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LABOR ACTION

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A PAPER IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

Liberal Party Obligation in Mayoralty Race:

Run Labor Candidate in N.Y.!

Stalin Promotes Top Anti-Semite To Leading Post

By DANIEL DAVIDSON

A year and a half ago many Russian Jews heaved sighs of relief when Georgi F. Alexandrov, director of the propaganda section of the Russian Communist Party, fell into disgrace and was demoted to a minor post. Alexandrov and Alexander Shcherbakoff (died in 1945) were considered the chief architects of the Russian anti-Jewish policy initiated during the period of the Russo-German Pact. With the two most prominent promoters of governmental anti-Semitism either dead or disgraced, it was no wonder that many Russian Jews entertained the illusion that the dangerous anti-Jewish trends would be reversed.

At that time LABOR ACTION pointed out that to saddle minor bureaucrats with full responsibility for initiating and carrying through a governmental policy on their own reflected a dangerously naive misunderstanding of the dynamics of Stalinist totalitarianism.

Confirmation of the view that the policies of Alexandrov have Politbureau backing and that the current anti-Semitic drive in Russia is Politbureau inspired is now to be seen in a minor notice in a dispatch to the N.Y. Times, June 6, by C. L. Sulzberger. Under the head "Quiet Soviet Purge Held Taking Place," Sulzberger reports that "persons relegated to obscurity by Zhdanov are rehabilitating themselves. Typical of these is G. F. Alexandrov, one of the party's propaganda chiefs, who is making a comeback with Mr. Malenkov's aid."

In light of the recently renewed and intensified governmentally inspired anti-Semitic drive against the Jews of Russia, this parallel rehabilitation by the Politbureau of the best known and leading anti-Semitic is a fact of great significance.

The wide-open mayoralty race in New York City offers an unexcelled opportunity for the Liberal Party to assert itself as the kind of party it ought to be. It is our opinion that the situation cries loudly for a LABOR CANDIDATE. And it is further our opinion that the Liberal Party owes an obligation to the unions, which have given it substance, to present such a candidate.

With Mayor O'Dwyer committing himself not to run again, more would-be candidates than can at the moment be counted have indicated their availability. Every party and near-party in New York City has a full quota of claimants for the job, each one backed by scores of factions and caucuses.

Tammany is badly disrupted, and floundering for a candidate. A fusion movement seems one day to be taking shape, and the next day splintering for lack of an agreed-upon candidate.

The Fair Deal Democrat group has tried to get a headstart by naming Robert Wagner, Jr. But that nomination seems no more certain than any of the would-be nominations. By the time the big party politicians are finished kicking things around, the Fair Deal wing may have made an alliance with (or against) the Tammany wing of the Democratic Party around some other candidate.

In the present temper of New York City politics, a labor party would have more than normal opportunities. The very confusion in the big parties indicates that the people of the city, above all its working-class population are fed up with the traditional parties and traditional politics. The maneuvers and the bickering over candidates reflect the need of the Democrats and Republicans, with their various wings and offshoots, to find a way to hypnotize the people for another election.

LIBERAL PARTY IS BASED ON UNIONS

However much a labor party is indicated and needed, there is, unfortunately, no such party now in existence, nor any likelihood of one before election day. The American Labor Party pretends that it is one, but it is nothing but a "popular" medium for the Communist Party line. To the extent that greater numbers have seen through the ALP-Progressive screen, this Stalinist front is losing its electoral effectiveness. Its union support is negligible, being confined to those few unions

which still follow the Stalinist line.

There is, in New York City, one party that has important union backing. That party is the Liberal Party. It is, regrettably, not a labor party, and its leaders are apparently determined that it shall not be one. Nevertheless, it draws its strength exclusively from the unions which give it support. Without the dressmakers' union (ILGWU), and the like, there would be no Liberal Party. In fact, the real leaders of the Liberal Party are the leaders of the ILGWU.

SHOWED ITS POLITICAL WEIGHT

While the Liberal Party has been anything but what it should be of virtue of its composition, that composition is a factor of enormous potential significance. In practice, the Liberal Party has been little more than a machine for city "politicking." In practice, it is the vehicle through which the union leaders have crept—or strutted, as the case may be—through the by-ways of big-city politics.

Its fortunes have been varied. At times it has barely held its head over the political waters. At present, flushed with its victory in electing Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., in a special congressional by-election, it is a weighty factor, a kind of balance of power.

What we find most significant is that the Liberal Party has gained such influence as it has through the activity of its component unions. It can, for example, be said that the ILGWU really elected FDR, Jr., and if FDR, Jr., was a poor candidate for a union, the union nevertheless showed its political strength.

We are convinced that the union rank and file, when it gives support to the Liberal Party, does so in the belief that it is thereby speaking, acting, independently. That belief is betrayed when the Liberal Party engages in what its leaders consider to be "real" politics. The consequences of "real" politics can only be another capitalist-politician mayor like O'Dwyer, whose name is anathema in leading ILG circles. (ILG opposition undoubtedly figured largely in O'Dwyer's decision not to stand again.)

LABOR WOULD RESPOND

The Liberal Party leaders do not want it to be a labor party. And the Liberal Party cannot be converted, under any kind of pressure, into a labor party

(Continued on page 3)

Berlin RR Strikers Reject U.S. Plan to End Walkout, 6 to 1

Ruhr Workers Face British Guns To Halt West's Dismantling Scheme

While the Russian police were busy trying to break the railway workers' strike in Berlin, in the Ruhr it was the Western occupation powers which were leveling Bren guns at angry German workers.

At stake was the dismantling program, whereby German factories upon which the workers depend for their livelihood are pulled apart, under the guise of disabling a possible German war industry. The plants involved in four cities, the Germans contend, are needed for the manufacture of soap and peacetime chemicals.

In any case, the same Western powers whose easy-going attitude toward German cartels has been under heavy fire and who have been charged with dismantling plants which might give possible business competition to their own capitalists, are following a policy of dismantling which impedes the economic recovery of the country and strikes a blow at the opportunities for employment in many regions.

At the Essen coal chemical plant near Duesseldorf, a battalion of fully armed Belgian troops, acting under orders of the British military authorities, faced an angry crowd of workers, including workers of nearby coal mines, who had erected a barricade during the night and stood menacingly before the entrance to the plant. The troops were buttressed with Bren gun carriers, machine guns and armored cars.

At another plant in Dortmund, 15 out of 21 dismantling workers quit work, in protest against the operation. In a truly monstrous act, "the British military governor announced afterward that they would be prosecuted for failing to obey a Military Government order." (N. Y. Times, June 14.)

It would seem that forced labor, denounced by the Western imperialists when it is a question of the Russian tyrannical slave camps, is part of their program for the "democratization" of Germany!

JUNE 15—By an overwhelming majority the railway strikers of Berlin voted to reject the compromise proposal to end the strike, despite pressure from their own leaders and from the U. S. commandant, Gen. Howley. The latter had assured the workers that the Russians had given "guarantees" against reprisals.

Although only a 25 per cent Yes vote was necessary to call off the stoppage, not even this could be mustered. The vote was over 6-1 No—12,626 to 2085.

By this decisive action, the strikers, who are enthusiastically supported by the people of Berlin, simultaneously showed a complete lack of faith in any promises by the Russian occupying power and willingness to resist pressure from the Western camp.

After the vote, Gen. Howley is reported to have remarked that the decision showed "very good sense." It seems that everything he had told the strikers before the ballot was a lot of hogwash, the Russians double-crossed him, etc., but he hadn't realized it until after the referendum! Some days before, however, the railway men had jeered at any assurances of Russian good faith.

More than ever, the workers have reason to put more confidence in their own will to fight than in any fair words from either camp of the occupation.

By V. JENSEN

The militant Berlin railway workers' strike, now in its fourth week, approaches its stormy climax with the rejection by 600 striking railway union district leaders of an urgent appeal from the executive board of the union that they immediately end the strike.

Refusing to take the responsibility for this move, the local leaders voted instead to submit the compromise set-

(Continued on page 4)

UAW 4th Round Tested In Buffalo Bell Strike

By MICHAEL FERRIS

BUFFALO, June 13—A picket line of approximately 3000 members of Bell Local 501 UAW-CIO shut down the Bell Aircraft Corporation today for the first strike in Bell's 14 years of operations.

Martin Gerber, UAW regional director, declared that the company "absolutely" refused to concede any of the economic issues involved. "The only basis upon which the company would renew the contract was if the union would withdraw its important economic demands," said Gerber. "It was obviously impossible for the union to pursue such a course."

Negotiations have been in progress since April 4. Local 501, headed by a newly elected pro-Reuther administration and ably supported by Assistant Regional Director Edward Gray, has granted the company two extension periods, one of 15 days and one of 30 days, in order to give the company the best possible chance to acquire millions of dollars in government work contracts. Though the company obtained the contracts, which guarantee it a huge profit for the next period, it refused to grant any of the union's demands.

THOROUGH PREPARATION MADE

Members of Bell Local 501 voted 1261 to 142 for the strike. The new administration was determined to make the strike hard-hitting and efficient. Thorough preparations for the strike were made before the strike deadline. Strike headquarters were set up, 150 strike captains assigned, and when the company walked out of negotiations after a 4½-hour last-minute attempt to settle matters, the members of Local 501 immediately proceeded to show the company that

they meant business.

The workers were not anxious to strike. They declared frankly that they would much rather be at work. Money is scarcer these days and unpaid vacations are not to their liking. They did all in their power to avert a strike. But Bell Aircraft was adamant. It forced the local, out on strike by refusing to concede a single cost item to the union.

In the early negotiations the union got non-cost concessions from the company with regard to upgrading, seniority and arbitration. But these were minor issues. The union demands were the major demands of the UAW-CIO: (1) pension plan, (2) health insurance (3) increased vacations, (4) wage increase.

A month ago the company offered a phony pension plan which the union termed an "insulting monstrosity." The plan violated every principle of the union pension demand. All during the negotiations the company put on the biggest campaign in its history to get the workers to vote No in the strike vote. The line of the company was: "Be satisfied with the status quo; things are fine at Bell; let's keep them that way." The better than 90 per cent Yes vote was the workers' answer.

TEST CASE BY WALL STREET?

The strike-vote meeting, held on Thursday, June 9, clearly elaborated the union's position. Bargaining committee members outlined the company's unreasonable approach to the negotiations and their stalling tactics.

Assistant Regional Director Gray tore apart the company propaganda piece by piece. Gray said: "We have no desire to strike Bell Aircraft Corporation." (Continued on page 2)

Next Week—

Feature article on the mayoralty scrimmage in New York City, by William Barton.

Louisville Transit Strikers Run Transportation System!

By R. HARRIS

LOUISVILLE, June 9—The CIO Transport Workers of Louisville are today operating Louisville's only transit system. They have been operating it, all alone, without the help of the Louisville Railway Company, for the past two days!

It all began Tuesday, June 7, when, after several weeks of unsuccessful negotiations with the company, the Transport Workers were forced to strike. The main issues in the strike are an eighteen cents an hour increase, and a reopening clause in the contract in the event the company gets a fare hike. The reopening clause would cover wage negotiations alone. The present bus fare is ten cents.

At first the union tried to get the company to go along with the idea of a so-called "Chinese strike"—where the company would furnish the buses, the union the drivers, but no fares would be charged. The company (naturally, in the interest of their profits) refused to seriously consider this plan.

Then the union proposed that the drivers use their own cars, operating them on regular bus lines and schedules, charging a fare of five cents—the "jitney bus" idea. This ran into difficulties too, because there seems to be some city or state ordinance to the effect that "jitney buses" cannot operate at all, not at least on regular schedules.

Finally the union, in its desire to help the other workers of Louisville to get to and from their jobs, decided to use the private-car idea, but to accept no regular fares. Instead they put contribution jars in each car to cover the expenses incurred by the service.

AND THEY'RE MAKING IT WORK!

The plan has been working—really working—pretty well for the past two days. Between five and seven hundred of these cars, owned and manned by the strikers without pay, are on the streets of Louisville. Each car bears a sign asking "Want a Ride?"

Throughout the strike, the company has concentrated on what they prefer to call the tremendous inconvenience this strike is causing the "public." The transport workers have met this challenge, they have provided rides, they have gotten people to their destinations.

The company, on the other hand, has done nothing but complain that they can't pay the increase, that profits are going down, etc., etc. As far as the company is concerned, the riding "public" is just a propaganda dummy for their advertisements.

Whether or not the strike ends tonight (and there is some likelihood of it) or continues on, the transport workers of Louisville have proved that they can do the job of giving transportation to the public in a fairly efficient way even with the vastly inferior equipment they have at their disposal! The question comes to mind: Couldn't they do it even better (perhaps better than the company) if the workers controlled the Louisville transit system?

But as it is, the "jitney bus" (with modifications) has become a symbol of workers' control of industry, and will become a tradition in Louisville. The transport workers of Louisville have and can run an industry!

FLASH—Word of settlement has just come over the air. The buses will run again at 4:30 tomorrow morning. No details of the settlement have yet been given. But one thing is sure, considering the spirit of the workers in this strike: there will be no defeat for them!

CP Defense on Anti-Semitism Flops

Stalinist Apologizers on Anti-Jewish Campaign in Russia Duck Facts, Contradict Themselves

By A. FINDLEY

The Stalinist counter-offensive on the question of Russian anti-Semitism is under way. After a long interval during which they prudently kept silent, their propaganda channels are going full-blast in an attempt to prove that the whole thing is a "hoax."

One of the most ambitious tries has been a recent series of articles by one Tom O'Connor in the new New York daily, the Daily Compass. (This alleged newspaper is edited by T. O. Thackrey, lately ousted from his co-editorship of the N. Y. Post because of his pro-Stalinist line; it has taken over the most blatant pro-CP writers of the old PM and Star, added a crew of others, and reads like a washed-down version of the Daily Worker.)

"YOU DUCKED!"

The very first "argument" put forward by O'Connor brings to mind the old tale: Johnny threw a stone at Jimmy. Jimmy ducked and the stone broke a window. "Look what you did!" said Jimmy. "It's your fault,"

yelled Johnny—"you ducked!"

O'Connor actually argues that people who expose anti-Semitism in Russia are helping the anti-Semites, who can now say: "See, even the Russians tried and couldn't get along with those people. . . ." But if anti-Semitism actually exists under Stalin, what does this line mean? "It's your fault—you ducked!"

Don't expose the fact of anti-Semitism in Russia, says O'Connor, because that gives heart to the enemies of the Jews. We've heard that line before, but not from Stalinoids like O'Connor. They are ready to yell at the top of their lungs (and justifiably) at the least sign of Jim Crow or anti-Semitism in any country of the world, provided that country is not Stalin's dubious paradise.

It is not the protesters who help anti-Semitism but the Stalin regime which is fostering that ancient evil.

GIVES U.S. A WEAPON

It is perfectly true, as the Stalinists and Stalinoids say, that the great publicity accompanying the exposure

of anti-Semitism behind the Iron Curtain is being used as a weapon of U.S. imperialism in the cold war against Russia. If this were the honeymoon days of U.S.-Russian alliance during the late imperialist war, the same agencies that are busy exposing the scandal would be just as concerned with hushing it up, or would be persuaded to hush it up, in order not to embarrass our "noble ally."

But neither consideration ought to sway any socialist or liberal in examining the facts and making them known to those who are duped by the Russian tyranny.

If the scandal is a U.S. weapon in the cold war, it is Stalin and his regime which has put that weapon in its hand. Liberals and socialists have no reason to remain silent about an injustice simply because reactionaries may exploit it for their own purposes. The Stalinists should remember that the Nazis made effective propaganda use of lynchings in the U.S.

Last March, BEFORE Newsweek magazine and the N.Y. Times trum-

THE STORY BEHIND THE NEWS

Violent Strike of Bolivian Miners Confused by Nazi-Peronist Politics

By JUAN ROBLES

LA PAZ, Bolivia.—The tragic events in the 20th Century mine, located in the mining center of Catavi, Bolivia, have received world-wide publicity. [U. S. newspapers also headlined the mine workers' strike, giving special prominence to the fact that a number of Americans, employed by U. S. mining interests, had been seized by the strikers and killed.—Ed.]

Bolivia, one of the most backward countries of South America, is a producer of almost 40,000 tons of tin a year; and tin is a strategic mineral, contracted almost totally by the United States and Great Britain. Since these buyers have monopolized the tin market, they pay prices in accordance with their own interests and at the expense of the impoverished, hungry Bolivian Indian miners.

This is the permanent cause of Bolivia's poverty, of the oppression and exploitation of the native miners of the plateau; and as a consequence it provokes periodic uprisings in the mining centers—uprisings which are

liquidated with bloody massacres of the workers.

Thus do the main producers of tin (the Patino interests) maintain their economic and political domination of the country with the support of imperialism, which is interested in low prices for tin in the exploitation and colonization of Bolivia.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

At the present time this basic pattern has been clouded and modified by complex political phenomena. Argentine "Peronismo" [the influence of the Peron government in Argentina] the heir of German Nazi influences in South America, is trying to take advantage of the latent rebelliousness of the South American peoples against imperialism for its own political ends, for its own political expansion, in order to sustain a regime that is already trembling.

The MNR (Nationalist Revolutionary Movement) of Bolivia, a native Nazi party which was overthrown in the popular revolution of 1946, uses all means to seek revenge

and its own return to power, supported by the powerful aid of "Peronismo." In addition, the Stalinist policy directed against the United States seeks to utilize all opposition movements, including those that are reactionary, in order to overthrow the pro-American or anti-Russian democratic governments.

When the MNR was in power, it set up totalitarian unions accompanied by the usual social demagoguery in the mining and manufacturing centers. Of late, the MNR has succeeded in renewing its attractive power in its opposition to the Hertzog government. On the one hand, the factory workers, mainly in La Paz, are under native Nazi influence. The railroad workers are, on the other hand, controlled by the Stalinists. In this tragic division of the proletariat and its submission to the anti-working-class parties lies the second element of the Catavi tragedy.

In the recent by-elections, in spite of certain successes in the provinces, the MNR suffered setbacks in La (Continued on page 4)

Buffalo UAW Strike --

(Continued from page 1)

poration. We are anxious to resolve our differences in peaceful negotiations. However, we cannot settle our demands by withdrawing them. The wages of Bell workers have fallen far behind the increase in the cost of living since the OPA was destroyed. In fact, a 17 1/2 cent increase is now required to restore the purchasing power lost since 1946. Bell workers receive less for skills required in the Bell plant than do auto workers in the automobile industry, and they have also received 5 1/2 cents an hour less in wage increases since the war ended than have other workers in Buffalo industries."

Ben Blackwood, international representative, and Paul Russo, assistant director of aircraft, made clear to the members that the strike vote should not be looked upon as a bluff, and that the local was fully supporting the national program of the UAW.

The Bell Aircraft Corporation has just secured some of the fattest contracts in its history. Why is it determined not to grant any monetary concessions to the union?

Until recently Bell was an independent company with a national reputation for easy dealings with the union. A short time ago Wall Street bought a substantial share in the company. Have the Wall Street moguls decided to make Bell the "test case" for the UAW?

It is obvious to everyone that this coming year will be a lull one for the aircraft industry. Bell's obdurate position indicates tough resistance from the whole aircraft industry,

which already has relatively low wages compared with auto. Though they are guaranteed their profits by the government, the aircraft industry is apparently determined not to let any of its profits go to the workers—especially not in the form of a pension plan and a reasonable wage increase.

COMPANY FORCED STRIKE

Bell Local 501 is in the position of being the first UAW-CIO local of any size to be out on strike over the national UAW demands. The national wage strategy, as is well known, has been to make Ford the pattern-setter this year. But the fact that Bell is on strike in advance of the national

effort is not due to any irresponsible attitude on the part of the local membership or its leaders.

The local union proposed the following to the company: Let us negotiate NOW on increased health insurance and increased vacations, and postpone discussion of the pension plan and wage increase till after the national pattern has been set.

The company had a simple and clear answer: We will discuss health insurance and vacations provided the union drops once and for all any thought of a pension plan for a wage increase.

An additional reason for the company's adamant position is that the corporation is out to test the strength

and militancy of the local. The latter has a militant tradition but it has never actually hit the bricks before.

In the elections of this year, the pro-Reuther forces in this local won a complete victory, overturning an anti-Reuther administration. Readers of LABOR ACTION are familiar with the events of the election campaign. The Militant, newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party, denounced the newly elected administration as "a group of corrupt, incompetent and lazy office-seekers—utterly destitute of any devotion to the most elementary trade-union principles and lacking the slightest urge to fight on behalf of the workers; in a word, a group of bankrupts with nothing but the heaviest dose of reactionary prejudices to qualify them for office." Perhaps the company took the factional, sour-grapes line of The Militant seriously. In any event, The Militant's indecent slanders and the fond hopes of the company were both expunged by the forthright strike action of Bell Local.

The union is in a good position to put up a strong fight. Its rank and file is solidly behind the strike. Public opinion is very favorable to the strikers, who clearly did all in their power to avert the strike. Bell officials have millions of dollars in contracts lying on their desks gathering dust.

Success for the Bell workers can sharpen and enliven the UAW fight for its national program. The Bell workers are setting the pace for the aircraft section of the UAW, but their position will be greatly enhanced, like that of all the other divisions of the UAW, if Walter Reuther and the International Executive Board engage in an organized and bold campaign against the Ford Motor Company.

The International Executive Board and Walter Reuther will have to make their decision quickly: "We want pensions and a wage increase this year or we don't." The first means another great victory for the UAW-CIO. The other can mean its first real defeat.

OHIO LABOR NOTES

Fawick Strike Ends in Cleveland; CP-Led Walkout Couldn't Get Aid

By JOE CLARK

The AFL United Auto Workers Union has just signed a two-year contract with the Fawick Airflex Company, recent scene of a spectacular strike by the CIO United Electrical Workers, Local 735. R. S. Huxtable, Fawick vice-president, said the contract does not provide for wage increases but some have been given through new job evaluations. Other provisions of the contract are the same as those in the UE contract.

Thus ends one of the most notorious strikes in Cleveland history—one in which attempts were made to impeach a judge who had imposed unprecedented fines and jail sentences on the strikers for contempt of a court order forbidding strike demonstrations at the struck plant. A police-court judge had decreed penalties totaling 440 days jail, fines of 22,000 dollars plus court costs, with a total bond of \$2,360,000. Paul Shepard, Local 735 organizer, drew 80 days in jail and a fine of \$4,000.

The strike was Stalinist-led. The chief reason for the failure of the Stalinist strategy in this struggle was the fact that their prestige is so low they got no support from any other labor group in the city. Not even the Cleveland Industrial Union Council would give them any real assistance, because the CIUC has recently passed out of Stalinist control.

STRUGGLE AHEAD

After a series of meetings with Cleveland's Mayor Burke had proved unsuccessful, the president of the Warner & Swasey Company, C. J. Stillwell, has announced that the company expects to reopen its plants

within a short time. He uses the old story that we have heard so often before—that the majority of the strikers want to return to work and "it would be unfair to these employees if the company did not reopen."

Some time ago the company went into court and got an order restricting the number of pickets at each gate. It appears that the company now figures it is in strong enough position to open up (with the help of the police). Though the strike is six months old, there has been little trouble on the picket line, but it looks as if some can be expected in the near future.

The strikers are members of the International Association of Machinists.

UNEMPLOYMENT MOUNTS

The number of unemployed in Cleveland increased by 5800 during the month of May according to the figures of the Ohio State Employment Service. The total now tops 47,000. These figures do not include those idled by the Ford strike.

No one expects any change in the labor market between now and September. Lack of orders, the major bugaboo, has hit metal plants, machinery, the chemical industry and textiles alike. Solid organizations like the American Steel and Wire Company, have lately been running at about 75 per cent of capacity.

Other sections of Ohio are equally pinched. Steel ingot production at the Timken Roller Bearing Company in Canton has skidded to a new 11-year low. Canton-Massillon plants of the Republic Steel Corporation have shut nine of their 15 open-hearth furnaces and 12 of their 17 electric furnaces.

UE Local in Philly Starts Picketing On Weekends to Gain Work-Sharing

PHILADELPHIA, June 11—Pickets of Local 107, United Electrical Workers (CIO), blocked the gates of the Westinghouse South Philadelphia works today in an effort to force the company to "share the work" and thus prevent layoffs.

The union will continue weekend picketing until the management honors a previous agreement to eliminate all overtime in the steam division so long as layoffs, threatened layoffs and "short time" exist in that division. The renegeing of the company has forced the union to abandon the more flexible plan which had been in satisfactory operation for several weeks and had resulted in the recall of some workers who had been laid off.

COMPANY IS ARROGANT

Recently a number of supervisors had violated the general agreement of work-sharing and overtime elimination. When the union called these violations to the attention of top management, it became evident that they had arrived at a policy change. According to a statement issued yesterday by the union to the membership:

"George Morgan, industrial relations manager, told the union's General Committee to 'shut the — — plant down' while in the process of negotiating violations committed by a number of supervisors."

"Company officials in four different parts of the plant—D' building, the garages, drafting room and heavy manufacturing—have informed the union that henceforth both the four- and the five-day work week plans are 'out the window.'"

Today's picketing was without incident as the company made no effort to carry on production work or routine repairs on the sixth day of the work week. Union officials indicated that they expected a speedy settlement of the immediate dispute.

In the recent period some production was maintained in the aviation gas turbine division on weekends; and several types of repair were customarily done on Saturday and Sunday. Because of the production expansion in gas turbine the union had not previously included it in the ruling that "no employee could work more than 75 hours in a two-week period" (80 hours for salaried employees). The local has insisted, however, upon the greatest possible number of personnel transfers from the steam to the gas turbine division and also transfer for work to steam wherever feasible.

TRYING TO SOW DISSENSION

Responsibility for the present dispute clearly rests with the Westinghouse Corporation. For years it has been the practice in the South Philadelphia works to reduce the work week to four, three and even two days instead of resorting to wholesale layoffs when the work load falls below the five-day level. It was also

LABOR SCOPE

Labor Movement's Fourth Round Faces Tough Opposition from Bosses

LABOR ACTION invites discussion from readers on the problems of the trade-union movement today and specifically on the problem of labor tactics in the "fourth round," the subject of the discussion article below.—Ed.

By A. WINTERS

It is becoming increasingly clear to all observers of the labor movement that the trade unions face a serious struggle around the "fourth round" contract negotiations. The auto, steel, and electrical barons, etc., have put up a solid front of one big "No" to labor's demands. Industry, it seems, has decided to take on the unions in a knockdown struggle, with the main purpose of housebreaking the militancy of the CIO.

The corporations have been emboldened by economic and political factors which weigh in their favor. Industrial production, which was high during the war years and the period immediately following, is definitely on the decline. Jobs are hard to get and the unemployed army is steadily mounting. Government statistics admit over three million unemployed while unions like the United Electrical claim six million are out of work. Inventories in the consumer-goods section of industry are at record heights and layoffs are the nightmare of workers.

The best indication of what can be expected in the future is the fact that steel, the pacesetter of the country, expects a decline in business of 25 per cent in the next year.

The intensification of the speedup of production, plus technological advancement which has made large gains, are the principal causes for the record inventories, and explain the real importance which the speed-up question has assumed in the union movement today. Workers who have doubled and trebled their pro-

duction are worried that this increase in their productivity may mean that tomorrow they will walk the streets for months to come. The last depression is still not forgotten. Unemployment in a period of inflated prices is particularly cruel. With a declining market and record inventories, industry has decided that this is the time to wait out and crush the union movement. This is the economic picture.

POLITICAL PICTURE

The political picture is equally bad. The hated and restrictive Taft-Hartley Law is still on the books despite the "victory" of labor last November when they elected Truman and a Democratic Congress. Witch hunts and spy scares are on the order of the day. Added together, all this provides an atmosphere conducive to the stifling of militant action.

Industry can now attempt to take on the unions one at a time, outlast them and send them back to work with their tails between their legs. The economy can withstand for a long period of time long strikes in individual unions or individual companies. John L. Lewis, in his own way, recognizes this problem and by a series of stoppages hopes to reduce the oversupply coal and so strengthen his bargaining position. But generally speaking, it is a difficult task to take workers out every Monday and Thursday, so to speak, and still keep morale high.

It is becoming increasingly clear that on the economic field the days of guerrilla warfare are over. Labor must now move more than ever like an army, in close collaboration. Industry must be given to understand that it faces a paralysis of the economic life of the country. If it refuses to bargain and grant concessions to labor, then nothing will move. Concerted action like this will have the effect of shortening and sharpening

the future struggles without the debilitating effect of long-drawn-out struggles of a separate character.

Militants must demand that the CIO move on a national basis in the fourth-round wage struggles. A Fourth-Round Congress of the CIO should be the slogan of militants in the trade unions.

UNION LEADERS HOWLING

The impossibility of the Fair Deal ever being realized is becoming clear to all, even the labor bureaucracy. Read through CIO literature and you will see how the bureaucrats howl. The Advance Amalgamated Clothing Workers organ, howls that it is being betrayed on the minimum law act. Murray complains also. Labor expects nothing from the 81st Congress. But despite all this, they cling to the policy of supporting "friendly" candidates of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The crying need today is for a labor party, not just to satisfy some "idealists," but for the very existence and protection of the labor movement. Militants must demand that their economic gains be protected politically by their own party. Trade unions by themselves are no longer enough. The growing unemployment menace cannot be met on the picket line.

It can only be met by a labor Congress in Washington which will make it its business to get jobs for all who want to work at decent wages and conditions. A labor Congress can begin to provide housing, medical aid, etc., and all the other basic needs of the workers. Yet this kind of labor government is labeled impractical, while the official labor movement—with its "practical" policy—produces an impotent Congress.

For the sake of its very life labor must begin the only practical work politically possible today—to organize its own labor party.

Is That Good?

"I feel very strongly that charity is an essential part of a free enterprise system, in contrast to socialism."—Senator Robert A. Taft, in testimony before Senate Labor Committee against the administration health program.

Taft's partly right. Charity implies the existence of enough paupers to make it necessary.

Bank Favors the Left!

The office of the attorney general is undoubtedly overworked nowadays, what with so many subversive lists to cook up, but here's something for it to look into:

The Trade Bank and Trust Company of New York is advertising a left-handed checkbook.

Mystery Explained

Headline over Washington news item in the New York Times, June 14: "General Bull Named to New Post." He certainly gets around the nation's capital—seems to be everywhere.

Spurt Pushes Fund Drive Near Goal

18 Units Reach or Top Quotas; Lagging Units Promise Last-Week Effort

By YETTA BARSH

Fund Drive Director
JUNE 13—With one more collection report to be made, the receipts in the Independent Socialist League Fund Drive to date total \$11,371.33—81 per cent of the goal. Fourteen of the 30 units participating in the drive have reached the 100 per cent mark or gone over it, and the other four have exceeded the over-all percentage of 81.

The following reached their quotas during the past week:
Buffalo sent in \$235, which brought

it over its \$1,000 quota by \$125 (113 per cent) and thus took a long step forward toward its new goal of \$1,200. New York City fulfilled its promise by sending in \$212, thus exceeding its \$4,000 quota by a few dollars. Our New York City comrades advise us that they have put on a drive to raise special additional funds during the next week. They expect that this will result in the collection of more than \$350 which they will be able to report on before the next summary. New York continues to surprise us by its effort in the drive!

Oregon, which makes its first appearance in this week's report, sent in its full quota of \$50. San Francisco exceeded its quota by \$19, having raised a total of \$69. The San Francisco Fund Drive director, who has been working hard at the job, tells us that we may expect additional funds.

Youngstown completed its \$100 quota by sending in \$80 during the past week, together with word that it is possible that we will be receiving a bit more during the week.

Cleveland is just shy of 100 per cent. Its last \$25 contribution raised its total to \$394 (99 per cent). Chicago hit the 90 per cent point with its last \$239.75 and expects to exceed the \$1500 quota before the last report is made.

Both Philadelphia and St. Louis continue to oversubscribe their quotas; the former has sent in an additional \$27 (and there is word that more is coming), and the latter has sent in an additional \$8.

OVER \$1500 IN ONE WEEK

The Socialist Youth League units continue to head the list. The Manhattan SYL has now exceeded its \$50 quota by \$56 (211 per cent). Chicago SYL sent in an additional \$850, bringing its total to \$199.50. Bronx SYL and Brooklyn SYL each sent in \$4, raising their percentages to 184 and 124, respectively. The last \$8 contribution from the Buffalo SYL increased its percentage to 120. The Berkeley SYL hit the 50 per cent mark during the week with another \$5 contribution. The SYL, which had quotas totalling \$350, has to date raised a total of \$544.25—\$194.25 over the top.

Los Angeles sent in a sizable contribution of \$147.36 and thus jumped to 51 per cent. West Virginia raised its total to \$93 (74 per cent).

Pittsburgh, which has thus far sent in only a total of \$5, writes to assure us that during the course of this week we will be receiving an additional \$50, which will put it over the top.

The National Office succeeded in raising an additional \$290—bringing its total up to \$905 (60 per cent).

We are still expecting final word from Akron, Seattle, Baltimore and Indiana.

The collections for the past week total \$1501.61.

Branch	Quota	Received	Per Cent
Manhattan SYL	\$50	\$106	211
Chicago SYL	100	200	200
Bronx SYL	50	92	184
St. Louis	50	81	162
Brooklyn SYL	50	62	124
Buffalo SYL	50	60	120
Buffalo	1000	1125	113
Philadelphia	400	427	107
San Francisco	800	819	102
New York City	4000	4003	100
Oregon	50	50	100
Reading	100	100	100
Streator	25	25	100
Youngstown	100	100	100
Cleveland	400	374	94
Chicago	1500	1350	90
Detroit	600	519	87
Newark	300	251	84
West Virginia	125	93	74
National Office	1500	905	60
Boston	100	52	52
Los Angeles	900	254	51
Akron	200	100	50
Berkeley SYL	50	25	50
Labor Action and New Int'l	150	68	45
Seattle	300	80	27
Connecticut	50	10	20
Pittsburgh	50	5	10
Baltimore	200	16	8
Indiana	100	0	0
Miscellaneous	626	—	—
TOTALS	\$14,000	\$11,372	81

customary to eliminate all overtime in efforts to maintain a five-day week.

When Local 107 membership voted at the May membership meetings to apply these customary procedures to the steam division operation in the current period, it was realized that management would have to reschedule work assignments somewhat in certain "service" operations such as plant protection and maintenance. This rescheduling, although involving some additional cost to the corporation, was no insurmountable task and the plan of work-sharing operated for a brief period on an over-all basis in the steam division, just as it had been operating in some departments for several months.

It appears that the company is using the issue to sow dissension in the ranks of the union in the period immediately preceding the 1949 wage negotiations.

At the local membership meeting on June 7 several departments protested that the "share-the-work" plan was proving impossible in operation. This was the first serious indication

that the company was deliberately sabotaging the agreement.

The abusive statement by George Morgan to the General Committee on Thursday verified the union's analysis. The official statement of the union on the question of responsibility for the dispute reads:

"Management rightfully expects to deal with responsible unions. This union, in turn, has a right to expect to deal with an honest and responsible management. When agreements are reached by both parties in negotiations, the company must live up to its promises too, and not instruct its foremen to do everything possible to hamstring and deviate from them."

Until several months ago Local 107 had few problems of unemployment and work shortage. Increasing production in aviation gas turbine took up the developing slack in steam turbine, heat exchanger, and condenser, production and sales. As the work load decreased in some sections those concerned voted to reduce the work week and share the work. The company went along on these plans.

Then the work shortage became more general and rumors of greater cutbacks began to circulate. The union then asked Westinghouse for a statement of its outlook and proposed the institution of a five-day work week schedule (thus eliminating the small amount of work still being done on weekends). In an eight-page reply D. W. R. Morgan, vice-president in charge of the works, rejected the union proposal and drew an extremely gloomy picture of future expectations, including a 35 per cent layoff by the end of 1949.

Over 1000 members of the local then voted almost unanimously to force the company to eliminate overtime (no more than a total of 75 or 80 hours work in a two-week period) in the steam division. The company at first agreed and then reneged, forcing the local to enforce its original proposal for five-day operations by week-end picketing.

Picketing will continue on week-ends until the company is once again willing to negotiate the issue.

More on Philadelphia Labor—

SKF Steelworkers End Lockout-Strike

PHILADELPHIA, June 12—The membership of Local 2898 of the United Steelworkers of America (CIO) voted almost unanimously today to accept a contract from the SKF Industries which granted them certain security demands and improvements in the grievance procedure but denied any immediate wage increase.

This vote ended a lockout which began on May 18. The new contract runs to August 16, 1950, with a clause permitting reopening of negotiations on the wage issue any time after September 15. The 2200 workers will begin returning to work tomorrow.

The "lockout" was claimed by the union since the company rejected every offer of the union to extend the old contract while negotiations remained in session.

The history of labor unionism at SKF has been a stormy one. The company smashed one union in 1934 and in recent years the Steelworkers have had two previous strikes. After the 1945 strike the SKF Industries sued the union for \$2 million but withdrew the suit. Thus the fact that the strike ended with the union intact is in the nature of a union victory.

SOME DEMANDS WON

The most important union demand (excepting, of course, the contract extension) was that the company foot the bill on the grievance procedure. The new contract provides that the company will pay this expense for the next six months to "see how it

works." Local President Joseph P. Cannon had reported to the CIO Union Council that the local had been seriously drained financially by the company forcing the union into arbitration on even very minor grievances. Cannon estimated that the new arrangement would save the union \$12,000 a year. The union had also demanded a "substantial wage increase."

The other gains included another holiday (Election Day), bringing the total to seven; a system of life, accident and sickness insurance costing the company 4 1/2 cents per worker per hour, and an improved seniority

plan. The gains will enable the local to be in a fair position to bargain in September if a new wage pattern is established in steel. The local settlement, however, admittedly does little to establish a favorable new pattern.

The strike-lockout was well supported by the membership and the CIO in the area and just as bitterly opposed by the company. During the first few days of the stoppage, mass picketing barred the gates of the two plants; but after SKF got an injunction to prevent this type of picketing the union had to admit supervisory and office employees.

INTERESTED? Get acquainted with the Independent Socialist League

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YOUTH and Student CORNER

By JULIUS FALK, National Secretary SYL

There is a perceptible decline in the self-assurance of today's college student.

A recent survey conducted among some of the nation's leading industrial firms indicates that the downward trend in unemployment will hit hard at the new crop of college graduates.

Although the student remains apathetic to politics, there is every reason to believe that this growing insecurity on the job front, when mixed with the present drive on academic freedom and the increasing pressures of a developing war economy, will shock the American student back into the political world.

But in what organizations will these disillusioned students find a political home for themselves? The Communist Party will, no doubt, put in a heavy bid.

Based on Anti-War Program of Third Camp

A significant step was made last month towards the development of this needed Third Camp on campus with the formation of the New York Student Federation Against War.

This New York federation begins as an anti-war student movement in name and in program. This is quite different from the manner in which militant student organizations were initiated in the '30s.

However, this is to a large extent a formal difference when compared to the recently organized N. Y. federation. The National Student League's character was determined in life, not in written program.

One important reason why the NSL could develop this anti-war popularity without narrowing itself programatically was that it began in New York with hundreds of active members of the Young Communist League on campus, and the YCL, in turn, had the sympathy of wide sections of the student body.

The New York Student Federation Against War was formed under different conditions. It began with the support of seven or eight student clubs, each of which is relatively small in numbers and influences.

Will Publish Quarterly Student Magazine

The only way that it can establish itself as a Third Camp force on campus is through its program and propaganda. Therefore, the program of the Federation is weighted in the anti-war direction and anti-war political requirements for affiliation are provided in its constitution.

It must also be remembered that there are any number of student organizations today which would resemble the New York Federation if that Federation were not of an anti-war character.

Here too, the small size of the Federation is the drawback. The Federation would not have to worry about formally duplicating the other student organizations if it were large enough to make itself felt in action as a fighter for student rights and an opponent of war preparations, thereby permitting it to retain a broader political foundation.

As a propaganda force (which does not mean abstaining from political action) the Federation plans to establish itself through its projected quarterly magazine and meetings on a local and city-wide level.

The Federation is counting heavily on its ability to publish a magazine. This magazine would not only present the opinions of the Federation but is designed to become in part a literary forum on campus in which conflicting points of view can be expressed from within and without the Federation.

A successful magazine will virtually assure the success of the Federation in the coming period. And a successful Federation in the coming period will open up the possibility of re-creating a broad student movement against war which will make itself felt on campus and in American life in general.

Wallace Circus Comes to Berkeley

BERKELEY, Cal.—On Wednesday, May 11, the Wallace troupe showed up at the University of California. The group which spoke under Young Progressive auspices included the following: Mrs. Paul Robeson; Michele Giua, a "left wing" (i. e., pro-Stalinist socialist senator from Italy); H. Lester Hutchinson, member of the British Parliament; and, of course, the Common Man himself.

The main theme of the meeting was the usual whitewash and eulogy of the Russian totalitarian system. The present drive towards war was analyzed as being the SOLE responsibility of the "American-imperialist-Vatican-fascist bloc."

"This 'make the UN work' line of the meeting was followed by the announcement of the formation on campus of a new Stalinist front group for Peace Through the UN. The mood of the vast majority of the several thousand who attended the meeting was apathetic.

The meeting revealed the utter bankruptcy of the Wallace movement. Politically, it proved itself once again to be a thinly disguised mask for the Communist Party. Organizationally, despite the large attendance, the apathy of the audience and the sparseness of Wallace supporters indicated the steep decline of the Wallace movement on campus.

Chicago SYL Sponsors—

Howe, Mayer, Rago in Debate On Ezra Pound Controversy

By GENE GREENBERG

CHICAGO—"Should the Bollingen Prize have been awarded to Ezra Pound?" Was the topic for a symposium-lawn party, attended by 150 students, faculty members and others in Chicago.

Controversy has raged over the award of the \$1,000 Bollingen Prize to Ezra Pound, fascist, anti-Semite and supporter of Mussolini, for his Pisan Cantos, which admittedly contains anti-Semitic passages.

SEES BAD PRECEDENT

Mr. Rago claimed that the Pisan Cantos were of such amorphous structure as to make the anti-Semitic remarks insignificant digressions, and therefore the poem itself not an anti-Semitic one.

BOOK REVIEW

"How Secure These Rights?" Examines Types of Race Prejudice

HOW SECURE THESE RIGHTS? Anti-Semitism in the United States in 1948, by Ruth G. Weintraub, published by Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y., 1948, \$2.00.

Miss Weintraub's book, How Secure These Rights, is the report of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination in the United States during 1948.

Miss Weintraub's social bookkeeping seems impeccable. Nevertheless, if the year 1948 can be placed on the credit side of the ledger, then a year on the debit side means that the struggle for civil rights is so low that those waging the struggle must reach up to touch bottom.

Since the prejudices generating discrimination are of three types: religious, national and racial, a single person can be discriminated against for one or all these types of prejudice. Consequently, the ugly patterns

think the Pisan Cantos is great."

In addition, Mr. Rago stated, "The Bollingen award was given for the Cantos, not for the poet. . . . If we begin censoring anti-Semitic writings we might set a precedent for more and more suppression of literary work.

Milton Mayer's position was similar to that of Professor Rago's. "Refusal to award Pound the prize is an open and shut case of suppression. If the poems were the best in the English language in the period at bar, it would seem that the essence of suppression and dishonesty is involved in the refusal to recognize them."

"Objectively subject matter is not important—the subject matter of Oedipus Rex is objectionable. The reason it is reprehensible is the attitude it takes toward the subject matter—an anti-Semitic one toward Jews, Judaism and Jewish history.

Irving Howe disagreed with Mr.

Rago's contention that the poetry is not anti-Semitic. "Anti-Semitism, especially in connection with usury, is one of the major themes cutting through the Cantos, and it is precisely because of the amorphous structure that each 'digression' becomes important. . . . Pound does not use anti-Semitism merely as a literary stereotype, as do many other poets, but as a topic for outright emotional ranting."

"HUMAN CANNIBALISM"

"Awarding the Bollingen Prize extends the hand of public fraternity between the judges and Pound. It would have been preferable to mention the high quality of parts of the Cantos but not to award the prize. This would not be censoring the poetry, but the act would show a refusal to take responsibility for the poet or the poem. . . . I will never condemn a poet for actions which are part of personal human frailty or a matter of doctrine—these have limited repercussions. Anti-Semitism, however, is a question of human cannibalism and a sharp distinction must be made between the two. I, a human being and intellectual, cannot honor Pound, advocate of human cannibalism."

An animated question period was followed by refreshments. Although the locale of the debate was an inconvenient one, the audience was unusually large and interested. Interest in the meeting brought promises from many to attend further discussions sponsored by the SYL.

Bodossakis

TRUMAN DOCTRINE DOLLARS TO GREECE FLOW INTO COFFERS OF GREEK TYCOON

By M. STEVENS

When one reads of the poverty and wretchedness of the Greek people, it is difficult to believe that fabulously wealthy men also live in that country.

A great deal of the money being supplied by the United States government to Greece at the present time is going into Bodossakis coffers. According to the magazine, Business Week (April 30), he is now planning to build an oil refinery with Marshall Plan money.

Bodossakis and his classmates now have a problem. The Moscow-controlled guerrilla movement in Greece is no longer a real threat to the present Greek government. If the guerrilla movement is wiped out completely, American financial aid will not pour in as extensively and as freely as it does now. This possibility does not make Bodossakis very happy.

One can be assured, however, that he and his friends will do everything (and we mean everything) they can to keep the easy money rolling in as long as possible. Even after the Truman money is cut down, Bodossakis will make millions, but at a much slower pace. Bodossakis and his ilk control and finance politicians of five or six of the major parties. The laws they make are in his favor. For example, he and the other industrialists pay NO income tax on the huge profits of their corporations or on their personal incomes.

STARTED AS APPRENTICE MERCHANT OF DEATH

Born in Asia Minor, about 60 years ago, Bodossakis very early in life became an agent for the fabulous arms merchant, Sir Basil Zaharoff, and during World War I supplied arms and munitions to Turkey. During the Greek-Turkish war in 1922-23 he sold arms and munitions to both sides.

When the Young Turks took power in Turkey, they forced more than one million Greeks in Turkey back to Greece. Bodossakis was among those returned.

In Greece, he first engaged in Stock Exchange transactions. Later he founded the Helios (Sun) Corporation for importing wheat from Russia, and then purchased the Myrsiniotis Munitions Works. By 1933 he had swept up the Greek textile industry. Today he has three textile mills operating under the name of the Greek Textile Company. During the Spanish Civil War he sold arms and munitions to both Franco and the Loyalists.

It was commonly known in Greece, in all political circles, that Bodossakis was handling the financial affairs of King George of Greece, and that the king had a direct and financial interest in all of Bodossakis' enterprises. And here, perhaps, lies part of the story for Bodossakis' wealth and power.

An oft-repeated story of the Spanish Civil War period, by persons who claim to have been accomplices and by marine-insurance representatives, is that many of Bodossakis' ships supposedly loaded with arms bound for Spain were actually carrying rocks. These ships were sunk or blown up on the way to Spain for the purpose of collecting insurance claims. We do not know the story-tellers well enough to vouch for this story. Bodossakis' life before and after these events, however, makes him suspect.

Bodossakis was part of the clique that put into power the Greek fascist regime of Metaxas. By the time the Spanish Civil War was over, Bodossakis was busy making profits in arms and munitions to the Greek army for its war with Italy, and then more profits in arms to the British forces in the Middle East.

OCOTOPUS OF GREEK INDUSTRY

When Germany invaded Greece, Bodossakis came to New York where he openly told newspaper reporters that he was here to look after the personal interests of King George. While in New York he stayed at the Waldorf-Astoria where he was in daily touch with the wealthy shipowners of Greece who had also come to the United States and were busy contacting politicians in Washington with their suggestions for post-war Greece.

Today Bodossakis has in Greece, in addition to the holding mentioned earlier in this article: the Ethel Rubber Company, making clothing and rubber shoes; Lipasmata Company, the chemical fertilizer monopoly; Vasiliades Company, shipyards; Greek Powder & Cartridge Company, largest powder plant and biggest machine shop in the Middle East; Greek Wine and Spirits Company, with 33 wineries.

He is also a director of the biggest bank in Greece. He owns pyrite and lignite mines. His glass factory produces 99 per cent of the country's glass. He also has his finger in many smaller companies which he does not control completely. (But give him and the king a little time—with American support they should not have too much difficulty remedying this latter defect.)

Bodossakis' American agent and advisor is none other than Buell Maben, the former UNRRA chief for Greece. Maben has a lot of confidence in Bodossakis' ability to pull through. Maben is quoted in the issue of Business Week mentioned earlier, as saying: "Bodossakis has lost more millions in the past quarter of a century than I have years. But he's got all of them back."

That's where the millions of Truman Doctrine dollars are going. It is because of Bodossakis and his kind in Greece that the people of that country are poverty-stricken and so desperate that they continue to fight even under the leadership of the same Communist Party which has betrayed them so often.

When the workers and peasants of Greece develop their own independent socialist movement, they will wipe away Bodossakis and the system that breeds his kind.

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Labor Candidate - -

(Continued from page 1)

overnight. It can, however, be made to serve the idea of independent political labor action, forcefully and effectively.

We repeat: the strength of the Liberal Party rests exclusively on its union support. That is why we say it has an obligation to run a LABOR CANDIDATE.

The rank and file of the unions in the Liberal Party, and of the union movement outside it, would respond to such a campaign almost to a man. Of that, we do not see how there can be any doubt. And if the union leaders who run the Liberal Party do not see that, it is up to the ranks who are in the Liberal Party through union affiliation to make them see it.

By a LABOR CANDIDATE we mean a candidate who will appear as the representative of labor. We do not mean any ordinary big-party politician who somehow possesses a union card or a liberal reputation. We mean a man from the labor movement, running on a labor platform, striding into the campaign as labor's champion, and no bones about it.

Should the Liberal Party assume that role in the coming election, it could genuinely advance labor's interest. And by doing that it would become a force—a real one, not the "clever" little power machine it is now. What this would mean in terms of national politics is inestimable. The mayor's job in New York City is often considered the second most important administrative-political job in the country, second only to the presidency of the United States. An independent labor campaign by the Liberal Party for a LABOR CANDIDATE would speed by years the development of an independent labor political movement in the country.

There is no reason why it should not assume that role. It has to answer to no one but the union membership which make up its strength. We hope it will have to answer that membership by naming a LABOR CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY.



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Re-entered at Second-Class Matter, May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1874.

CP Defense --

(Continued from page 1)
 opposition to capitalism and American imperialism.

For some time the Stalinists had nothing to say about the specific charges, as contained, for example, in articles in the Times by Harry Schwartz. O'Connor expresses this when he says that at first Schwartz's articles seemed to be based on a scholarly reading of the Russian press. (Their silence was no doubt also based on fear: Who knows? maybe it's all more than true. . . . Remember Duclos' bombshell. . . .)

But a boner by Schwartz in the Times gave them courage to raise a dust-cloud. Schwartz reported that Krokodil (Russian humor magazine) had used the offensive term "Zhid" (a derogatory form of "Jew") in a cartoon. It turned out that this was a transliteration of "Gide"—André Gide, the French writer—and the Daily Worker made hay, without taking up the other charges. The incident indicated, at any rate, that this boner was the only charge they were ABLE to answer.

TWO LINES OF APOLOGY

The Morning Freiheit (CP Jewish-language newspaper in New York) now admits the dissolution of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. But while they proclaim that they have no pipeline to Moscow, their writers assure us that some new organization will be set up—after a lapse of eight months during which two million Jews had NO organization.

And this new organization will not be set up by the Jewish people in Russia but by the same government which dissolved the others. It will in no sense be an organization of the Jewish people, a representative of them, but only a sop to allay protest and a straitjacket to keep them in line.

As to the fall from grace of all leading Yiddish writers, the Stalinists maintain absolute silence: this despite the fact that Gropper (of the Freiheit) is in Moscow and is writing dispatches from there.

In the May 13 issue of the Freiheit, Novick published a lengthy article containing two main lines of apologies. The first emphasizes that Jews still occupy some positions of importance in Russia. The second claims that there is no anti-Semitic bias involved in the practice of giving the real names of Jewish writers in parentheses when they are accused of "cosmopolitanism."

PEN NAMES AND REAL NAMES

While not saying so, Novick gives the impression that it is common practice in Russia to give real names after pen names. He cites one non-Jew, Kalos, whose real name is thus given in the Stalin awards for 1948. (George Fowler, a student of Russian affairs, found about eight such cases.) In these exceptional cases, the real name probably did serve the purpose of identification, since there is reason to believe that they were known to their audience under their original name.

Novick also digs up a Jewish writer who is listed by his real name with his pen name given in parentheses. It seems there is no difference to Novick when a name is given for the sake of identification, and when it is given to brand an accused person in order to associate him with the "crime" of "cosmopolitanism."

Novick claims to have counted 65 Jewish names among the award winners.

Pickets Put Beck in Peck of Court Trouble

By VINCENT S. WHEELON

LOS ANGELES, June 11—While Dave Beck, West Coast Teamster Union head, stoges for West Coast industry by raiding other crafts and negotiating low-scale contracts for his captive workers, developments in his current tangle with Southern California AFL Retail Clerk locals indicate that he may have already broken his pick. Observers agree his bullheadedness will make it almost impossible for employer-friends to save him.

Recently Beck demanded that Los Angeles Retail Clerks Local 770 turn over at least one member in every organized grocery store and supermarket to be designated by the teamsters as the only worker authorized to check in merchandise delivered by trucks. When the clerks elected to fight back, Beck's henchmen posted pickets at the rear entrances of these establishments and halted deliveries from warehouses. The grocery workers countered by placing pickets at the store fronts and filing a million-dollar suit for damages against Beck and his top California lieutenants.

Finding themselves caught in a bind and apparently surprised by the toughness of the food-sellers' local, the employers ditched King David and ran for cover. They scamped into court to obtain restraining orders forbidding picketing by both unions and compelling the teamsters to deliver goods from wholesalers. These court actions will hold the labor spotlight in California during June.

Meanwhile Beck is in hot water here also with the International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. These unions have obtained injunctions against each other in a war over the installation and maintenance of juke boxes. Attorneys for the IBEW link the teamsters with Joseph (Sugar Joe) Peskin, big-time Chicago juke-box operator. The court has slapped a "show cause" order on him because he refused to answer questions about his background. Police have been seeking a Los Angeles restaurant owner who turned up missing. After his cafe at nearby Sherman Oaks was bombed, a teamster business agent said the restaurateur had been threatened.

ONLY BEGINNING

Novick claims that Jews with Jewish names have not been ELIMINATED from Russian life, because they occupy some important positions. But no one has as yet charged total elimination and exclusion. The fact is that Russian anti-Semitism is fairly recent and only in its beginnings.

LABOR ACTION of April 11 went out of its way to emphasize that point: "It is NOW when Stalinist anti-Semitism is only in its beginnings that a vigorous protest and publicity can be most effective and perhaps prevent a full-blown development of Stalinist anti-Semitism."

The pro-Stalinist party in Israel, Mapam, has not yet reacted in writing to the new developments, as far as we have so far seen. But Mapam's Jacobi reports a conversation with an American representative. He admitted that Jews in Russia were being shunted from positions of influence.

But he maintained that, while in the U.S. this would be a manifestation of anti-Semitism, in Russia the government was doing this in order to protect the Jews. How does this protect the Jews? It avoids provoking anti-Semitism by keeping the Jews out of the public eye, etc.

No prosecutor could object to such a defense.

IGNORANCE AND HEAT

The apologia in the Daily Compass is the longest and presumably the most complete. Tom O'Connor's ignorance of the subject is, of course, an advantage for him. He can generate heat where even the Stalinists dare only tread lightly. Everybody (with the exception of the SLP's newspaper, the Weekly People, which has repeated the Stalinist line about the "hoax" of Russian anti-Semitism, without going into the facts at all)—everybody who has read these articles, including writers in the Jewish press who AGREE with O'Connor, have labeled his production "non-sense."

O'Connor's general tenor is: Does not the Soviet constitution outlaw anti-Semitism? Didn't Stalin HIMSELF denounce anti-Semitism in 1937?

This, of course, need not even be taken seriously as a defense. Using that kind of evidence, one can prove that complete free speech and political democracy exist in all departments of Russian life. By the same token one could prove that no racial discrimination can exist in the U.S.—doesn't the Declaration of Independence declare that "All men are created equal," doesn't the Constitution have a Bill of Rights, and don't the leaders of the U.S. denounce intolerance?

(Incidentally, Stalin's quoted pronouncement against anti-Semitism was solely for export. The statement was made to, and published in, the FOREIGN press in 1931, but NO Russian ever saw it until five years later in 1936, when the propaganda war between Russia and the Nazis made it usable.)

(To be continued next week)

Literary Note

"John Dos Passos, who some time ago switched to free enterprise, has a new job. The famous American novelist and one-time arch-critic of the American system has been hired by General Mills, Inc., to write an 'objective and human' story on the company's varied activities."—Business Week, June 11.

Next step up the ladder of fame is to star in a Wheaties advertisement.

Scandal in Illinois Throws Light on Political Line of Some Labor Leaders—

Union Officials Secretly on Repub Payroll

By JACK RANGER

CHICAGO, June 13—As a flash of lightning illuminates a violent landscape, so the recent revelation of the Illinois labor scandal reveals one powerful reason why labor in the United States has no independent political power.

A few days ago the St. Louis Post-Dispatch—a Democratic paper which has been carrying on a feud with the Chicago Tribune, chief support of the former Green Republican administration in Illinois—uncovered the fact that a number of AFL and railroad union officials in Illinois were on the payroll of the Green machine to the extent of \$124,793.

Since the Green machine in Illinois was succeeded by a Democratic machine last November, several interesting revelations about Green's administration have come to light. A few weeks ago, the same St. Louis paper revealed that 51 editors, publishers and columnists in Illinois were paid a total of nearly \$500,000 from the state treasury during Green's tenure in office.

Most of the top union officials involved, it was revealed, were secretly receiving pay from the state Republican machine—one of the most reactionary wings of the national Republican Party—without the knowledge of their own executive boards or union memberships. Most of the union payrollers were listed as "investigators" for the state labor department or the attorney general's office.

The scandal is all the more sickening when one recalls that, 30 years ago, after the First World War, the union movement in this state was one of the most progressive, politically, in the entire AFL. The Chicago Federation of Labor was then in the forefront of the movement to build a new national labor party.

HE HAD A LITTLE LIST

The list of labor traitors reaches right up to the top of the Illinois Federation of Labor, and reads like a Who's Who of Illinois labor leadership. Here are some of the Judases:

(1) John H. Walker, former president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, drew \$200 a month from September 1, 1945 to December 31, 1948—\$8,000 in all—as a Labor Department "field investigator."

(2) Carl Soderstrom, attorney and son of Reuben Soderstrom, president of the State Federation of Labor, was paid \$7,561 as a labor conciliator between January 1947 and January 1949. Soderstrom has refused to discuss his state job.

(3) Earl J. McMahon of Chicago, secretary-treasurer of the state federation and secretary of the Chicago Building Trades Council, collected \$4,575 from 1944 to 1946 from the Green-Chicago Tribune machine. McMahon was first carried on the state payroll as a "clerk in the office of the superintendent of public instruction," later as a Labor Department investigator.

Asked if his state job had any connection with the support he gave to Governor Green's third-term candidacy, McMahon said, "I should say not. I supported a lot of Democrats too."

Asked if he supported the idea of labor's building its own political party, independent of and opposed to the two old parties, McMahon said, "Gracious, no."

ENDS ON BOSS'S PAYROLL

(4) Louis Rodier, president of the Springfield Building and Construction Trades Council, skipped out of town when the secret was revealed that he had taken \$11,000 from the Republican Green machine, at \$250 a month. He was down as an "investigator for the attorney general."

"None of us knew Rodier was on the state payroll and members didn't like it when they found it out," said Earl Welch, council secretary. "There hasn't been an election of officers around here for quite a while."

(5) One of the labor traitors has wound up in a cushy job with an em-

For the Defense

According to a Canadian Press interviewer with Franco, Spain's fascist dictator "made a point-by-point reply to criticism abroad on his regime."

"Franco said Spain had a better habeas corpus law than many countries. There were no more prisoners in Spanish jails now than at any other period in Spanish history."

The period of the Spanish Inquisition, for instance. . . .

Brain Twister

Finance Minister Abbott of Canada gave the lowdown on depressions in a speech on May 27. They're not inevitable, he said, "but they become inevitable if enough people believe they are inevitable."

The inevitable question arises: is it inevitable that people think they're inevitable? And do people inevitably think they're inevitable because they ARE inevitable or because people are inevitably inclined to think they are inevitable?

You might have an easier time with another question: Do people die because they think death is inevitable, or because something goes wrong with their SYSTEM?

ployer, after having worked for Green at \$360 a month in 1948. While on the Green payroll, this union official was "settling" strikes in southern Illinois, supposedly in the interests of the workers involved. He is Joseph Hodges, president of the Peoria Building and Construction Trades Council. Hodges liked working for the enemies of labor so much that he wound up as business manager of a road contracting firm.

(6) John Brenton of East St. Louis, business agent and secretary of the Tri-County Carpenters District Council, said that his executive board actually approved his taking \$300 a month from the Green machine. The Carpenters Union is headed nationally by William Hutchison, one of the few labor leaders who has been openly identified with the Republican Party.

(7) Another official of the Carpenters Union who served the Green-Chicago Tribune interests rather than those of the working class is Jack Ellis of Kewanee, business agent of Local 154. When uncovered as a Green pigeon, Ellis blustered that "I did it more or less as a patriotic duty since I had three boys in the service and the work was mostly with veterans." Ellis was listed as an investigator for the Department of Labor. Green must have liked his service because Ellis was raised from \$150 a month to \$213.

(8) A number of Dan Tobin's Teamsters Union officials were pie for the Green bribery. Guy Anthony, business agent of a Teamsters Union local, drew \$200 a month as "investigator for the attorney general." An assistant in the attorney general's office recalls that "Long was in and out a good deal and did a lot of investigating." Long continued to hold his union job while on the state payroll. He left town when his perfidy was uncovered.

(9) Herbert C. Wagner of the DeKalb County Teamsters Union took \$6,140 of Green's payroll money from 1944 to 1948. He "couldn't be reached for comment."

(10) David O. Sark, president of the Chicago Municipal Teamsters Union, was "field investigator" in the state Labor Department at \$200 a month. He "couldn't be reached for comment."

"NATURALLY" FOR GREEN

(11) The late Leonard A. Murphy of Rockford, secretary of the General Drivers Union Local 325, took \$11,198 from 1942 to 1948.

(12) While Thomas Roe was pretending to represent the interests of the Order of Railway Conductors as legislative chief of Springfield, he was slipped \$11,518 from the Green machine—as "investigator" for the highway division at \$204 a month. Roe is refusing to answer telephoned questions as to his queer concept of loyalty to organized labor.

Berlin Strike Goes On —

(Continued from page 1)

tlement plan, guaranteeing 75 per cent of pay in West marks and no Russian reprisal against strikers, arrived at by the Western occupation powers, to a vote by the rank and file of the strikers.

It appears likely now that the rank and file, under extreme pressure of the occupying powers and their own trade-union leaders will accept the compromise plan and that the strike which began in the Western sectors of Berlin at midnight, May 20, is to come to an end early Wednesday morning, June 15.

The mere fact that the local leaders refuse to take the responsibility of ending the strike on their own says so is a most dramatic indication of the unfurling militant mood displayed by the Berlin railway workers throughout the strike. And although the strike will end as a result of top-level negotiations between the Russian and Western occupying powers, it can be chalked up as a most important (if still only partial) victory for the Berlin workers, even though their most important demands have not been met.

It is important to realize that the Russian railway administration has had to make unprecedented concessions to the demands of the striking Western railway workers, and that these concessions are a tribute to the unswerving fighting spirit of the Berlin workers. Equally important (and already commented on in an earlier LABOR ACTION story on the strike) is the blow to the prestige of the Russian occupying power and to the German Stalinists which has been achieved by this strike.

EXPERIENCED STRIKEBREAKERS

After the violence of the first week of the strike, marked by mass rioting of Berlin workers in support of the demand of the Western sector railway workers that their wages be paid in West marks instead of in the inflated Eastern sector currency, the Russian administration began strike-breaking tactics with a familiarity bred of long experience.

First they announced that the

(13) Thomas F. O'Connor, business agent of the Peoria Bartenders Union, was on the Green payroll for \$8,374. He had the odd assignment of keeping Green's Labor Department informed about the TP&W rail strike, a strike in which several pickets were murdered by company gunmen near Peoria. Asked if he was in favor of Green for governor, O'Connor said, "Naturally."

(14) John Bateman of Murphysboro, business agent of Plumbers & Steamfitters Union Local 160, received \$150 a month from the labor-hating Green machine. "I was a sort of investigator and conciliator for the Labor Department," said Bateman. "I was told they would call on me but they never did."

(15) Lester Mason, business agent of the Springfield Bricklayers Union, was really in the dough, drawing \$400 a month as "mason foreman" on Secretary of State Rowe's payroll. "I really worked every day, making repairs on tile, brick and stone at the State House," insisted Mason.

THEY'RE AGAINST LABOR PARTY

Each one of these union officials who, it is now revealed, has secretly been dipping into the Republican Party pork-barrel, is conspicuously identified with the "business" type of craft unionism. All are conservative, indifferent to lack of democracy within the union movement, and viciously opposed to the movement for an independent labor party.

WORKERS CAUGHT IN MIDDLE

The Republican Union regime wished to behead the planned rebellion and deported the main of the Miners Federation (Lechin, Torres, etc.), which at the time was affiliated with the MNR. As the MNR had foreseen such a move, it had previously prepared a counterstrike, ordering a general strike and the seizure of the American and other engineers as hostages.

Lechin's lieutenants cruelly assassinated some victims, while on the other side, the government laid siege to the headquarters of the Miners Federation in order to free the hostages. Both workers and soldiers fell in the fratricidal struggle. Since 500 workers had been taken prisoners, the Miners Federation responded with an armed struggle.

As a demonstration of protest against the military measures and the massacres, the strike was extended to the factories and the railroads, the latter controlled by the Stalinists. The situation is grave but the government seems to have control of the situation.

There is no doubt that the class struggle is the core of the tragic situation—the permanent rebellion of the native proletariat against its national exploiters and against foreign imperialism. But this struggle has been deformed and utilized by the native Nazis in order to take re-

The revelations have shaken the Illinois union movement. While they obviously uncover one of the central motives of American labor leaders in opposing a labor party, they also have dark implications for many other union officials in the United States.

IF—many union members are today asking themselves—a number of union officials in Illinois have for years secretly accepted money from a political machine controlled by our enemies, how about other union leaders? Are they also being bribed by the Republicans or Democrats? Is this why they oppose militant democratic unionism and always spout off so hotly whenever the labor-party question comes up on the floor?

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Bolivian Miners --

(Continued from page 1)

Paz, which is the decisive factor in Bolivian politics. It responded by armed struggle well prepared beforehand, but it was thrown back. Then it drew up a plan of general rebellion, counting on the support of the mining and factory centers where the MNR apparatus is excellently set up, having paid agents, armed groups, etc.

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venge and to return to power. In the struggle between the feudal-bourgeois mine interests and imperialism on one side and the Nazified petty bourgeoisie of the plateau on the other side, the proletariat plays the part of the hired beast of burden for the MNR.

The classic example of this is the policy of the parliamentary deputy, Lora, officially affiliated with the Fourth International, who with almost no reservations supports the Nazi, Lechin, and has become his secretary and counselor. Lora and his friends support the theory of the bourgeois revolution in Bolivia and consider the role of the MNR to be revolutionary. For this reason they have allied themselves with the Nazis against the feudal bourgeoisie. The proletariat pays with blood and massacres for this criminal policy.

INDEPENDENT UNIONS OUT

In the revolutionary socialist circles, attempts were made to prevent the tragedy and disaster which struck the Bolivian proletariat. Independent miners' unions were formed in order to free the mining proletariat from the native Nazi influence. It was all in vain.

The independent union in Catavi was isolated by Lechin's groups and its leaders threatened with death. On the other hand, the Patino enterprise and the government tried to thwart the independent character of the newly created union organization in order to utilize it for their anti-working-class purposes.

Although the independent trade-union movement extended to all the mining centers, it lacked leading working-class elements who were class-conscious and incorruptible, in order to strengthen it and keep it firm against the Nazi terror and the governmental pressure. The growth

of the independent unions was one of the causes compelling the Nazis to act. The threatened liquidation of its base in the mining centers was the equivalent of a death sentence for the MNR.

The Bolivian government headed by the Republican Union Party is a government more of the center than of the bourgeois right, which has paid more respect to the rights of the working-class parties and organizations than did the MNR government headed by Villaroel. But after the armed struggle during the elections in La Paz, it lost its head and proceeded with hasty brutality without really foreseeing the consequences.

PROSPECT THREATENING

Today Bolivia represents a field of open civil struggle between the mining bourgeoisie and the Nazified petty bourgeoisie. The proletariat is the principal army on the side of the MNR. Lora, parliamentary deputy of the POR (Revolutionary Workers Party—Fourth International), has taken his place without reservations in the left wing of the MNR.

We do not know how the struggle will end. But we are afraid that the proletariat will lose whichever way the struggle is resolved. If the Nazi MNR should win, it would lose more than if the government triumphs, because the position of the Bolivian proletariat was always that of opposition both to the Bolivian feudal bourgeoisie, the tool of imperialism, and to the Nazified petty bourgeoisie, the tool of Peronism.

The position of the Bolivian proletariat was always that of advancing its own independent, working-class and socialist point of view for the social and national liberation of Bolivia, for a Socialist Bolivia within a Socialist South America.

June 1949

pious statements of indignation over the Russians' crimes against the rights of labor. However, the foreign ministers of the Big Four were meeting at Paris, and one of the most important points on the agenda, if not the most important, was trade negotiations between Eastern and Western Germany; there could be no talk of resumption of trade while the railwaymen were striking.

A meeting—the first since June 1948—of the four occupying military commandants of Berlin was arranged for June 6. But the Russian commander, Major General Kotikov, rejected the suggestion of the Western powers that he negotiate with the UGO on the basis of the offer of 60 per cent payment in West marks. The general merely said that traffic could be resumed at once if Western German police, who had occupied the western Berlin stations at the time of the mass rioting, were withdrawn; and he again charged that the strike had been caused by "saboteurs and provocateurs" having nothing to do with the workers. The meeting broke up and the strike continued.

Some four days later, more urgent instructions arrived from the Big Four Conference. On June 11, Brigadier General Hawley, U. S. commandant, issued his proposed compromise settlement plan on which the strikers are now asked to vote favorably.

Under the terms of this agreement, the Russian railway administration will pay 60 per cent of wages in West marks, this payment to be upped when fare collections permit. Until it can be determined whether fare collections "permit" this raise, the Western magistrat authorizes the exchange of an additional 15 per cent of wages into West marks. The Russian railway administration will also take no reprisals against railwaymen who participated in the strike.

Under this proposed agreement, no mention is made of recognition of the UGO and although General Hawley adds that he "has received special assurance that no arrests or other punitive measures will be

taken" against the strikers, the strikers with some experience in working for the Russians are less sure.

RUSSIANS JEERED

Although the union leaders rushed to push the proposed settlement, and Ernest Reuter, mayor of Berlin, came to the meeting of the striking railway district leaders to urge them to end the strike so that coal and food could be stockpiled for the winter, the district union leaders therefore refused to end the strike without a membership referendum. They jeered every mention of Russian "guarantees."

When Ernst Scharnowski, president of the union, stooging for the Western allies, asked them why they weren't content to accept the Allied guarantees that there would be no Russian reprisals, why they wouldn't be content at least to test Russian good faith, someone in the jeering audience said, "We will either have been kidnapped or have disappeared."

Under American pressure, however, the strikers may well feel that they have little choice; with their union leaders backing the proposal, they are likely to vote for it, under great pressure and with the greatest reluctance. They know as well that if "trade resumption" becomes an overriding question, they might be sold out on this issue by the West as well.

It is a dilemma inherent in the situation of the occupation. But that too, has been brought home in the course of the strike. One striker said: "If the occupation powers left, we would have no trouble. If all four left, we would have our way."

In the course of this strike, the Berlin workers have felt their strength. It was they who drove Russian police out of the Western sectors. It was they who forced the initial concessions from the Russian authorities. When they all know what some of them know now, that if "all four left, we would have our way" . . . there could be no sellouts. The partial victory of the Berlin railway strikes could become the complete victory of the German working class.