

FROM THE FIRING LINE

Clothing Workers Fight Suspension

Eight members of Local 4, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, have been given a suspended sentence on charges of belonging to an opposition group in the local.

We wish to publicly protest against the following violation of elementary democratic rights of union members within their own organization.

Contract for Paterson --- What a Contract!

Silk Workers Must Tear It Up and Fling It at the Bosses

By FELIX GIORDANO

After some six weeks of negotiations, between the Paterson District of the American Federation of Silk Workers and the Silk Manufacturers Association of Paterson, the terms of the proposed contract for the plain goods department have finally been made public.

Since the end of the national textile strike last September the silk workers of Paterson have been working under conditions which were becoming daily more intolerable.

The union officialdom, meanwhile was busy . . . watching and waiting. This policy has now brought its ripe fruit: A CONTRACT. And what a contract!

"No More Strikes" The Paterson News summarized its essence in a front page cartoon which portrayed the silk worker shaking hands with the boss under the title of "NO MORE STRIKES FOR TWO YEARS".

Wages are left for arbitration. "Grievances" are left to an "impartial" Grievance Board. Ample provision is made for any and all decisions, and recommendations, and rulings by any and all government boards.

Are the workers to have any say on the subject of work-load, or "changes" in pay? Not on your life! Not while this contract can keep them down!

Perpetuates 40-Hour Week The Paterson yellow press and the bosses can very well rub their hands and chuckle, for the workers will be bound for two years to the same and worse conditions in their industry.

There are 29 articles in the contract, each article a link in the chain that binds the workers and the union to the wheels of the government arbitration machinery.

member designated by them at the trial. At a time like this when organized labor, both in this and other countries, is battling for the right to organize into unions of their own choice, etc., it should be the bounden duty of all organized workers to see to it that the widest democracy prevails in their own and other unions.

We hope that this protest of a group of members of a trade union, which has always paraded as a progressive and democratic union, will draw the attention of all honest and truly progressive workers and secure their sympathy and support in our struggle against the violation of elementary democratic rights and against the intimidation of a suspended sentence and the threat of expulsion that hangs over the heads of our eight members.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 4. (Signed)

Allard Elected

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 19.—Gerry Allard, member of the Workers Party, was overwhelmingly elected to the pit committee of his local union in recent elections held in the Progressive Miners of America.

Officers elected for the incoming year are: James Peyton, president; Cap Hollensack, vice-president; Fred Farrand, recording secretary; John Beamer, financial secretary; Chms. Peyton, treasurer; Louis Cooke, door keeper; Mike Mayerhoffer, Jim Burgess and Ed Donaldson, sick committee; Gerry Allard, Fred Schmidt and Walter Repasky, pit committee.

Relief Head Aids Cops, League Finds

ALLENTOWN, Pa. Dec. 31.—The grievance committee of the Lehigh County Unemployed League recently disclosed that relief officials were working hand in hand with the Allentown Police Department. The facts are as follows:

M. Harisko, father of a 16 year old boy wanted on a relief project shortly after the shooting occurred on Nov. 15. The son has successfully eluded the police since.

Although Harisko has a family dependent upon him, all relief was stopped and he received neither food, clothing nor coal. Reduced to extreme destitution and misery he applied time and again in vain to various relief officials.

Appeals to League Angered, Harisko brought the case to the attention of the Unemployed League. When it was presented to Mrs. Maomi Sheema, local supervisor of relief, she vehemently denied collaboration with the police.

The committee demanded to know the meaning of this and Mrs. Sheema blushing replied: "As social workers we are interested in the welfare of the boy. We want to see that no harm befalls him."

United Fronting In Pittsburgh

PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUES TRY AGAIN

But Councils and S. P. Group Forget to Tell The Rank and File What It's All About

By E. R. MCKINNEY PITTSBURGH.—Once again the Communist Party and its Unemployed Councils have demonstrated themselves to be ineffectual instruments for promoting the united front with other unemployed organizations.

The story begins about two months ago when the Allegheny County Emergency Relief Board decided to set up a central complaint bureau to be called the "Public Relations Office" (P.R.O.).

Before the Public Relations Office had been publicly announced, the Relief Board called for a meeting of the unemployed organizations. The Pennsylvania Unemployed League (P.U.L.) in Pittsburgh, had information that this meeting was called for the purpose of telling the unemployed leagues of the board's intention to establish a P.R.O.

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IN THE UNIONS

By KARL LORE

Local 802 A.F.M.

One of the most encouraging features of the growth of trade unionism in the last year and a half has been the development of organization spirit among the white collar and professional groups.

Labor In Court

It is bad for labor progressives to fight their union officialdom in the courts. The cards are generally stacked against them by the alliances that so often exist between the district attorney and the union leadership.

Administration Out

In the elections held in local 802 a few weeks ago the administration got a licking. A clean sweep eliminated every old official with the exception of Canavan who has his two years to go by special dispensation.

Building Trades

Some weeks ago in this column I discussed the scrap in the building trades and the dilemma of the executive board of the American Federation of Labor in handling the serious split that has developed in the Building Trades Department.

3,728 to 127

A membership vote taken in the local last March approved by 3,728 to 127 the demand for self government and the establishment of such rights as other locals of the Musicians Union enjoy under the constitution.

AGED MAN JAILED FOR SNARING RABBITS

ALLENTOWN, Pa. Dec. 31.—Following a four day (day and night) vigil by game wardens, John Hontz, age 76, resident of an improvised shack of pasteboard and scrap tin, was arrested when he came to remove a rabbit from a snare.

the LOCKOUT or strike may be resorted to for purposes of discipline in the mill in question.

There is this boasted "right to strike", such as it actually is in the contract.

To be sure, this agreement can be modified if notice in writing is served in 30 days. But one thing cannot be modified, and it is exactly the "right to strike."

"Paragraph 17 of this agreement may not . . . be modified or altered in any respect."

There are no two ways open for the silk workers of Paterson, as regards the proposed contract: tear it up and fling it in the faces of the bosses.

Richberg Smokes Peace Pipe As He Exonerates the Poor

WASHINGTON. — Donald R. Richberg was furious when he learned that General Hugh S. Johnson, retired, had written a series of articles in which he, Richberg himself, was "exposed".

Said the General, "The ants of conscience are crawling in Richberg's pants!"

Thanks to friends, the day has been saved. Christmas found the NRA moguls, past and present, smoking the pipe of peace, and there will be no "exposures".

Richberg has undergone a strange liberal sea-change since coming to Washington.

When President Roosevelt elevated him from a big Chicago labor lawyer to Position Number 1 in the Washington regime, liberals hailed him as a Godsend, a wonderful man, in fact a liberal.

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Eyes on Sacramento

CALIFORNIA, which has given the world such a clear and striking picture of capitalist class justice in the case of Mooney and Billings, is again striving for leadership in the new campaign against workers' organizations and workers' rights.

In the Sacramento trial the effort is being made to revive the system of hounding and persecuting the militant workers which characterized the highly praised American "democracy" in the war and post-war periods.

The victims ran into the hundreds. In California alone close to a hundred prisoners, members of the I.W.W., were confined in prison after conviction of "criminal syndicalism."

As is usually the case with all manifestations of the system that is founded on deceit, the labor persecution inaugurated at Sacramento under the "criminal syndicalism" law is disguised and concealed behind the mask of the "Red Scare"

The defendants at Sacramento were the organizers and leaders of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union, an organization that led some memorable battles of the most terribly exploited sections of the California working class.

The Sacramento case cries aloud for united action. A national campaign is needed to put the case on the map before the trial is finished and the defendants are quietly shuffled off to San Quentin for long terms.

The American working class stands before a new distant sections of the country. After three months of speed-up they were fired. Today, Toledo has 23,000 families on the relief roll, and it was the breakdown of the Willis-Overland Co. which largely contributed to this, Preis said.

Preis Exposes Auto Hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

of production for use and not for profit; that will solve the problem. The workers must have control."

Outstanding testimony as to the conditions of workers in the local plants of the Chevrolet Corp. and the Electric Auto-Lite Co. was given by Jim Rolland, and executive member of the union and of the Lucas County Unemployed League.

Preis introduced his testimony by an exposure of the operations of the Willis-Overland Co. He pointed out that in 1928 this company employed 25,000 workers. Today it has about 1,000. Most of these workers had been imported from

epoch of mass struggles and conflicts which will put all previous labor revolts in the shade. The masters of America, especially during the past year, have shown that they will yield absolutely nothing without a bitter struggle.

We must learn at the beginning to stand together in the face of such attacks. We need to establish the principle at the very start that an injury to one is the concern of all. This grand old motto of the Knights of Labor ought to be inscribed on the banner of the rising labor movement.

The Workers Party stands for this policy in regard to Sacramento. The issue is concretized on this case at the present moment. A practical agreement for a united campaign in behalf of the Sacramento defendants right now is worth a ton of abstract theses on the "united front"

Hope for the Steel Workers

RECENTLY the attempt of the top officials of the A. F. of L. and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, the steel barons and the Roosevelt administration to work out a truce for the steel industry broke down.

From Pittsburgh comes the announcement that some of the younger members of the A. A. are calling a national convention of "rank and file" the first week in February to discuss "ways and means" of "forcing union recognition from the steel companies"

However, some of the same men backing this insurgent movement, now, talked mighty big to Hugh Johnson and even to Roosevelt himself last spring and then permitted Bill Green and Mike Tighe to out-manuever them and prevent a steel strike.

The progressive, fighting, genuine rank and file elements among the steel workers must get together regardless of personalities or political differences on the basis of a program and loyal determination to put the program into action.

Churchified Fascists

ROSE by any other name would smell as sweet. Conversely, a stink bomb by any other name would smell as ill. We make this observation apropos of what looks more and more like a world-wide movement to build a churchified Fascism—a Fascist regime which meets the approval of the Roman Catholic Church.

Several weeks ago a conference was held in Europe of Fascist organizations from various countries. It was announced, however, that Hitler's representatives were excluded. They did not belong in good Fascist company.

More recently the Pope announced that the Roman Catholic Church would observe "strict neutrality" in the Saar where a popular vote as to whether the region is to go back to Germany or remain under the supervision of the League of Nations takes place on January 13.

In the United States Father Coughlin is busily forming his mysteriously financed organization for social justice!

Whatever disguise it may wear and by whomever it may be blessed, the masses will rally for an irreconcilable fight against Fascism which smashes the unions, destroys all the democratic rights of the workers and enslaves them to black reaction.

Zack Meeting Draws Crowd

Two or three hundred people were turned away at the door.

Victoria Hall at Irving Plaza was packed and people were standing against the walls. The occasion was the speech of Joseph Zack on the reasons why he quit the Communist Party after a membership of 15 years and joined the Workers Party.

The speaker painted a devastating picture of the internal life of the Communist Party and, point by point, exploded the whole policy of Stalinism and contrasted it with the Marxist position of the Workers Party.

Steel Hearing Is Called

(Continued from Page 1)

revival despite the sabotage of its reactionary officials. The steel workers genuinely hated the company union and they still do. New progressive elements came forward in the union but they could not stand up against the reactionary barrage.

It is reported that the progressives are planning a rank and file convention to be held in Pittsburgh the first week of February to consider "ways and means of forcing union recognition from the steel companies"

Last Sunday night's meeting was another of the successful chain of meetings which are establishing the party as the concentration point of the revolutionary workers in New York.

ROOSEVELT and CONGRESS

Sections from an article by John West to appear in the January issue of the New Internationalist

What, then, may be expected from the new Congress? First, the relation of Roosevelt to his new Congress is almost the reverse of his relation to his first Congress. Then, at the beginning of his Administration, by a sweeping popular overthrow, he had been placed in power on the crest of rising mass sentiment.

Now, however, Roosevelt is two years removed from direct contact with mass sentiment. Moreover, his unfulfilled promises are drifting back home to roost—in the end, citizens take jobs, security, protection seriously.

Therefore Roosevelt, from having played the Great Leader, must now play the Great Brake; he must calm the wilder members of Congress, shunt aside and compromise "radical" demands, and in general make sure that no accidentally passed "left" legislation hinder the fundamental "right" direction.

Second, certain industrial and banking corporations have achieved a temporary relative stability during Roosevelt's first two years, with a reasonable level of profits rolling in.

In general, then, we may be sure that, while the underlying socio-economic drift continues toward a right solidification, the legislation actually passed by the new Congress will be on no basic question unambiguously one thing or the other.

Even in the cities there is little large scale industry. New Orleans is primarily a commercial port. In the north there is some oil industry, and scattered through the state are various sugar and cotton mills and textile plants. The

Mass Action Policy Of National League

By ARNOLD JOHNSON Secretary of National Unemployed League

Facing the sixth winter of mass suffering, the unemployed of this country are looking with suspicion and scepticism at Washington today. The national Congress opens and will very likely try to feed the unemployed on words and promises.

Another assemblage at Washington which deserves only suspicion from the unemployed is the so-called Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance which is in reality a masquerade preliminary to the second annual convention of the discredited Unemployment Councils of the Communist Party.

Using the sentiment of the unemployed for the Lundeen Bill as a bait to get delegates to attend the convention of the National Unemployment Councils, the Communist Party and Unemployment Council leaders have again demonstrated their shady methods and false tactics for building an unemployed organization.

This time, they have even gone further than usual. They got a lot of individuals to act as "sponsors" of the Unemployment Insurance Congress. These individuals represent nobody but themselves and are not responsible to the unemployed. The C. P. and Unemployment Councils are responsible for this tactics and demonstrate that they are kidding the unemployed as well as the list of individuals.

dominant classes outside the cities are the fishermen of the South, mostly of French stock, the small farmers, and the shopkeepers.

Huey Long, despite the tendency to consider him a joke, has a dictatorship in Louisiana, has gained some national influence, and has already captured important political posts outside his state.

In order to understand Huey it is necessary to know something about his native state, and something about his personal history.

Louisiana is not an industrial state. There is only one city of any size, New Orleans, with 450,000. Shreveport is next with 80,000, and Baton Rouge, the capitol, is third with only 30,000.

Whether he made money on this venture is not known, although he is reputed worth well over a million today. However, his war against the large Standard Corporation did give him material for a political campaign among the farmers and the petty bourgeoisie.

Anniversary Dinner for A. J. MUSTE

Celebrating his 50th birthday and his more than 15 years of activity in the labor movement. To be held at IRVING PLAZA, 15th Street & Irving Place WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th 7 P.M.

75c per Plate :: General Admission at 9 P.M. 15c. For reservations: Write Lucile Kohn, Treasurer, Dinner Committee, Room 702, 112 E. 10th St., N. Y. C., or Telephone ALgonquin 4-9058.

Wall Street Cracks Whip On Congress

(Continued from Page 1)

According to many noted Tories in banking and industrial circles the measures taken by Roosevelt and his Congress have been the very essence of Bolshevism. Now however, they are rubbing their hands with satisfaction. Roosevelt, they say, is moving to the right.

If what they mean is that left implies more promises and right fewer promises there is probably little truth in what they say. For this is no time for Roosevelt to cease his promises. Especially when Virgil Jordan, economist for the National Industrial Conference Board declares to a gathering of business men that "We are little, if any, nearer recovery than we were two years ago..."

The speeches of Roosevelt and the willingness of his last Congress have been a bone in the throat of the working class and a boon in the pockets of the plutocrats. The Congress soon to open holds nothing better and probably much worse. The big planks in the new "new deal" program are widely advertised as a comprehensive "Social Security" program.

It is sufficient merely to review the previous history of this plan to understand who profits by Roosevelt's altruism. Of the \$200,000,000 expended by the Home Owners Loan Corporation more than 90 percent has gone to banks, insurance companies and realty agencies. The ballyhoo about clearing out slums and building homes for the poor has become in reality a building program for people with means.

All this is intimately associated with the famous public works program which it is reputed Roosevelt, with the certain consent of his Congress plans to extend. The past speaks eloquently on this matter.

The last and probably most important measure, which seems assured of adoption in the new Congress is some form of unemployment insurance. Relief has proved to be very costly. Bankers and manufacturers have been howling for as speedy an end of it as possible.

But since unemployment shows no real signs of decreasing and since a permanent jobless army reaching well over the seven million figure is here to stay, some permanent and less expensive method of keeping Potters Field from filling up too quickly must be found.

Congress opens with the New Year prepared to repeat its services of the last year—not for labor, which it can never serve—but for capital which it must serve. Its legislation will remain two-sided—new deal and raw deal, with the workers on the short end of the stick.

WHY I JOINED THE WORKERS PARTY FRIDAY, JAN. 11th, 8:30 P.M. 1176 Pitkin Ave. near Stone St Brooklyn

JOSEPH ZACK Former member Central Executive Committee of Communist Party will speak on

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