Hirsam Mills workers after an injunction had been secured by the Joint Council of Knit Goods Workers Union. The careful and astute anti-union propaganda spread among the workers and in the local and metropolitan press by the mill owner and the Terminal management is an amazing study in the technique of the bosses in building a scab center.

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS OF MR. HIRSCH

The Hirsam Knitting Mill, owned by Sam Hirsch, was a runaway shop. It left New York to move to the Haverstraw Terminal late in 1934 promising to carry out the collective agreement with the union. But gradually and carefully it weeded out its union help, especially in the semi-skilled crafts, replacing them with non-union workers. In December Hirsch fired a group of local workers, telling them that the union forced him too. This so enraged the local people that they attacked a number of union men and drove them out of town. Hirsch filled their places with town-folk and scabs recruited in Philadelphia.

The Joint Council applied for an injunction to prevent the manufacturer from violating his agreement. It supplied proof that he had been paying wages far below the union scale, working longer hours and otherwise breaking his agreement. The injunction was granted.

Then Hirsch made his coup. He fired his entire force—142 workers—telling them that the responsibility lay at the door of the Knitgoods Union and that he dared not violate the court decision. By his action and by deliberate slander of the union spread through the press and through agents-provocateurs the work of arousing the local people was carried on. The decision did not specify, nor did the Joint Council demand the dismissal of local help. Long before the trial, the union made its position clear on this question insisting that the firm employ the local workers on the basis of the hours and wages in the agreement.

July 8 found the "locked-out" workers in a firm picket line around the Terminal. Husky pickets swore to kill the first New Yorker who dared to show

his face in Haverstraw. The Pilgrim's Progress of Mr. Hirsch had ended in apparent success—he had succeeded in convincing the local workers that the union was their sworn enemy and that their lost jobs could only be won back by fighting off the invaders.

The situation is still substantially the same. The Hirsam Mills are still closed. The picket line continues. The Joint Council has, very wisely, made no attempt to send its members to Garnersville and provoke a certain and bloody riot.

But what lies behind this situation?

THE OPEN SHOP PLAN OF THE TERMINAL

The Terminal, a huge area comprising some thirty-seven one and two story factory buildings, was originally a textile mill. In 1930 the mill moved to the South.

In 1934 a group of Haverstraw business men subscribed to a promotion fund to re-open the Terminal. They offered low rentals, free water and—sub rosa—non-union labor willing to take any wage after years of unemployment and starvation.

The Terminal was placed under the management of William F. Larkin of the Garnersville Ice Co. Mr. Larkin proved his business ability almost immediately by having the siding tracks yanked out of the Terminal. Now all hauling is done in Larkin-owned trucks.

Now there are thirteen firms in the Terminal—textile mills, pocketbook manufacturer, textile dyers, fur dyers, knitters, etc. The majority are shops that have run away from unions in other cities. Not a single one is unionized.

Hiring at the Terminal is the vested interest of Mr. William Larkin. By keeping a tight control of jobs—and jobs are just as scarce in Haverstraw as anywhere else—Larkin has gotten into the Terminal a group who owe their existence to him and have the proper subservient gratitude for it. Being fired by one firm in the Terminal means a black-listing in all of them.

ANTI-UNIONISM RUNS HIGH

Under this virtual dictatorship a terrific anti-union sentiment has been fostered in the Terminal. Workers have been told repeatedly that unions extort exorbitant initiation fees and dues, that they call strikes only to levy assessments on the members. A company union, the Terminal Club, embraces all the workers in the various shops and offers them so-called social activities—in return for loss of independence and decent wages. Agents of the bosses among the workers help to spread these lies and to weed out any malcontents.

The powers that be in Garnersville strongly support this "labor" policy. It has even been rumored that the Ku Klux Klan has revived to take a hand in affairs. The Mayor of West Haverstraw, Green-House-Keeper Brownell, says, "People here don't want the union. The manager, Nelson, is a damned anarchist. We don't want anarchists!"

Workers in the Hirsam Mills either insist noisily that they are receiving union wages and hours—statements proven false by the sworn statements of Sam Hirsch himself at the injunction proceedings—or maintain a stubborn and scared silence. This is the fruit of Larkin's job power and his spy system.

Thus Garnersville is growing closer and closer to the bosses' dream of an open shop Utopia. Rents are cheap, the metropolitan market is near and the workers are as yet non-union.

THE TERMINAL MENACES LABOR

The Terminal represents an idea, a potential threat, a citadel of open shop-pism shining before every wage-cutting employer in New York and the East.

Organized labor must meet this threat. It is not the job of the Joint Council of Knitgoods Workers alone, nor even of the I.L.G.W.U. The unions of Haverstraw have already shown a sense of solidarity with the Joint Council in its fight with Hirsch. It is the duty of the entire labor movement in the city and the state to broaden this solidarity until the Terminal as a scab-nest shall have been destroyed.

Age Drive Slows As Heat Rises

Contributions to the Summer Sustaining Fund of the Workers Age slowed down in the dog days of last week to only a hundred dollars.

With the goal of \$1500 to be realized by August 1st the comrades and friends of the CPO must hurry in their donations. Especially we urge the out-of-town units to make a better showing in next weeks' listings.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (As of July 10, 1935)

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Rose Robins	15.00
Nora Grey	9.00
Joe Kaufman	3.00
Esta Greene	1.00
Jay Bauman	1.00
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Saturday, July 20, 1935

Eyes On "Darkest Africa"

TODAY no one will be so foolhardy as to question the imminence of a war by Italian imperialism against Abyssinia. All efforts at mediation by the League of Nations agencies and by England's ace diplomat, Eden, have failed dismally. And with the failure of these moves additional evidence was piled up to show the worthlessness of such capitalist peace schemes as the Kellogg pact and the insolubility of imperialist antagonisms.

What's eating Mussolini? Why is Italian Fascism driving so furiously towards war on Ethiopia? Of course, the Italian bourgeoisie covet the fabulous mineral resources of this African land. It is patent that Il Duce sees in the present hectic European situation a fine opportunity for seizing more territory, for plundering more resources for his owning class. The conflicts among the European powers are so numerous and so acute that Mussolini, not unlike the Mikado, realizes that he now has the best chance for a free hand, the least embarrassing moment for grabbing the raw materials which he sorely lacks and which are essential to modern warfare. In peace times Italy depends on foreign sources for 15% of its grain and meat supplies, 53% of its ore, 80% of its wool, 95% of its coal, 95% of its cotton, and 99% of its petroleum. The Italian Fascists can boast of huge supplies of olive and castor oil; but warships, unlike anti-Fascists, can't be driven with castor oil. In short the Fourth Rome has in view the utilization of the Abyssinian conflict for securing precisely those supplies which she needs so badly for waging a good-sized "decent, respectable war" in the future.

But there is an even more potent and pressing reason for Italy's thrust just now. It is the inner situation—the social and economic conditions—of the first Fascist "paradise" itself. Fascism is running true to the logic of its own composition. This process runs along the following course: The capitalist state becomes all-powerful, but its socio-economic foundations simultaneously reach their highest point of decay. The gap between this instrument of coercion and the great mass of the population has become wider than ever. The dynamic drive and activism of the first days of the Fascist dictatorship have been disappearing to the vanishing point. This is due to the total failure of Mussolini to make good on any of his many promises or to solve any of the numerous economic and political difficulties besetting the country. Here is soil increasingly fertile for revolutionary developments and struggles.

What is most ominous is that the youth of the Fascist party and the country as a whole has become most "afflicted" and disaffected. That is why the Secretary of the Fascist Party made a violent attack on its cultural groups about three months ago. At the close of April, Mussolini himself denounced the intellectuals and had them arrested in wholesale. Il Duce was especially virulent in his chastising of the unsatisfactory results of the "Littorali della Cultura" which is the Fascist cultural competition among the youth. A few weeks ago there was an open struggle between the old and young Fascists at the Congress of Fascist cultural institutions held at Palermo.

In a number of important respects Mussolini is at the end of his rope. All his attempts to galvanize the masses into enthusiasm and support for his iron fist have failed. Italy's economic plight is desperate. A year ago Mussolini admitted that three-fourths of Italy's industries were "in the hands of the state" and that if the government pulled out for one day the whole economic system would collapse. Apparently the remedy of Fascism has not only failed to cure Italian capitalism but has plagued it with new incurable diseases. The budgetary deficit has become chronic—reaching about five billion lire a year. The public debt burden has really doubled in the last few years. For the first time, last year, Post Office and Savings Bank deposits have declined. Exports are on the downgrade. The remnants of the individuals' reserves of foreign credits, grabbed by the government, are being used up at a frightful pace. The standard of living of the country is going from bad to worse. Fascism has failed to save Italian capitalist economy. On the contrary, life has shown that Fascism has further impoverished Italian capitalism "with attempts at self-independence . . . with tremendous expenditures for appearances and war" and further corrupted it "with monopolies, interventions, political prizes and preferences." Today, all signs point to economic and social catastrophe.

THE Italian Fascist regime realizes that it must do something and do it forcefully and quickly in order, at least, to counteract, if not overcome this mounting decadence, inertia, passivism, indifference, economic collapse and political hostility now menacing it. The Ethiopian war is the answer, the hope, of the Mussolini gangmen. The Abyssinian war is to be much more than a diversion. The decisive forces of Italian imperialism look upon it as "a supreme attempt to break thru the inertia of the country, to try to give to the dictatorship and to the Duce a justification, a goal, a great success." Here is the sesame to gagging the youth, wiping out the potentially articulate among the discontented, and smashing the reviving revolutionary proletarian movement. Coercion, hunger, despair, and boredom are to be the whips driving people into enlistment.

However, just here is where the new and even greater difficulties begin. There is no enthusiasm or "imperial" urge among the Italian masses for war. And Abyssinia, particularly because of its terrain, is no easy nut to crack. Sub-rosa, other imperialist powers will help Addis Ababa wage the war as long as possible against Mussolini. What will happen to the latter's uninspired and harassed troops? Despite all loud bragging by Il Duce, despite such "civilizing" agencies of warfare as chemical for burning the bare feet of the Abyssinian soldiers, there isn't the slightest certainty that Italy will win. Nor is another disastrous, Adowa out of the question for Italian imperialism. History can and sometimes does repeat itself.

Should this happen, not only Italian Fascism but all imperialist brigands in Africa would face the most serious challenge by the colonial masses aroused and inspired by the Abyssinian heroic exploits. The repercussions would not be limited to one continent; capitalist colonialism would then be rocked to its very foundations in Asia and elsewhere. Here is more than one keg of dynamite.

Eyes on "darkest" Africa! The flames of war soon to be waged there may yet prove the light of and the signal for a series of revolutionary struggles for liberation by the colonial peoples and by the Italian masses.

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Hartford Builds Labor Party

By HARRY YOUNG

Approximately 200 delegates, representing over 41,000 organized workers in Connecticut, met in Hartford Sunday, June 30, for the purpose of laying plans for the formation of a Labor Party. The conference, to judge by the decisions adopted, was a success; it placed upon the order of the day for the mass of Connecticut's workers and especially for the organized workers in the AFL, numbering 75,000, the immediate launching of a Labor Party to fight on the political field for a comprehensive system of social insurance, for defense of workers' right to organize, to strike, to bargain collectively; against injunctions and the use of police in strikes; for the 30 hour week in industry without reduction in pay, and etc. In addition, not the least important thing to be noticed at the conference was the genuine feeling of labor solidarity of the delegates, their militancy and determination not to be side-tracked in the building of their own political party, and their resentment against the NRA and the repeated sell-out and breaking of strikes on the part of the Federal government; the enthusiasm of the delegates was inspiring and, as the results proved, was directed into constructive action.

Trade Union Participation

Almost all of the 200 delegates came to conference as official representatives of their unions. At least six Central Labor Unions in Connecticut participated officially and at least half of these came instructed in favor of a Labor Party. All the textile unions of the state united in a bloc for a Labor Party. Of special significance was the fact that J. Nicholas Danz, president of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor, spoke in favor of the formation of a Labor Party. The representation was truly state wide, including every large city in Connecticut and every type and variety of local unions. It was reported to the conference that in two cities, Waterbury and New London, the Central Labor Unions were running a Labor Party ticket in the municipal elections. Two independent unions were represented, the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Workers Industrial Union of America and a so-called New England Allied Metal Trades Council. Of the latter there is no visible evidence of existence. What unions are included in it, what activity it carries on is not known.

A Program of Action

The resolution calling for the immediate formation of a state-wide Labor

Party was adopted almost unanimously.

The conference also adopted, as a specific form of social and unemployment insurance the Workers Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill known in Congress as House Bill 2827 introduced by the Farmer-Labor Representative Lundeen. Although the resolution emphasized the point that a new party of the workers, a Labor Party, must have done with the policies and program of the two old major capitalist parties and must therefore be anti-capitalist in its orientation, in its program of immediate demands, it did not come out specifically for a new social order. The decisions adopted were confined to a comprehensive program of social reform and guarantees of the workers' minimum economic and social demands.

When the resolution was brought upon the floor for adoption, an amendment to the resolution as quoted above was offered by J. Nicholas Danz to the effect that all delegates to the coming convention of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor to be held in September, 1935, shall come instructed by their locals in favor of a Labor Party. This was adopted by the conference.

After the adoption of the resolution a continuation committee of fifteen was elected to prepare for a second conference to be held in New London, July 21. The committee, to be known as the Connecticut American Federation of Labor Committee for the Promotion of a Labor Party, was empowered to carry on an educational and organizational campaign "to lead to the earliest formation of such a party needed and desired by labor"; to solicit support of the proposed party; and to call a state convention after preliminary organization of the new party has been effected. The final clause of the resolution pledges the support of the conference in organization of a national labor-party.

William E. Kuehn, president of the Hartford CLU was elected permanent chairman of the conference, John Williams of Norwich, vice-chairman, and William Scott of Hartford, secretary-treasurer. Others elected to the continuation committee were Harry Feldman, New Haven; W. C. Caye, Bridgeport; M. F. Tammany, Waterbury; T. J. Fitzgerald, president CLU of Waterbury; J. Nicholas Danz; Joseph Orlette, New London; W. G. Hering, Stamford; M. Vanadetti, vice-president CLU of New Britain and prominent Socialist Party member in Connecticut; Leon Saginaw, New Haven; William Ramsden, Jewett City; Ovila Roberts, Taftville; Carl Roder, Meriden; Harry Bowman, Norwich; and Alec Driscoll, Versailles.

Mexico's Rulers Fall Out

(Continued from Page 3)

positions for the ultimate showdown which is likely to end in an armed struggle before the next elections.

It may be that this time Calles has overshot his mark. It may very well be that in the final struggle, Cardenas will have the greater forces. But whatever the outcome of the struggle, the workers and peasants have as little to hope for from Cardenas as they had from Calles. For Cardenas is not less friendly to foreign interests—only he has had less opportunity to show his friendliness.

C.P. and United Front

Up to the present moment the Mexican Communist Party has not been able to develop any effective class consciousness among the workers and peasants. It has its program and platform but has not been able to reach the masses or to convince them. Just now it is the driving force behind the attempt to build a united front among workers organizations against anticipated repressive measures. But the labor organizations of Mexico are weak. Unfortunately most of them exist only on paper except for certain industries and regions. But such as they are, these organizations are calling upon the masses to support them in their struggle against suppression of the relative freedom for organization and activity that they have gained as a result of the present situation.

The significance of this united front, however, is very much diminished by the maneuvering of Cardenas in subsidizing labor leaders and labor organizations and in drawing in of certain leaders of the old "agrarista" movement into strategic cabinet posts. Therefore, it is not at all

unlikely that in the next uprising worker will fight against worker, and peasant against peasant for the interests of different sections of the bourgeoisie. And in such a set up, whichever side wins, the masses have gained nothing but more misery, disease and death.

Contrary to the impressions given both by the capitalist press and the Daily Worker, the main problem of the Mexican labor movement is still very elementary: namely, the development of a genuine labor movement; a movement independent of government subsidy; a movement accustomed to supporting itself through its own dues payments and capable of carrying on an independent proletarian policy and of wresting the leadership of the peasantry from the hands of the petty-bourgeois political demagogues. The only positive outcome of each successive disturbance of the type now in the offing is the painfully slow growth of such consciousness, mass experience and independent organization. Until that has reached a certain minimum level, all talk of "Socialism," "proletarian revolution" and "planned economy" are just so many lifeless words.

Appeal of Paterson Textile Progressives

(Continued from Page 2)

in the Union; and has given the Paterson silk workers nothing but bluff and hot air. This irresponsible union-smashing leadership must go!

Paterson silk workers! Vote for the Progressives and for a Progressive program in the coming elections in the Plain Goods Department! Defeat the administration that has done so much harm to our organization.

The Progressive Group proposes to build the organization into a powerful industrial union of silk workers capable of carrying on militant and victorious struggles. It was in great measure responsible for the only steps taken in Paterson in this direction in accomplishing the amalgamation.

The Progressive Group, if elected to the administration, instead of antagonizing the labor movement, will work to win the support of the other labor organizations to help prepare for a national silk strike and insure its success by adequate preparation, instead of antagonizing the labor movement.

"The Progressive Group fights against dual unionism, union splitting, and disruption of union discipline practiced by

TRADE UNION NOTES

By GEORGE F. MILES

THE AMERICAN YOUTH CONGRESS

JUST to underline that all is not so well with the trade union line of the Communist Party, comes the decision of the Youth Congress recently held in Detroit. The Congress resolution states:

"As the A. F. of L. is the most inclusive labor organization, a delegation from the Youth Congress should go to the convention of the A. F. of L. in Atlantic City in October and promise cooperation in organizing the youth, and on the other hand ask cooperation from the A. F. of L. in realizing the aims of the Youth Congress."

In order to get the real meaning of this statement—an attempt to dodge the question of endorsement of the A. F. of L.—one must consider the amendment proposed by delegate Albert Epstein, of the Youth Section of the C.P.O.

"The American Youth Congress regards the A. F. of L. as the main stream of the American Labor Movement. The Youth Congress therefore URGES THE YOUNG WORKERS OF AMERICA TO JOIN THE A. F. of L. The delegates to the Youth Congress who are members of the A. F. of L. are asked to raise within their unions the problem of organizing the young workers."

This amendment was bitterly fought by the steering committee and the reporters at the Congress and was DEFEATED. Why? The answer came in the form of a reply to a question of delegate Mary Nemeroff, of the Detroit Federation of Labor. She arose after Epstein's amendment was lost and asked: "Does this mean that the Youth Congress will not urge young workers to join the A. F. of L.?" The answer of the reporter was that it means just that because the Congress, he said, can no more tell young workers to join the A. F. of L. than it can ask them to join the Y.M.C.A., Socialist Party or Communist Party.

To compare the organized trade union movement to one of the capitalist organizations such as the Y.M.C.A. or to an advanced working class organization such as a political party, merely shows to what stupidities the Communist Party members and supporters must resort in order to put across their leftist line on the trade union question. Let those ponder these facts who have been "shouting from the house-tops" that the C.P. has completely changed its trade union line and is now all for working within the A. F. of L.

Once again the Y.P.S.L. has illustrated its incapacity, this time at the Youth Congress. Over a year ago, during the first Youth Congress, the Y.P.S.L. went soft hearted and insisted that dual unionism must not be permitted to disturb the glorious harmony between the Y.C.L. and Y.P.S.L. They roundly rebuked the C.P.O. youth delegates for making this a breaking point. Some months later the Y.P.S.L. sheepishly agreed that the fight to a finish should have been made.

They were now caught flatfooted once again. Until delegate Epstein made the fight not a soul had raised his voice against a patently wrong stand which closes the doors of the A. F. of L. to the youth congress. The delegates of the Y.P.S.L. very generously applauded Epstein's amendment and accompanying remarks but where were they before? They had Y.P.S.L. members on all sub-committees (we did not) but where were these when the documents were drafted and discussed in committee. Were they so carried away by the spirit of harmony and unity as to consider a mere trade union question as unimportant. Indeed on a number of occasions the C.P. used Y.P.S.L. cat's paws to defeat some hot opposition.

Is it not better, comrades of the Y.P.S.L., to remain cold sober in the early stages of united front work, to criticize and attempt to correct, rather than to go on a false "unity" spree while an action is being consummated and then belatedly discover that someone has put over a fast one on you? Remember that, comrades, when the next conference rolls around.

the "rank and file" group, on the one hand, and against the reactionaries' policy of reliance on N.R.A. Boards, Winant Boards and arbitration boards, on the others."

The Progressives have declared in the past and declare today, that "only the workers own organized strength and vigorous and well-prepared strike action at the proper time can win anything for the silk workers and succeed in defeating the bosses' attacks."

Silk Workers!

Rally behind the Progressive Group in its efforts to save and build the Union! Oust the union smashers, who have lost the confidence of the Paterson silk workers and the entire labor movement, from the administration.

Vote for the Progressive candidates in the elections on July 20!

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