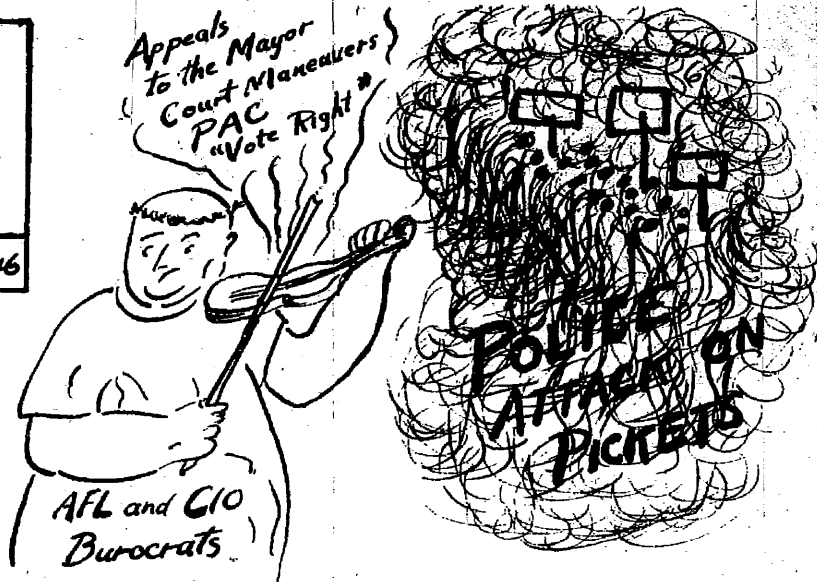


Labor Views

Vol. 1, No. 22

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LABOR'S FIDDLERS



BUROGRATS FIDDLE IN COURTS AND MAYOR'S OFFICE; REJECT CITY-WIDE MASS ACTION AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

THE ENTIRE LABOR HIERARCHY IN CHICAGO HAS PROVED ITSELF COMPLETELY BANKRUPT IN THE FACE OF THE RENEWED BRUTALITY OF CHICAGO POLICE AGAINST WORKERS ON THE STREETS. ON OCTOBER 4TH FIFTY POLICE MADE AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK WITH CLUBS ON TWENTY PICKETS OF UAW LOCAL 453 IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN AUTOMATIC DEVICES CO. AT 530 S. THROOP ST. UNARMED WORKERS WERE BEATEN TO THE GROUND WITH CLUBS, ONE WORKER SINKING to the street with his picket sign still clutched in his hands. Three workers who had been beaten down were removed to the hospital and then to the police station.

What has been the answer of Chicago's labor leaders to this police savagery against Chicago workers?

From the head office of the AFL, Labor Views can quote Keenan as stating that the AFL has taken and shall take no action in protest against this renewed police club rule. Apparently the AFL big-wigs do not realize, or prefer to criminally ignore the fact that this attack is a preview of attacks against all workers in any union who dare to fight militantly for better wages and working conditions.

The CIO burocrats have felt a definite threat in the recent police action. To put this feeling in the words of Ira Latimer of the Civil Liberties Committee, "The labor leaders are bound to do something... because if the police are to be allowed to break unions these leaders will lose their jobs." (From his remarks to a community meeting at Westchesterfield on Oct. 11th.)

At a meeting of CIO stewards and local presidents held in the headquarters of the Farm Equipment union these leaders did "do something". They appointed a committee of 50 which was told not to take any action until the court had decided for or against an injunction on the local 453 picket lines.

Since the Chicago courts have already broken strike after strike by

issuing injunctions this is certainly not a court fight against an injunction. Why, then, is there absolutely no move by the labor hierarchy in Chicago to mobilize labor's organized strength in mass protest against police attacks on peaceful pickets? Mayor Kelly has plainly stated that he approved of the Oct. 4th clubbing on Throop Street. He and the gang of political racketeers servicing Chicago's big business interests in government will respond only to the massed physical strength of the workers.

But, at the CIO meeting in the Farm Equipment Union Hall the CIO leaders followed their same ineffective line: to threaten Mayor Kelly and the politicians that they

will lose votes, to call for a new police captain to replace Barnes (present labor police head) and to troop downtown to hear Henry Wallace when he comes to town.

The huge Steelworkers union and the amalgamated section of the CIO did not attend this Stalinist dominated meeting. Of course, they too have made absolutely no effective move to protect their pickets from future police attack. The labor burocrats heading organized labor in Chicago are split into leading camps - each one more criminally bankrupt than the other.

Such leadership is incapable of calling city-wide mass meetings and demonstrations, and organizing defence guard systems. Yet these are the only effective protections against the brutal strikebreaking of the police, and they are the only effective working class political actions.

OPERATION CHICAGO:

Mechanized Cavalry, 19,000 Troops, Planes Readied for "Labor Disputes" in Chicago

AT THE END OF JUNE LABOR VIEWS REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR GREEN PLANNED THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD OF 34,805 TROOPS INCLUDING 2 INFANTRY DIVISIONS AND 2,623 AIR CORPS TROOPS. 19,000 ground troops and 1,923 air corps men were to be stationed in Chicago. 60 new armories were to be built here. Since then an air force numbering over 100 combat planes and the fields to service them have been added to the guard.

On the 10th of this month these armed forces were strengthened further. Col. Robert Sharp in charge of the Illinois Military District of the War Department announced the authorization of a mechanized cavalry group for Chicago. Col. Roy

D. Keehn Jr., one of the original officers of the Blackhorse Squadron was appointed commander. This new group will consist of a group headquarters and headquarter troop and two reconnaissance squadrons. Its vehicles will include jeeps, armored cars, light tanks and gun carriages for light artillery pieces; its arms, carbines, pistols, rifles, light and heavy machine guns, mortars, rockets and the 75 MM howitzer.

Chicago will then be manned by
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BINGHAM WORKERS WIN ROUND ONE

Prepare for Future Rounds Two, Three, Etc.

"We're going to assert ourselves even further -- working conditions can be improved..."

These words of an executive board member of the Bingham section of Local 120 United Rubber Workers of America (CIO) herald the fighting spirit of the Bingham workers that carried them to victory this month. After more than a year of struggle against the Bingham management, including a nine week strike in 1945, these workers have patiently and constantly negotiated on every grievance, every wage rate, every job classification. Signing a contract after this year long battle, the company was forced to grant 25 to 30 cents per hour average wage raise since last December.

The workers used one clinching argument to make "Old Man" Bingham (Carl Bingham, owner of the plant) sign this contract. It was an almost solid strike vote taken right in the plant last month followed by careful plans to carry out the strike. The union executive board took the mandate and laid down the policy:

"Bingham signs or we strike!"

On the other hand, Bingham, who had already beaten two other union organizing attempts, is reputed to have boasted, "I'll never sign!"

These two opposing forces met -- the capitalist and the militantly organized workers, and the workers proved their strength.

But there was more to this struggle than the simple application of the force of a militant group of workers. The Bingham contract was merely the climax of months of carefully applied strategy worked out by an able leadership. This can be examined in the essential clauses in the contract:

OPERATION (FROM CHICAGO PAGE ONE)

19,000 troops operating out of 66 armories. These infantry troops will be reinforced by mechanized units and combat planes from nearby fields and will be readily available to assist in any necessary operation.

Why all this military? Who is the enemy? The avowed purpose of the National Guard supplies the answer: to protect "law and order"; to quell "riots", "disorders", "insurrection" -- which today actually means to intervene in strike situations when they go beyond the ability of the local police to cope with them. The enemy, then, is the Chicago working class.

First, the contract provides for a reopening of wages every six months. Last March when the Bingham negotiating committee had already gotten about 10 to 15 cents raise for the workers, Mr. Bingham wanted to sign a contract freezing their wages at that point for a year. Obviously Local 120 had to hold out for a contract which provides for wage increases to meet the rising prices.

Second, the average wage raise in the plant now amounts to 25 to 30 cents since last December. This was accomplished by straight raises plus the insistence on the part of the union that workers who master the technique of doing a job be given the highest rating for the job.

The probation period for new workers was cut from 90 to 30 days.

Every 4 months he gets a 5 cent raise but at the end of 13 months

he must be paid the highest rate his job calls for whether his 5 cent raises add up to that or not.

Also, seniority rules have been settled and for the first time these workers are assured of a one-week vacation with pay.

Thus, a worker will tend to feel once he joins the union that he has a job which is protected while he remains here. The union is thus strengthened.

In bringing about the final signing of the contract Local 120 used the direct pressure of strike action, but it was possible for "Old Man" Bingham to have delayed the strike action into the cold winter months as he had done last year. Local 120 was ready for such a maneuver this year. Rumors that the Bingham Co. could get its products manufactured by another company in Chicago or in Akron were thoroughly scotched during the planning of strike action.

Here we see the planning and execution of a successful campaign to better the living standards for a group of workers. Local 120 is doing a good job so far within the limits of a trade union under the capitalist system.

All time low in the labor movement

At 11:00 AM Monday, Oct. 14th, fourteen thousand workers in thirty six radio and part factories thruout Chicago stopped work for one minute of reverent silence. This solemn act was prompted on the death on the previous Friday of Albert S. Wells, chairman of the Wells-Gardner Radio Co. The inspiration behind this revolting spectacle was Mr. Darling, president and business manager of Local 1031, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL.

With choking remorse he reminisced, "His (Wells') factory was the first one organized by the local union

when the local was formed 10 years ago." And then he continued proudly, "In all these years there has never been a five-minute work stoppage in the plant."

Noble record! Mr. Darling is undoubtedly the sink-hole in the labor movement. The snot and filth that he pours forth can only come from a man who has shares in the electrical industry or is on the payroll of manufacturers like Wells. Labor Views # 12 exposed Mr. Darling as a real darling of the radio manufacturers. At that time he had called together the foremen and other managerial personnel of the factories organized by Local 1031 and had urged them to fire workers who did not keep pace with production. At this time also he boasted of his unbroken service in keeping the workers humbly at peace.

Monday was the first time the workers of Local 1031 stopped work in united demonstration. But for what a cause! When it was a matter of defending their living standards Darling has seen to it that not even one minute was lost. Monday's despicable performance is really beyond shame. Not heads lowered in slaves' homage to the exploiters, but heads defiantly erect in determined struggle can lift the electrical industry beyond its terrible low-waged state! But first Mr. Darling must be scratched off Local 1031's body as one would lice.

As long as only a few militant workers are on strike the 6,000 hoodlums in blue on the police force can club them to the ground, but a city-wide strike would be too big a job, and the National Guard would be there to lend a hand.

The bankers, industrialists and their politicians speak about arbitration and mediation but behind this foul smoke screen stands military might, well trained and armed to be used against the working class. It is important for workers to understand their capitalist enemy and having done so to prepare themselves through defence guards organized in each union and co-ordinated to fight together. When Karl Marx wrote about "class war" he did not exaggerate.

AFL BIGWIGS MIX RED-BAITING STEW

650 delegates representing 7,100,000 members have been meeting at the Morrison Hotel in the AFL's 65th annual convention which began Oct. 7th. Resolutions against the Communist Party and communism have occupied an important place in the conventions deliberations. The AFL bigwigs put on their hallowe'en hats and mixed up a cauldron of red baiting stew.

The central Labor council of San Pedro and Wilmington Cal. have introduced a resolution which just about sums up the AFL's attitude. "The Communist Party today is striving harder than ever before to spread its philosophy throughout the ranks of organized labor in order to gain control of the workers in key industries looking forward to the day when Russia will attempt to spread its power throughout the world."

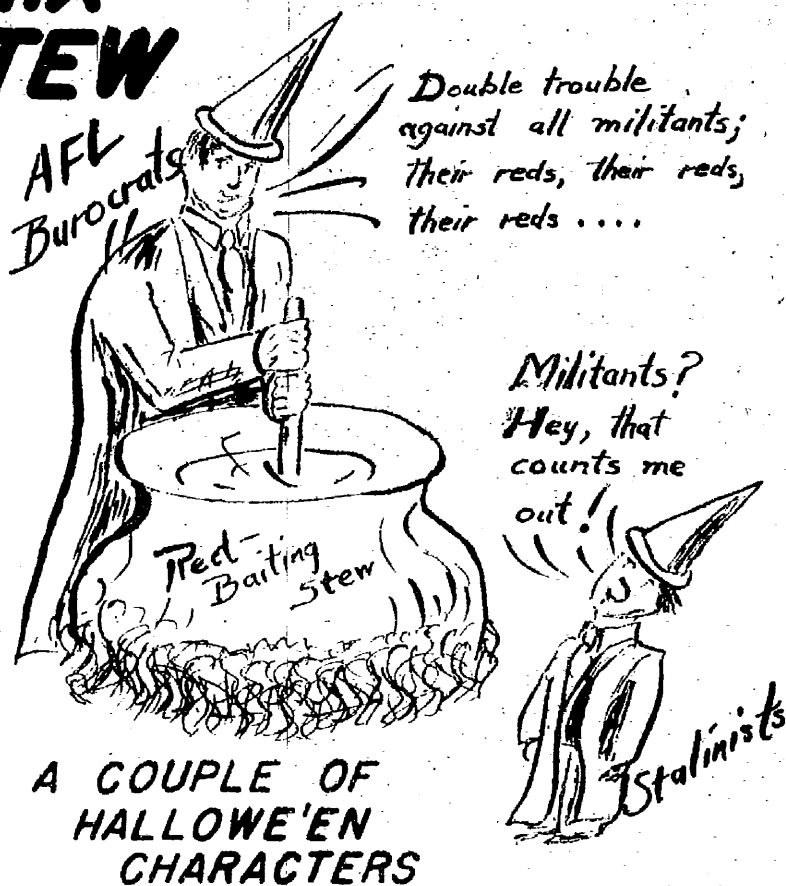
The resolution also states that the Communist Party is trying to control the education system and is "spreading lies, creating suspicions, advocating direct action, and in general attempting to create chaos." It suggests that the AFL unions hold meetings to acquaint the membership with the "evils of communism" and that "this menace" be called to the attention of the American people. The AFL is urged to make a thorough search for communists in the organization and expel them.

Another resolution sponsored by 16 International unions led by the National Association of Letter Carriers recommended that the AFL "renew its pledge to the US government" and asked for the dismissal from the government service of "any known member of the Communist Party or any one known to be in sympathy with any subversive movement."

These resolutions follow similar statements by Philip Murray, president of the CIO. Edgar Hoover who spoke against communism at the American Legion convention in San Francisco recently, and are in line with the preparations of Attorney General Clark to investigate communists.

These attacks are so widespread and concerted that they seem to be the offshoot of a master-plan originating in the State Department. The world events following the defeat of Germany and Japan reveal the US and the Russian governments to be the chief contestants in the power politics arena. In Europe, the Middle East and Far East these two titans have locked horns in mortal conflict for control of oil and other resources. The Communist Party functions as an outpost of the Russian bureaucracy and the AFL and CIO leaders continue to serve the American ruling class in the struggle against Stalin as they did in the one against Hitler.

However, while the big guns are being leveled against the Communist Party, the US government is using the ruthless piracy of the Stalinists to discredit the truly revolutionary movement. The resolutions, speeches, statements and deeds of the anti-communists are directed against both the Communist Party and "other subversive elements". The latter are defamed as these forces who advocate "direct action", which means strikes to defend the workers' standard of living, demonstrations against lynching, police brutality, American oppression abroad, and the



struggle to destroy this abominable prison of wage slavery.

Although the Communist Party is linked with the revolutionary movement, only the bitterest opposition exists between the two forces. The CP is dedicated as completely as Edgar Hoover to the annihilation of the revolutionary movement. During the war the Communist Party - in the interests of the Russian government and, incidentally, the American - was the most arduous patriotic force. Its entire resources were devoted to keeping the war plants at full operations and when workers went out on strike for higher wages the Party came down on them, feet first.

We are not surprised to see the AFL bureaucrats busily at work "polishing the gun" for the Washington government of monopolists. Such work is their pride and glory. As capitalist agents within the ranks of the working class they stand with this government on the ramparts of the capitalist fort.

But, off to one flank, we find the Communist Party attempting to control the labor movement to aid Stalin's foreign policy. Why? Because the Party knows that if the American working class settles scores with the American oppressors it will inspire the Russian working class to do a similar house-cleaning in their own country.

Labor Views

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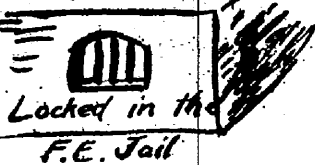
on subjects of current interest now meet
on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM.

at HARVESTERS the FE offers:

"We'll fix you up, boys!"



Other Harvester Plants



Melrose Park Workers

A mighty flood of confusion is being poured in upon the workers at the Melrose Park International Harvester Plant. Two CIO unions, the Farm Equipment Workers of America and the United Automobile Workers are fighting for the legal right to represent these workers. Labor Views has given its support to the UAW local - Local 6, not merely in the coming election but in an immediate militant organizational drive directed against the vicious speed up and low wages in the plant.

For, gains will not be made against the Harvester Company by the simple winning of an election, but by victorious strike action.

SUCH ACTION IS VERY UNLIKELY UNDER THE FARM EQUIPMENT WORKERS UNION. We have merely to look at the record of the FEWA to see the reason for this. At the end of the last Harvester strike the union signed a contract which covers all the Harvester plants with the same despicable provisions for PIECE WORK. If the Melrose Harvester Plant comes under FEWA it will become subject to the same type contract.

It is piece-work which causes a major part of the wretched working conditions in the plant right now. The FEWA will not change this.

In contrast, the UAW got rid of piece-work throughout its structure back in the thirties. Thus, the UAW represents most of the automobile industry and it is years ahead of the FE. This small, backward segment, the FE, should be united to the UAW and share in its benefits.

As to wages, the rates in the UAW are higher. But, aside from this, the policy of the FE has not been to reopen a drive for higher wages to meet the rising prices, but instead to pass out bales of PAC literature. Labor Views has seen thousands of these PAC blurbs in the FE headquarters, but there are

no plans to reopen the wage clause. This is the policy laid down by the Stalinist Bureaucrats in control of FE and all FE locals are kept rigidly within this policy.

Again, in contrast, Local 6 has a tradition of independent militance which could be reflected in an immediate, determined drive for decent wages without piece-work.

By delaying the union election (by filing an unfair labor practice charge) the FE has already assisted the Harvester Company to effectively pick the Melrose workers' pockets of the wage gains they should have already made.

The ignominious record of the FE does not end here, however. Along with piece-work and the incentive

plan FE championed the "No Strike" policy during the war. This very policy was used by such companies as Harvester to make working conditions there what they are today! It is this very policy which is responsible for the miserable conditions now prevalent in the Melrose Plant - conditions so unbearable that men are quitting faster than they can be hired!

While the veterans were overseas in a war which only succeeded in making rich companies like Harvester richer, the "No Strike" pledge deliberately sabotaged the trade union movement at home.

The militancy of the old Local 6 which moved wages higher and kept conditions at a human level is the only answer at Harvester.

Gains in Local 288 URWA-CIO

A WORKERS' BEACON

The gains made by Local 288 URWA-CIO during the past five short weeks have great significance for all the workers in the rubber industry.

It was only two months before that the workers on the union executive board pointed out to the management of their plant, the American Industrial Rubber Co., that it had not lived up to the union contract with respect to working conditions. Mr. Trilling, owner of the company, arrogantly replied, "You can stick that contract --". Now, after a few weeks of militant reorganization of the union, after the workers have begun to publish their own local paper, after they have demanded an end to the bureaucratic control of their local by an International representative, Manson James who had filched their treasury of most of its funds, and after the local membership had begun extensive preparations for strike action, last week saw a new lunch room being built in the plant, new shower-room facilities already put in, and new safety devices being installed on all of the machines.

of resolutions which declared their independent policies; to negotiate with the boss themselves and to choose their own representatives in this negotiation. They also laid down a clear-cut policy against any attempt to include piece-work in their future contracts.

So desparate is the company to buy off the support of the few militants in the shop that this same arrogant Mr. Trilling has been willing to offer special "consideration" to some of them. It was brought to the attention of the union at its meetings that Mr. Trilling has attempted to intimidate some of the workers who dared to "give information" to Labor Views - which is certainly the privilege of any worker any time.

The executive committee and the stewards of this local have now brought the company into the position of dealing directly with the same workers that only two months before it treated like dirt under its feet. This same direct relationship between management and the workers in which the workers have the upper hand because of their organized power can be brought about in every rubber plant in Chicago - eventually in every factory everywhere

At their latest membership meeting the workers in this local realizing their power passed a series

...MELROSE PARK FEWA LEAFLET ATTACK ON LABOR VIEWS LAST WEEK; NAME CALLING ("DISSEMPERS", ETC.) THE GLORIES OF NO STRIKE PLEDGE. ...WED. EVE. MEETING (OCT. 16) AT FE HALL; NO MILITANT ACTION TAKEN AGAINST POLICE, BUT BURECRATS DID ORDER OUT A COUPLE OF THUGS TO PUNCH A LONE LABOR VIEWS DISTRIBUTOR IN THE HEAD.