

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

It took a strike at Montgomery Ward's Chicago plant to force Roosevelt to "seize" the plant...

The government has still not instituted seizure proceedings against Avery's defiance of the WLB in the case of several other plants...

Over eight months ago, the WLB directed Avery's company to negotiate contracts with the unions at his three retail stores...

Roosevelt has closed his eyes to these instances of defiance by Avery. In none of these cases have the workers gone on strike...

Taking their cue from Sewell Avery and backed by the Big Business press and Congressional barrage on the Ward Case...

Two leading New York title insurance companies, The Security Title and Guarantee Company of New York and the Kings County Capital Corporation of Brooklyn...

Wylie Brown, head of the Phelps Dodge Copper Products Corporation, which holds millions in war contracts...

The government's "seizure" of the Montgomery Ward Chicago properties hasn't meant that the anti-labor practices have ceased...

The work of our cartoonist continues to evoke considerable favorable comment. Our agent in Los Angeles writes: "Again the other day I heard two people discussing the effect the cartoons have had in living up the front page of the paper..."

Our agent in Seattle states in her latest report that they find this column very helpful: "The 'Militant Army' is very good. It keeps us in touch with other parts of the country and is a good vehicle for forwarding new ideas to other branches."

At the beginning of the Militant Subscription Campaign our Toledo agent requested an increase in the Militant bundle for the duration of the Campaign...

Branches Reach Half-Way Mark In 'Militant' Subscription Campaign

We have fulfilled 48% of our quota for 3,000 new readers to The Militant in the three-month Subscription Campaign...

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEEK
Buffalo not only moved into first place on the scoreboard, but hit 212% and has now ordered 100 more subscription cards.

New York for the second week in succession sent in the greatest number of subs, with a total of 167 for the week.

FROM OUR MAIL BAG
Reading: "Due to the national importance of the Militant Subscription Drive, the Reading Branch challenges two other branches with the same quota..."

West Side Branch (New York Local) wired Minneapolis and Chicago: "West Side Branch challenges you to a three-cornered race for subscriptions..."

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Leonard Levy, vice-president of the Retail Clerks' international in charge of the strike, is said to have accused the Stalinists of "scabbing on the strike..."

Sewell L. Avery was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the U. S. Steel Corporation at its annual stockholders meeting in Hoboken, N. J., last week...

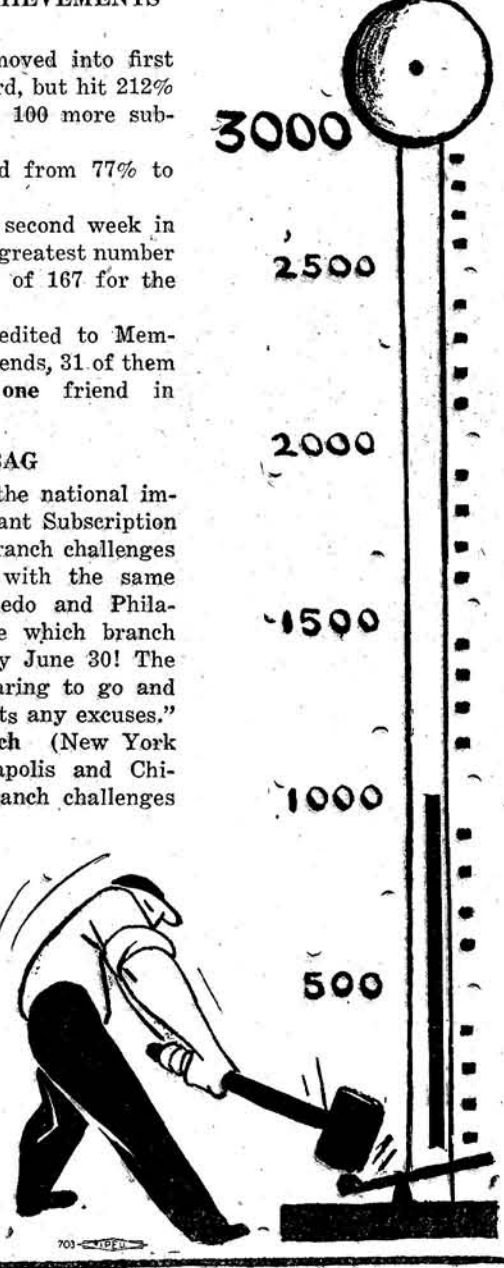
This demonstrative action shows what kind of opposition Philip Murray is trying to knock down with statistics in the drawnout palaver that is now taking place between the CIO steelworkers and the steel companies before the WLB...

Los Angeles, Seattle, Bayonne, San Francisco, Toledo, Detroit and Newark report encouraging success. Lack of space prevents our printing their letters this week.

The branches can be proud of their achievement in reaching the half-way mark of the campaign ahead of schedule. But it's the second half that counts! Let's go ahead to reach our goal of 3,000 new readers before June 30.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 4 columns: Branch, Quota, Subs, Percent. Lists various cities like Buffalo, Reading, Philadelphia, New York, Seattle, Detroit, etc.



Labor Party Opponents Whine That "Now Is Not The Time"

By C. Thomas

The union militants in the Michigan labor movement took a long step toward the building of an Independent Labor Party when they launched the Michigan Commonwealth Federation...

An important debate took place in Detroit recently, sponsored by the West Side Tool and Die Council on the question: "Is This The Time To Organize A New Party?"

NOW IS NOT THE TIME

It has become the custom, for even the deadliest enemies of independent political action, to insist that they have always been for it "in principle" but "now is not the time..."

Approximately 10 years ago, at the 1935 AFL convention, a resolution was introduced calling for formation of an independent labor party, which had the support of a considerable section of the labor movement...

PATRICK HENRY
"They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be next week or next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house?"

LABOR MISLEADERS

The labor misleaders who occupy the highest positions in the CIO have perpetrated a monstrous hoax on their membership. The CIO Political Action Committee was established for the express purpose of heading off any movement of the workers toward formulating their own program...

The guaranteed annual wage is one of the demands of the Steel Workers Union. Conforming as it does to the interests of the working class as a whole, it would find a prominent place on the political platform of a labor party.

Delegates Throng Steel Convention

Released tomorrow. This report throughout bears the style and language of Murray himself. The introduction of the report gives the general perspective of the leadership and its program for the period ahead.

WAGE QUESTION

Nowhere in the entire report is the specific demand for the 17 cents an hour wage increase mentioned! In passing, the introduction refers only "to our demands for a general wage increase, and then goes on to lay great emphasis on the union's demand for a guaranteed weekly and annual wage. The impression is given that Murray is attempting to play down the question of the immediate wage increase, which involves a powerful frontal attack on the Little Steel formula...

WHITEWASH ROOSEVELT
Thus, the report complains that the WLB isn't carrying out the President's program, although it fails to state why Roosevelt himself hasn't brought the matter to the attention of the WLB. "As our convention meets this year, our union is again before the War Labor Board in an historic proceeding. This time again we are still asking the National War Labor Board to give full and proper effect to the President's program..."

Democratic or Republican parties and exercise no control over its candidates. Both the major parties take their orders from Big Business. The parties control the candidates. As far as the workers are concerned the names of the candidates might just as well be tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum as Roosevelt and Dewey...

The programmatic portion of the report discloses that Murray has nothing to offer the steel workers by way of an independent, effective program to smash the Little Steel formula and beat back the anti-labor offensive.

ORGANIZATION REPORT

The organizational portions of the report do provide an impressive picture of the great potential power and resources in this second largest union in America. The latest figures of the steel international show an enrolled membership of 949,938, which includes 201,605 members in the armed forces. In the past two years, the union has won 462 NLRB elections and card-checks out of 535 disputed collective bargaining representation cases. Since 1940 the number of women workers under the jurisdiction of the union has increased from 20,000 to 80,000. Women have been elected presidents of 32 locals, and hold 446 other officers posts. The number of Negro members has increased from 35,000 in 1940 to 70,000 in 1943, and they too are taking an increasingly important part in the affairs of the union. Since 1942, the number of Canadian locals has increased from 24 to 88.

Los Angeles MASS MEETING in SUPPORT of the 18 Sunday, May 21 8 P. M. Chairman: Dr. CLINTON J. TAFT, ACLU Speakers: GEORGE NOVACK, CRDC National Secretary, GEORGE DOBSEVAGE, Pres. So. Cal. Steel Council, CIO, OSCAR SORES, Secy. Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, EUGENE JUDD, Vice-Pres. Local 216, UAW-CIO. Embassy Auditorium, North Hall, GRAND STREET at NINTH. Auspices: Los Angeles CRDC.

WHY WE ARE IN PRISON Farewell speeches of the defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Case. The vital words of people condemned to prison for their courageous defense of Socialist ideas. "We were obliged to tell the truth. We saw the abomination of the imperialist war and we were under compulsion to fight for it at all costs and despite all hazards." 56 pages, paper 10 cents. Pioneer Publishers 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

JUST OFF THE PRESS! The Illustrated 32-Page Pamphlet "WHO ARE THE PRISONERS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS CASE?" Describing— The Background of the Prosecution The Smith 'Gag' Act The Danger to Workers' Rights The Threat to Free Speech Biographies of the 18 Prisoners Foreword by James T. Farrell Single Copies 10c Write for Prices on Bundle Orders Published by CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE 160 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

