

Pittsburgh Labor Smashes Power Strike Ban

Court Dissolves Injunction When 70,000 Go Out

BULLETIN

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 30.—The striking power workers are maintaining their picket lines. By a vote of 1,170 to 553 they voted Saturday night to reject the Duquesne Light & Power Company's meager offer.

AFL streetcar operators, employed by an affiliate of Duquesne Light Co., voted Sunday to respect power-workers picket lines, despite AFL leaders' demands they go through the lines. Business and transportation are at a virtual standstill.

City officials, courts and press are howling at the determined power-workers. Several top CIO and AFL officials have treacherously joined the boss chorus against the strikers. Negotiations, at the moment, are stale-mated.

By Eloise Gordon and William Carloy
(Special to The Militant)

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 27.—The mightiest united labor upsurge in this steel and coal center's history yesterday smashed to pieces the strikebreaking injunction against the power workers who walked out in defiance of a court order last Tuesday.

A wave of sympathy strikes that threatened to burst into a general city-wide shutdown forced the injunction-court to free George Mueller, power workers union president, from a year's jail sentence.

The three-man judge's panel had kangarooed Mueller to prison without a jury trial for alleged "contempt of court" because he declared the injunction a "scrap of paper."

WORKERS JUBILANT

Jubilant over their tremendous victory and inspired by the support from all sections of labor, the 3,500 members of the Independent Association of Duquesne Light & Power Company Employees are continuing the power strike that has brought this city to the verge of paralysis.

In a scene without parallel in the history of American labor, representatives of the Democratic City Administration that had called for the injunction yesterday pleaded with the judges to withdraw the injunction.

Inside and outside the County Court House a shouting mass demonstration of more than 10,000 workers was on hand to demand justice. The demonstrators included every section of organized labor—CIO steel and electrical workers, AFL street car employees, railroad men. More than 70,000 steel, electrical, municipal transportation and other workers were already on strike, and new walkouts were scheduled to follow.

PLANTS SHUT

The big Jones & Laughlin steel plant was down, with 10,000 out. Westinghouse Electric, where 4,300 were out in the morning, saw a total shut-down as 16,500 workers assembled at 2 p.m. for a mass protest rally. Almost all city transportation was halted when the AFL street car workers went out Wednesday.

Before this display of labor power and solidarity the city officials and judges quailed. The city bosses, in connivance with Duquesne Light & Power Co.,

had initiated the injunction. They stilled around just long enough to cook up a face-saving formula and then frantically appealed to the judges to reverse themselves. The judges in turn, with much legal verbiage, ordered the injunction dissolved and released Mueller after one day of a year's sentence.

The blanket injunction was as sweeping as any ever issued. It not only forbade picketing and other acts in furtherance of a strike—the usual contents of such injunctions—it prohibited the strike itself!

If allowed to stand, this injunction would have set a precedent for the whole country. It would have meant that the employer-dominated courts could destroy the right to strike and impose forced labor.

So infuriated were the Pittsburgh workers by the injunction and imprisonment of Mueller, that a storm against judicial strikebreaking broke spontaneously. Everywhere, on the streets, in shops, on street cars, (Continued on Page 2)

Union Leader Ruled Off Air

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 27.—Acting on the "suggestion" of Democratic Mayor Lawrence, Radio Station WWSW tonight cancelled a scheduled radio broadcast by George Mueller, president of the independent union of striking power workers.

Mueller was to speak at 10 p.m. Instead, WWSW officials said, a statement by Mueller was "read as a regular news bulletin . . . because a personal radio appearance might tend to disturb the interests involved during this delicate time of negotiations." The Pittsburgh Press reports: "A source close to the Mayor's office said Mueller was ruled off the air at the suggestion of Mayor Lawrence."

Ohio SWP Runs Walker As Candidate For Governor

TOLEDO, O., Sept. 28.—The State Committee of the Socialist Workers Party today announced the candidacy of Malcolm Walker for Governor of Ohio.

Walker had previously filed sufficient petitions to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Representative to Congress from the 9th District of Ohio. Capitalist politicians of the two major political parties, fearing a true labor candidate on the ballot, invoked a 17-year old statute to rule off the ballot both Walker and his running mate for General Assembly, Paul Wylie.



MALCOLM WALKER

This hitherto unused law required that all petitions for a candidate be filed at one time, thus eliminating the chance of candidates to file additional petitions if first filings proved insufficient. It goes without saying that the Democratic and Republican Parties encountered no such difficulty in filing their petitions.

The recent Ohio State CIO convention highlighted the ridiculous situation in which the leaders of the Political Action Committee find themselves. On one hand they urged the workers to get out and vote and on the other hand they admitted that there was no candidate worthy of labor's support.

The Socialist Workers Party has decided to run a candidate for Governor because of the absence of a labor, or even "pro-labor" candidate in the coming fall elections. PAC leaders who had sold the workers on the De-

mocratic incumbent, Governor Lausche, are forced to hide their heads in shame after the kicking around they got from him. Neither can they find it in their hearts to ask the workers to support the Republican candidate Herbert.

Walker a former seaman and member of the Seafarers International Union, stated that the campaign would be conducted primarily around the issue of independent labor political action. The Socialist Workers Party proposes the formation of an Independent Labor Party based upon the trade unions.

The write-in campaign for Walker will be a protest against the fact that the workers have no choice between two "tried and tested" capitalist politicians.

Workers Of The World, Unite!

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DEMOCRATS CONSPIRING TO BAR MINORITY PARTIES

Housewives Storm City Hall In Toledo In Demand For Meat

(Special to The Militant)

TOLEDO, Ohio, Sept. 28.—A fighting delegation of housewives held a demonstration in City Hall yesterday afternoon to protest the meat famine and to demand corrective action by federal and city officials.

Organized in the Housewives Emergency Committee, the women demanded that the Mayor "send a telegram to President Truman requesting government seizure of the meat industry and the operation of the packing plants under the control of the unions to insure a steady supply of meat at prices the majority of the people can afford to pay."

Martel Protests Attempt To Oust Detroit SWP

DETROIT, Mich.—Frank X. Martel, President of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, this week gave full support to the Socialist Workers Party's fight against eviction from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood Ave.

In a letter to Arthur Burch, SWP Detroit organizer, Martel declared his opposition to attempts made by reactionary and fascist elements to evict the Socialist Workers Party on the grounds that Negroes attend its meetings, at the headquarters in a "white" neighborhood.

"The Constitution of the United States guarantees to Negroes the same rights it guarantees to other people," Martel wrote, "and there is nothing in the Constitution that tells where they shall meet and where they shall not meet." He urged the SWP to continue its fight for its democratic rights, to "see that this (eviction) does not happen," and added "the rest of us in the community should stand with you."

Martel invited the SWP to call upon him if he could be "of any assistance to your group in this matter."

Martel's expression of solidarity is one of scores which have reached the SWP from prominent union leaders and militant workers in the Detroit area. (A further report on recent statements appears on page 2 of this issue.)

Hear Dobbs Oct. 10

Farrell Dobbs, SWP candidate for Governor of New York, will discuss the Democratic Party conspiracy against democratic rights over Station WJZ, 770 on the dial, Thursday, Oct. 10, 10:45 p.m.

Beating Drum With Both Arms



Fight The Conspiracy!

An Editorial

The Democratic Party has thrown all democratic pretenses to the wind. It is hell-bent to deprive not one or even two, but EVERY minority party of its constitutional rights, by having them ruled off the New York state ballot.

The Wall Street bullies are on the rampage. Their motto is "get tough"—"get tough" in foreign policy and "get tough" at home—tough to the labor movement, to racial minorities and to the workers' democratic rights.

Labor's immense power and solidarity has frustrated the direct assaults of the union-busters and labor-haters. But Wall Street and its Democratic and Republican flunkies are aiming flank attacks, seeking a weak spot in labor's defense.

The entire Democratic Party—not just its ultra-reactionary wing—is behind the conspiracy to knock the Socialist Workers Party and three other minority parties off the New York ballot. Tammany Hall, through Mayor O'Dwyer's Executive Secretary, Louis Cohen, prepared the action. Boss Flynn's stooge and Democratic candidate, Spencer Young, initiated the case. The leading Democratic candidates, Mead and Lehman, give consent by silence. And Wall Street puts up the money for the Democrats to hire nine corporation lawyers and buy up "witnesses" for court action.

As for the Republicans, their Secretary of State, who originally certified all the minority parties on the ballot, has proclaimed his "neutrality" in the court case.

Most shameful of all is the attitude of such self-claimed progressive parties as the American Labor and Liberal Parties. Both support the Democratic candidates. Neither has raised its voice against the Democratic conspiracy. American workers have cause for alarm—and action. After opposition parties are eliminated, there remains only the "Ja" vote like under Hitler. Then come rule by decree, forced labor, storm troopers and, finally, concentration camps.

Wall Street's Democratic conspiracy to kill democratic rights in New York must be smashed. Working-class solidarity, action and protest can nip this plot in the bud.

Plot To Throw SWP Ticket, 3 Other Parties Off Ballot

BULLETIN

As we go to press decision is pending from the Court of Appeals in Albany presided over by Judge James P. Hill, on the Democratic Party action to remove the Socialist Workers Party and three other minority parties from the ballot. The appeals Court has instructed Judge William H. Murray, the Democratic stooge, to show cause why the case should not be transferred from his court in Troy to another court in Albany where the case legally belongs. The action was instituted by attorneys for the Communist Party but it has been joined in by the Socialist Workers Party and the two other parties affected.

By George Clarke

TROY, N. Y., Sept. 30.—The State Supreme Court hearing here on the Democratic Party's appeal to rule minority parties off the ballot is one of the foulest conspiracies against democratic rights in New York history. One has to go back 25 years for anything resembling it. At that time, after World War I, Democrats and Republicans ganged up on nine duly elected Socialists and kicked them out of the State Assembly.

A day in the courtroom here would convince even a political infant that the decision to bar the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist), the Communist Party (Stalinist), the Socialist Labor Party, and the Socialist Party from the ballot has already been signed, sealed, and delivered.

KANGAROO COURT

The proceedings are conducted in strictly kangaroo court style. The four parties have about as much chance for justice here as a Negro on trumped-up rape charges would have before a Mississippi court.

This was clear from the moment the hearing opened in Judge William H. Murray's court on the petition of Spencer Young, Democratic candidate for State Comptroller. The first skirmish came over a motion of defense attorneys to change the venue of the hearing from Rensselaer to Albany County. They pointed out that, according to law, hearings on independent nominating

petitions belonged in the county where they were filed. They further pointed out that Judge Murray was known to be prejudiced, as he had ruled the Communist Party off the ballot on similar grounds in 1940. The judge muttered some incomprehensible le-

When To Register In N. Y. State

New York City & Westchester County
Personal Registration
Oct. 7-8-9-10-11-5 p.m.—10:30 p.m.
Oct. 12-7 a.m.—7-10:30 p.m.

Other Cities & Villages Of 5,000 or More
Personal Registration
Oct. 4-5-11-10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Oct. 12-7 a.m.—10 p.m.

Outside Of Cities & Villages Of 5,000 or More
Central Registration
Oct. 5-7 a.m.—10 p.m.
Oct. 12-1 p.m.—10 p.m.

LaGuardia Condemns Attempt To Bar Minorities From Ballot

A strong attack on the attempts to bar four minority parties, including the Socialist Workers Party, from the New York State ballot was made by former Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia in his PM column on Sept. 29.

"Unreasonable requirements" for independent nominating petitions, says LaGuardia, are put in the law "intentionally to make difficult, if not impossible, independent nominations by petitions. What the Legislature forgets the courts remember."

LaGuardia derides the spectacle of judges sitting on cases involving these petitions. He describes their "air of solemnity" and the "pretended attitude that these judges know nothing about the workings of political machines" while they go ahead and "complete the job of disfranchising thousands of citizens and throwing candidates off the ballot."

NO IMPARTIALITY

"I cannot think of a single exception, at the moment, sitting (on the bench) who was not picked by the leaders or bosses of a political party and then presented to the voters," LaGuardia declares in dismissing the "assumed atmosphere of impartiality" in these cases.

"This year," he continues, "the Democrats are moving and seeking to eliminate from the ballot the candidates of several independent parties or independent groups. Whether we like these parties or groups, or whether we intend to vote for any of their candidates, has no bearing on the question. Personally, I do not intend to vote for any of these candidates. Yet, their right

to be on the ballot cannot and should not be questioned. . . . "There are many ways to restrict free citizens from exercising the highest Constitutional right of the franchise. Some do it by the use of a shotgun; others by the more refined weapon of a judicial decree."

LaGuardia describes a number of the technicalities that may be used, and reports on the development in the current attempt to bar four minority parties from the ballot. Then he concludes: CLOSE ALLIANCE

"The best thing the Democratic Party can do in this State this year . . . is to withdraw all protests that are based on these technicalities. The best thing that the Republican Party can do is to withdraw moral support to this fight and publicly disavow any connection with the cases now pending. I say, from my own experience of many years, that when it comes to independent nominations and independent voting, there is a very close alliance in this State between the two major parties.

"In the meantime, let all right-minded Americans make their views known to the political leaders or bosses in plain, understandable language. Later on, let's all get together and do a real job on revising the election law of this State.

"Only the people themselves can control this situation."

Stalin Knives Struggle Against War

By George Breitman

The effect of Stalin's statement in answer to a British newspaperman's questions on Sept. 24 is far more important than the reasons why Stalin made the statement at this time. That statement was, above everything else, a stab in the back to the fight against war.

While U. S. and British diplomacy are largely devoted to the propaganda preparations for war against the USSR, Stalin brushes aside the danger of a new war as something which today does not exist.

While U. S. and British imperialism have surrounded the USSR with military bases, Stalin evades discussion of the imperialists' intentions and denies that they could encircle the USSR even if they wanted to.

While every international de-

velopment testifies to the hostility between the USSR and the capitalist powers, Stalin states he believes unconditionally in the possibility of friendly and lasting cooperation between them.

While the imperialists work day and night to create a stockpile of atomic bombs for use in a war that can destroy civilization, Stalin tries to belittle the awful power of this weapon on the ground that other countries will soon discover its secrets and that its use will be prohibited anyhow.

What would happen if Stalin's teachings were accepted by the workers of the world, who alone can abolish the causes of war?

If there is no danger of a new war now, why bother to fight against it? If the atom bomb is no danger because its use is going to be prohibited, then why worry

about it? If there can be friendly and lasting cooperation between the USSR and the capitalist powers, then war is not an inevitable result of capitalism; in that case, why is it necessary to abolish capitalism in order to prevent war?

By spreading these treacherous ideas, Stalinism serves to disarm and discredit the workers in the struggle against war. Thus Stalinism gives objective aid to the warmongers and undermines the revolutionary defense of the Soviet Union.

Stalin's aim in making this statement was undoubtedly to serve the purposes of the Soviet bureaucracy on both the domestic and international fronts.

On the home front the Soviet people are just beginning to recover from the terrible war damage and must be deeply concern-

ed about the threat of another war. The statement is intended to still their discontent on this score by assuring them that the Soviet Union cannot be encircled and that Stalin's policy will avert war.

On the international front it is intended to notify Washington that despite its reaffirmation of the get-tough policy in the Wallace incident, Stalin is still willing to make a deal with the imperialists in return for certain concessions.

But speculation about Stalin's aims is secondary in this place. The fact is that Stalinism misleads the workers and diverts them from the necessary anti-war struggles at the same time that the dismissal of Wallace has called attention most sharply to the plans of the warmongers.

See Page 3 for other articles.

Pittsburgh Labor Smashes Power Strike Injunction; Mayor Begg Court To Dissolve Order He Initiated

(Continued from Page 1)

this brazen threat to labor's rights was angrily discussed. The street car workers struck after they heard the sentiments of riding workers.

This explosive outburst by Pittsburgh labor climaxed a fight of eight months' duration. Three times before, the power workers had gone on strike or threatened to strike for their just wage demands and decent working conditions.

After giving Democratic Mayor Lawrence a three-day notice, the power workers first struck on Wednesday, Sept. 10. The strike was halted after one hour by the issuance of a temporary injunction against "both" the union and company by Judge John Smart of the State Superior Court on the appeal of Mayor Lawrence, a Democrat elected with labor's votes.

The power workers union then decided to hold up their strike and appear in mass at the injunction hearing Tuesday morning, Sept. 24.

COURT HEARING

At 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, 2,500 power workers jammed the court. All had been named as defendants in the court order. As the judges proceeded to convert the "impartial" hearing into an open attack on the union president, Mueller, the wrath of the workers mounted.

Brushing aside both the state and federal anti-injunction laws, the judges extended the temporary injunction. Then they went to work on Mueller. They called him back to the stand and arrogantly demanded that he apologize to the court for his public attack on the injunction. The defense attorney's attempts to consult with Mueller during this unexpected proceeding were summarily ruled out by the judge.

Mueller refused to retract. Then the presiding judge asked: "Do you refuse to call off this strike as far as your authority is concerned?"

Mueller, who had no authority

to call off a strike without the vote of the union, answered: "I do refuse."

GETS THE BOOK

Promptly, the judges threw the book at him, charged him with "contempt" and immediately sentenced him to a year in jail. He was hauled off to Allegheny County Jail right then and there. Representatives of the AFL Electrical Workers offered \$10,000 cash bail on the spot. But the judges even refused to fix bail.

Drunk with their judicial power, the judges then threatened the other nine members of the strike committee with the same treatment if they "do not call off the strike by 10 a.m. tomorrow."

Announcement of Mueller's imprisonment brought forth a tremendous shout of anger from the thousands of workers at the court house. With a roar, "We want Mueller!" they surged toward the court house doors. Mounted police, wheeling their horses against the crowd, pressed them back.

With a threat of penitentiary sentences, the judges forced the strike leaders to agree to "recommend" the calling off of the strike at a membership meeting that same night.

PRESS GLEEFUL

This travesty of justice inside the courtroom was welcomed with gleeful howls by the jackal boss press. They had the strike virtually over in headlines, even before the workers had met to hear the proposal.

The proposal which the judges and city officials demanded the workers accept, was a company offer of only a five per cent raise. This proposal had been cooked up in a secret chamber session of judges, company and city officials. The judges ordered the strike committee to report this miserly offer favorably to the membership—or go to jail.

That night, 2,500 workers jammed the Carnegie Music Hall. It was a closed meeting of the union. The meeting started off orderly. Each of the strike com-

Pittsburgh Readers

The Pittsburgh branch of the Socialist Workers Party has moved to new headquarters at 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Discussions on current topics held on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. 3:30 p.m. Militant readers and friends invited.

mittee members rose and formally carried out the formal instructions of the court. But the members understood what was really in the strike leaders' hearts.

MUELLER COMES IN

A repeated shout rose: "We want Mueller!" And Mueller came in. The judges, fearing that only the presence and statement of Mueller could induce the workers to go back to work, released him temporarily to attend the meetings.

He was greeted by a tremendous and heart-warming ovation. Then, amidst sudden quiet, he repeated the formula that the judges had forced into his mouth.

The workers refused even to consider the company's offer. With indignation they lashed back at the employer-dominated court. They passed a motion by a more than four-to-one majority that: "We will not consider the company's offer until the injunction is dissolved."

Back to the court went the strike leaders. They carried with them the message that the legal threats and mumbo-jumbo of the courts had not frightened the power workers. They were taking up the challenge.

COURT RETREATS

Now it was time for the court to begin its retreat. The attempt at judicial strikebreaking had not only failed — it had made the workers firmer and bolder. Seeing the turn of the tide, the judges did not even dare to hold Mueller, already sentenced to prison and serving his term. They backed down on the threats to the other strike leaders and released Mueller in the custody of his own lawyer.

Next morning, the sympathy strikes began to snow-bail. By 11 a.m., 70,000 workers had already walked out. The Pittsburgh CIO Council, AFL central labor body and Railroad Brotherhoods had scheduled a special joint conference to discuss united anti-injunction action. Ten thousand workers marched around the courthouse. Banner-bearing District 18 CIO Steelworkers marched through the court-house halls, shouting: "Junk Injunction!"

At about one o'clock, a court clerk came down to the steps of the court house. The crowd surrounded him. On the bulletin board of the court house he posted the notice the workers had demanded: Injunction dissolved!

A thunderous cheer sounded. The militancy, the united power of labor had crashed through the legal fictions of the court. Mueller had called — and they had made the injunction — a scrap of paper!

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Workers Cheer Mueller



George L. Mueller (center) is cheered by jubilant members of the Independent Assn. of Duquesne Light Company in Pittsburgh, after their militant struggle won his release from jail and ended the anti-strike injunction. Federated Pictures

UPWA-CIO Leader Blasts Meat Barons For Shortage

By Barbara Bruce

(Special to The Militant)

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 25—Joseph Oilman, District Director of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, today charged that meat packing interests are deliberately holding back livestock from the slaughter houses in order to extort exorbitant prices when it is finally turned into meat.

This was the UPWA leader's answer to the claim made by Earl Altnow, secretary of the St. Paul Food Retailers Association, that the present meat famine is caused by black market operations. There is no shortage of grass-

No Progress At Wayne County CIO-PAC Merger

DETROIT, Mich.—Amalgamation of the Wayne County CIO Council and the Wayne County Political Action Committee was accomplished at least on paper at a one-day convention in Detroit last month. The Reutherites, who control the Wayne County PAC, still refuse to recognize or abide by the decisions of the convention.

The convention itself had been looked to as the sparring ring for control of the merged organization. However, the showdown failed to materialize. A majority of the Reutherite delegates and all their leaders boycotted the convention.

They charged it was a "communist plot" to rule the newly formed Wayne County CIO-Council-PAC. They also maintained that the convention was being called without the sanction of the national CIO.

STOMP OUT

Fourteen of the Reutherite delegates indignantly stomped out early in the morning sessions, protesting the seating of delegates from Ford Local 600 and Packard Local 190, both Stalinist-dominated. From then on, the Stalinist machine gathered steam, and by the end of the afternoon session the throttle was wide open and the machine hell-bent for the election of "pro-labor" Democrats.

The "third party idea" was bitterly assailed in a resolution presented by the leadership, calling for the support of Murray Van Wagener for Governor and all other "pro-labor" Democrats. Erwin Baur, UAW Local 306 delegate, roused the floor with a ringing demand for the formation of a Labor Party. He cited the damning record of the 79th Congress and its 90-odd PAC-endorsed members. "Labor must learn to depend on its own power," he said. "It must elect men responsible only to labor." Some of the other delegates arose to echo these sentiments.

UAW Vice-President Richard T. Leonard was soon on his feet, hotly denouncing "any third party at the present time. We must support all liberals and progressive Democrats," he said. "A labor party is impractical." With the Stalinists agreeing, the original resolution was adopted almost unanimously. Although it was supposed to be a two-day convention, the leadership introduced a motion to adjourn on the first day. There was some opposition by delegates who wanted to discuss the important political issues facing the labor movement, but the motion carried.

Mayor Lawrence Angers Workers Of Pittsburgh

(Special to The Militant)

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 27—Labor here is seething at the strikebreaking action of Democratic Mayor David L. Lawrence in initiating the injunction against the striking power workers.

Lawrence, boss of the local Democratic machine, was elected with the official backing of organized labor, including the CIO Political Action Committee. He has based his political strength on labor support and has enjoyed the confidence of the top union leaders.

Last month in a speech at the CIO Steelworkers District 18 conference, Lawrence even spoke about the need for labor to be "vigilant" against the reactionaries or labor's gains would be "gradually eaten away."

SHOWN UP

His anxiety to serve the utilities interests has now shown that he himself is trying to "eat away" labor's rights. Ironically, Lawrence's attack on the power workers was made while he was trying to gain a bit of pre-election political capital by accusing the Duquesne Light Company of charging excessive rates for street lighting.

Outside the injunction hearing yesterday at the court house, angry workers button-holed Democratic politicians and office-seekers with demands that Lawrence be ditched.

Spontaneous political gatherings on the sidewalks reminded the Democratic politicians that Pressley McCance, head of Duquesne Light, had contributed \$5,000 for Lawrence's last election campaign.

Democrats are trying to patch up the situation, now that the injunction has been smashed by Pittsburgh labor. The Democratic Party depends heavily on PAC support. And there are indications that they will continue to get such support from the top union officials.

FED UP

But the union ranks are getting fed up with these "friends of labor" like Lawrence who in a crisis always serve the interests of the private utilities and other corporation monopolists. Caught between an openly labor-hating Republican governor and a treacherous Democratic mayor, Pittsburgh workers are beginning to say: "We're sick of both boss parties. What we need is our own labor party and our own candidates."

More Detroit CIO Leaders Hit Attempt To Oust SWP

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 20—Michigan CIO Council President August Scholle and B. E. Gangle, President of Local 262, CIO United Automobile Workers, today added their strong statements to numerous public protests already made by prominent labor and progressive leaders against the attempt to evict the Socialist Workers Party from its Detroit Headquarters on the ground that Negroes attend the SWP meetings.

Scholle said: "The attempt to force the SWP to vacate its headquarters because Negroes have attended its meetings will set a dangerous precedent which, if successful, will surely not remain unused by reactionary forces in Michigan and throughout the country."

"The Michigan CIO has always opposed the use of the zoning laws to enforce discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed or political affiliation. We condemn the present use of the zoning laws to throttle the legitimate activities of the Socialist Workers Party."

B. E. Gangle declared: "As President of Local 262, UAW-CIO, with a membership of 2,000 members, I want to add my protest against the forces within the City of Detroit who are banded together in a reactionary drive to force the Socialist Workers Party from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood."

"The latest form of attack, that of trying to force the Socialist Workers Party to vacate its premises because Negroes attend its meetings, is a serious challenge to the fundamental constitutional rights of Americans to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Any such attack must be met on those grounds because the rights of all citizens of this country will be jeopardized if such a precedent

Rubber Workers Set Stage For Action On Wages

By Joseph Andrews

(Special to The Militant)

The 11th Annual Convention of the CIO United Rubber Workers, which concluded its sessions Sept. 21 in San Francisco, failed to adopt a clear cut policy to solve the workers' economic and political problems.

Nevertheless, an important step towards a resolute struggle on the wage question was taken when the convention voted to set up a permanent wage-policy committee, to meet Oct. 21, instructed to draw up wage demands and push for an industry-wide wage program.

The convention resolutions committee pigeon-holed resolutions calling for the formation of a labor party. It adopted a comparatively innocuous resolution that called for the CIO to "strengthen its ties with other liberal and progressive forces for the eventual establishment of a political party which will more truly represent the interests of the American people." Meanwhile, the resolution provides for continuation of the PAC policy of supporting politicians of the two old capitalist parties.

WAGE POLICY

The setting up of the wage policy committee was the most important achievement of the convention. Similar in set-up to the policy committee of the United Mine Workers, it provides machinery to press for uniform industry-wide wage and contractual demands. Made up of elected representatives of all local unions, the policy committee will make it possible for the sentiments of the rank and file to be expressed. It will no doubt develop into a body of great authority.

Although the international executive board must approve decisions of the policy committee, the committee's representative character and weight will make it difficult for the international officers to avoid carrying out its decisions.

When the policy committee meets in October the locals in Akron and elsewhere will undoubtedly push for adoption of an aggressive wage program which calls for a rising-scale escalator clause to meet rising living costs. It is considered a certainty that the first policy committee session will re-open the wage question with the Big Four rubber companies.

While the international officers who sponsored the policy committee may have been partly motivated by a desire to postpone the wage question and avoid a convention discussion on it, nevertheless the committee cannot be considered from this narrow viewpoint of convention strategy. It is a democratic and healthy step and should be supported as such. Those who may

have believed that the policy committee strategy was a handy device to side-track the Akron locals at the convention may well find it will provide the militant local unions with an authoritative means of pushing for a progressive wage program.

DUES QUESTION

The battles at the convention centered around the dues question and the issue of limiting the power and tenure of Stalinist Organizational Director N. H. Eagle. The progressive elements were badly split on the dues question. The final decision to raise the dues to \$1.50 instead of \$2 as proposed by the Laws Committee, was considered a compromise. There is no question but that the dues increase is very unpopular with the rank and file. They feel that they do not want to entrust additional funds to the international officers. The "No" vote was an expression of distrust of the leadership. Should the union embark on a militant wage program, this opposition to higher dues would fade away.

Closely tied to the militants' opposition to the dues increase was their determination to clip the wings of Organizational Director Eagle and his staff of field organizers. For too long now Eagle and his staff have been free to carry on their campaign of vilification, dividing the big Akron locals from the smaller locals in the rubber union who are serviced by Eagle's staff.

The convention adopted, after a considerable battle, the famous resolution No. 50 amended to read: "A general organization director shall be appointed yearly by the General President subject to approval by the General Executive Board. The year of office shall expire January 1 of each year."

BASIS FOR OUSTER

Innocuous as this may seem, it provides the basis for Eagle's ouster. Previously his office was appointed for an indeterminate term. It is now mandatory for URWA President Buckmaster to make a new appointment. The Akron locals, supported by many outlying locals, have urged Buckmaster to appoint a progressive unionist who will genuinely represent the rubber union.

Should Eagle be summarily fired, it is doubtful that the Stalinists could do much about it. Their weak base rests almost entirely upon a few small locals and the appointed staff.

The top officers were re-elected. Two candidates, George Bass, of Goodrich Local 5, and Claude Wisdom, an international organizer of Local 88, ran against Vice-President H. R. Lloyd. As the result of a split among the progressive delegates on the dues question, they did not unite in running officers and this in large measure explains their defeat.

If they do not bloc together, they cannot beat the combination of conservative forces. This lesson has been brought home in one convention after another. The problem still remains: to unite a serious, progressive bloc based on a fighting program and pledged to act together. The General Executive Board was shaken up and the new board is considered to be more progressive than the old. It is now a mixture of Buckmaster supporters, Stalinists and independent progressives.

The rubber convention allowed itself to be side-tracked from the great historic tasks of the day. It dissipated its energies in futile struggles for office and corridor power-politics divorced from program. If a new leadership is to arise and if the rubber union is to fulfill its destiny, those who seek to change the top structure of the union must arm themselves with a program that will inspire confidence and serve as a rallying point for all the best elements in the union.

A militant opposition cannot arise by hiding its program under a bushel. The Akron locals are armed with a program but their tactics have not been equal to the program. This is the lesson they must absorb.



can be established by these reactionary forces."

Previously UAW-CIO President Walter Reuther, Vice-President R. J. Thomas and Secretary-Treasurer George F. Addes, and scores of local union officials denounced this attempt to oust the SWP from its headquarters.

Hundreds of neighborhood residents are adding their protests to those of the labor movement by signing petitions circulated by the SWP. The petitions, addressed to the Mayor, the Common Council and City Departments state that "free speech and assembly should be guaranteed to everyone irrespective of race, color, creed or political affiliation."

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Toledo Readers
The Toledo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has moved to temporary headquarters located at 370 West Bancroft, Tel. Adams 2304.

THE MILITANT

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"War is a gigantic commercial enterprise, especially for the war industry. The 'Sixty Families' are therefore first-line patriots and the chief provocateurs of war. Workers' control of war industries is the first step in the struggle against the 'manufacturers' of war."

—Leon Trotsky

Keep Their Snouts Out!

Organized labor is getting a lot of free advice from the political flunkies of Big Business. They know all about what the unions need. And on every occasion possible they worm their way into labor gatherings and tell the unions what they should do. Always — of course — for the unions' "own good." Last week, one of Wall Street's government agents who is whooping it up for another World War shot off his mouth before the CIO Shipbuilding Workers convention. Undersecretary of War Kenneth C. Royall told the convention how "slow downs and strikes" are "threatening national defense." And his advice to the union was "purge the Communists." It's something less than accidental that Big Business tools like Royall never come up with any sound advice on how the workers can defend their living standards and win better conditions. The Royalls have one song and always sing on the same key. All the unions need to do to get along fine is to purge the "reds"; divide the workers up; kick out the militants. Royall wasn't talking for his health. He had something special in mind. "Surely nothing could endanger us more in... a war than a country divided along ideological lines," Royall said. What he means is that Wall Street wants only one ideological line—its line of war preparations.

The unions don't need the kind of advice that comes from elements like Royall, whose purpose is to spread poison in the workers' ranks. The bosses figure there's nothing like a witch-hunt against the "reds" to keep the workers from paying attention to their real problems—the struggle against the corporation profiteers and warmongers. Instead of inviting these Wall Street spokesmen to defile the atmosphere of a union convention, the union leaders ought to be putting up "No admission" signs at every entrance. Let the capitalist government officials and corporation spokesmen keep their ugly snouts out of the labor movement. The workers don't need and don't want any advice from their enemies whose chief aim is to divide and weaken the labor movement.

Role Of The Courts

Two cases last week spot-lighted the role of the courts as agencies to protect the interests of the ruling rich. In Pittsburgh, three Judges slapped a sweeping injunction on the power workers, banning their right to strike, and then tossed their leader into jail on a one-year rap without a jury trial. In Troy, N. Y., a Tammany-picked Judge held a farcical hearing on an attempt by the Democratic Party to arbitrarily rule four minority parties, including the Socialist Workers Party, off the New York State ballot. Both court proceedings were striking examples of capitalist class justice. One was directed against workers fighting for decent wages and conditions through union economic action. The other was directed against the political rights of working-class parties. But the outrageous action of the Pittsburgh court couldn't hold up for 48 hours under the smashing assault of all Pittsburgh labor. They cut right through all the legal mumbo-jumbo. They slashed the injunction to pieces with a spreading wave of strikes. They forced Pittsburgh's Democratic Mayor Lawrence, who initiated the injunction proceedings, to rush into court and have it called off. The Judges back-tracked so fast you couldn't see their black robes for the cloud of dust. The crooked Tammany-Democratic deal in the New York court is as much a deadly blow at labor's rights as the Pittsburgh injunction. And the whole conspiracy could be blown up in short order if the workers in New York State took as militant and decisive action as the Pittsburgh workers. Unfortunately, labor that is so powerful and militant on the economic field, is weak and impotent on the political field. It is still tied to the politicians and political parties of Big Business. The workers rise as one when they see a blow directed against their eco-

omic struggles. The must learn to rise as one in defending their political rights. Imagine if the 15,000,000 unionized workers, plus their families, were united in one great labor party. Would corrupt capitalist judges then dare to bar their party from the ballot? Would the Democratic and Republican agents of Wall Street march confidently into court rooms presided over by their hand-picked legal harpies and try to swing a legal club at labor? Not likely. These political shysters wouldn't be thinking about using the courts against labor. They'd be raising wrinkles and grey hair trying to figure how to keep capitalist-minded judges in the courts at all. If the same power and solidarity shown in Pittsburgh were carried over by labor into the political field, it wouldn't be very long before the judges on the benches would be labor judges. They'd be administering labor-written laws, in the interests of the working people, and against the criminal acts of the present ruling rich minority.

The Meat Famine

Everybody knows there is plenty of meat. It didn't just vanish into air the day after price ceilings were reinstated. The meat packing trust, big cattle dealers and speculators are deliberately withholding meat supplies. Large stocks of processed meat are being held in storage. Prime meat cattle are being sought by the packers as "feeders," instead of for slaughtering. A small handful of rapacious capitalists who control the meat supply have told 140,000,000 people: "Pay us any extortionate price we demand—or go without meat!" What is the government doing about it?—this government that doesn't hesitate to seize railroads, mines, factories — yes, the meat packing industry itself—to break strikes. Truman, with his eye on the coming elections, makes a big noise about not yielding to pressure to abandon price ceilings on meat. It's nice to know that we won't be over-charged on non-available meat. But where is the meat? What is Truman doing to force the meat packers to put the meat on the market? Nothing! At the same time, Truman's henchman, House Democratic Majority Leader John W. McCormack paves the way for full capitulation to the price demands of the meat profiteers. He proposed last week to end all meat ceilings for 60 days. It's a cinch the capitalist government isn't going to do anything, of its own free will, to force the meat packers and cattle speculators to end the meat famine. That means it's squarely up to the independent action of the workers, farmers and housewives. The way to get meat is to take action on a national scale like the militant group of housewives took last week in Toledo. They got together in an emergency committee and stormed the Mayor's office demanding that he call on the federal government to take over the meat industry and operate it under the control of the unions. Let hundreds of thousands of housewives and their husbands and children—take mass action in support of demands like the Toledo housewives raise, and we'll see some meat start flowing into the market again. The Toledo housewives have the real answer: 1. Mass action; 2. Nationalization of the meat industry under workers' control.

Inspiring Example

A general strike against the sending of troops to the Netherlands Indies swept Amsterdam on Sept. 24, according to the Netherlands News Agency. Four special trains carrying 3,000 troops were delayed. Some of the soldiers apparently participated in the demonstration, since according to NNA, they "several times pulled the air-brakes." The Dutch police used firearms and sabers to "disperse angry crowds." The strike began at dawn, and was scheduled to run 24 hours. It tied up "virtually the entire city." Authorities claimed it was "unexpected." According to NNA the strike was "Communist-led." Up until recently the Stalinists have opposed demonstrations such as this. Their line has been to support the Netherlands Empire. The Trotskyists, on the other hand, have called for the immediate freedom of Indonesia. One of the first slogans raised by the Trotskyists after years of fighting the Nazis in the underground was "Free Indonesia from Holland Now!" The Trotskyists have distributed leaflets and consistently called in their paper, *The Tribune*, for militant working class action to aid the Indonesian people in their struggle for freedom. The demonstration of the Amsterdam workers is another dramatic example of the kind of working class action that can really help the colonial peoples. The dockworkers of Australia were the first to carry out a mass action of this type. When the Dutch despots, aided by the British and liberally supplied with American arms, began shooting down the people of Indonesia, the Australian dockworkers responded with strike action. They refused to load ships with military supplies for the Dutch tyrants. Their militant action forced the Dutch to give up Australia as a base of operations against Indonesia. If the workers of Holland now extend their action against the Dutch capitalists and in behalf of the Indonesian people, they can strike a mighty blow for the independence of the colonial lands. The freedom of the colonial peoples from imperialist rule will in turn aid the workers of Western Europe and America to break the chains of capitalist rule.



"Hubert feels just like you do, Mr. Harriman. He's never happy unless he spends a few hours each day clipping coupons."

Workers' BOOKSHELF

GOD'S LITTLE ACRE by Erskine Caldwell, Penguin Books, 1946, 183 pp., 25 cents. This book deals with the lives of Southern poor farmers and textile mill workers. Although first published in 1933, it still retains its timeliness and truthfulness. Changes have taken place in the South, but they are not so deep as to affect its backwardness, its poverty and prejudice. The author has sensitive ears. He conveys to the reader the color of Southern speech, and even the noises of a textile mill town. He re-creates the atmosphere of a large strata of oppressed people in America. Listening to his characters talk, sensing the atmosphere arising from the conditions of their lives, the reader grasps the reality of Southern life; its deep and all-pervading frustrations, its poverty, affecting not only the working people but the middle-class farmers and towns people as well. The author shows the extent of the decay which, in the words of Ty Ty, one of the book's central characters, "puts animals into the bodies of humans." Ty Ty is an old farmer who spent the past 15 years digging up his land in search of gold, without success. While he and two of his sons engage in digging, he has a few acres of his land farmed by Negro sharecroppers, just enough to live on. The futility and imbecility of this idea is counterposed by Will Thompson, Ty Ty's son-in-law. Will is a textile mill worker, restless and fiery. He and his fellow workers have been locked out of the mill for 18 months because they refused to accept the company's demand to work for \$1.10 a day. The idea of "turning on the power" some day arises in Will's head. Although not alone in this desire, he becomes the incarnation of the idea. The local union leaders are against it. When it comes to a vote, he is outvoted. But, in their despair, the workers march upon the mill, break into it, and Will "turns on the power." As he does this, he is murdered by company police. Most fiction books on the South are glorifications of its alleged virtues. Not so with this book. Caldwell makes you feel the surge of real life in the men and women peopling his book. There is subtle power in the way he tells of the girls going to work in the mills, while men stand outside spitting blood from ruined lungs into the yellow sand. It is truthful and beautifully written, and contributes to our understanding. Reviewed by Eugene Shays

THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED PHILISTINES by James T. Farrell, Progressive Book Club Reprint, 1946, 210 pp., \$2. "The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto looked up to with reverence. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science into its paid wage laborers."—from the Communist Manifesto. With this quotation as his introduction, James T. Farrell has written a series of essays on literature: and art today. As a prominent American novelist, he is well acquainted with the wave of super-patriotism which engulfed American writers and artists during the war. Books that told the truth about workers' conditions were called "traitorous" because they weakened the workers' desire to fight in the imperialist war. The realistic writers of the depression period, including Farrell, Hemingway and Dos Passos, he points out, were denounced as irresponsible degenerates. Most of them buckled under the pressure. Even the author of "All Quiet on the Western Front" regretted having written that great anti-war novel. The intellectuals of this country became, in truth, a "league of frightened philistines." The same capitalist pressures are exerted on other fronts. Giant corporations have extended their domination over the fields of book publishing, magazine, newspapers and movies. Intellectuals, completely dependent on the few corporations which control their livelihood, become subservient to them. Farrell traces this monopoly development most clearly in his two essays on the movie industry. Today Big Business controls this entire industry. Farrell shows how the artists and writers in this industry are forced to knuckle down to Big Business. Everyone must rigidly follow the movie patterns which have proven profitable. Individual taste and originality are discouraged, if not forbidden. The results are empty, meaningless, repetitious pictures. But the profits are tremendous. The movie industry is only one example of the way in which the intellectuals have become the wage-slaves of monopoly capitalism. A similar process is going on in every cultural field. Honest intellectuals like the author realize that only the elimination of capitalism and the end of wage-slavery in the whole economy will end this wage slavery in literature and art. Reviewed by Jules Kramer

W. Averell Harriman, Wall St. Tycoon

By Ruth Benson

Who is W. Averell Harriman, Truman's new Secretary of Commerce? He is a big-time operator in Wall Street, a member of one of America's richest families, a banker and railroad magnate. He is named in the biggest anti-trust suit ever undertaken by the Justice Department — a case which is supposed to come before the courts Dec. 1. Harriman gets his fortune from the railroads owned by his family since the last century, when huge grants of land were extorted from the people to make the railroads rich. He is chairman of the board of directors of the Union Pacific, the Los Angeles and Salt Lake line, the Oregon Short Line railroad, the Oregon and Washington Railroad and Navigation Companies. He is also a director of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroads and of the powerful Illinois Central railroad. To increase his tremendous take from these roads, Harriman in 1932 helped engineer the "greatest monopolistic conspiracy in the history of American business," according to PM, Sept. 24. He and his cohorts schemed to end competition in railroad rates, to make passengers and shippers pay exorbitant prices for transportation. They plotted to keep modern equipment off the roads, endangering the lives of passengers and railroad work-



HARRIMAN

ers to protect the loot of the railroad owners. They used their control of the rail lines to aid steel and oil monopolists, driving small enterprises into bankruptcy. Named in the suit with Harriman was "the most powerful aggregation of wealth ever named in an anti-trust suit," says PM. It included J. P. Morgan & Co.; the du Ponts; General Motors; Kuhn, Loeb & Co.; the leading railroad companies and bankers of the country; most of the major oil companies and the leading steel companies. Harriman in 1943 issued his statement on the case: "If this is a conspiracy, then the railroads of this country need bigger and better conspiracies." It is now 14 years since the conspiracy was initiated. Nine weeks before it is scheduled to be prosecuted, one of the defendants is made Secretary of Commerce, where he can most ably aid "bigger and better" conspiracies in the future! Harriman's power doesn't end with his railroad holdings. He is also a partner in Brown Bros. Harriman, a private banking firm. In "America's Sixty Families" he is also listed as a member of the board of the Guaranty Trust Co. Harriman is a leading stockholder in Time, Inc., publishers of Life, Time and Fortune, and in Newsweek, another magazine that speaks for Wall Street. Harriman is a representative of the most ruthless profiteers in the United States. His publications ardently defended the du Ponts against the exposures of their World War I crimes. He is now in a most advantageous position to protect the profiteers who gorged on the bloodbath of World War II. He will do everything in his power to remove all obstacles for the warmakers in World War III. This is Harriman, Secretary of Commerce. This is the man who is "in full accord" with Byrnes' policy of "getting tough" with the Soviet Union.

Shipyard Firms Stole 1,600% War Profits

The facts in the current scandal — the staggering profits made by the big shipping corporations in World War II are so smelly, that they have broken through all efforts to conceal them. Even as Wall Street is preparing for World War III and still bigger profits, some of the facts about the billions they swindled out of the last war are now leaking out. Evidence placed before the House Merchant Marine Committee by the Maritime Commission last week revealed that 19 shipbuilding firms made an estimated \$56,000,000 in profits on a total investment of \$22,979,275. This represents 1,600 per cent in profits over capital investment. The biggest shipping monopolists are trying to shift the brunt of the inquiry against the Henry Kaiser interests. This wartime newcomer in the monopoly game invested only \$100,000 in one of his corporations and drew out the prize plum of \$43,647,026 in profits. But the other shipping swindlers did just as well. Permanente Metals Corporation invested \$460,000 and reaped a profit of \$58,840,885. Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards invested \$1,000,000 and got back \$53,906,980 in profits. California's Shipbuilding Corporation invested \$600,000 and squeezed out \$44,423,014 in profits. Oregon Ship Building Corporation reaped \$40,930,564 on an original investment of \$550,000. North Carolina Ship Building Corporation invested \$3,000,000 and profited to the tune of \$27,645,029. Todd Houston Ship Building Corporation gained \$13,678,303 on an investment of \$689,200. Marinship Corporation got \$11,871,840 on its investment of \$500,000. On a tiny investment of \$600, the St. Johns River Ship Building Corporation came up with \$2,080,000 in profits! Five other firms; J. A. Jones Construction Co., Consolidated Steel Corporation, East Coast Shipyards, McClosky & Co. and Southeastern Ship Building Corporation invested a total of \$9,889,811 and came out with \$30,443,617 to the good.

General Food's Corner On Rye Market

Another example of how the big food monopolists secure a strangle-hold on the nation's basic food commodities in order to shove prices up was revealed last week in the suit against the General Foods Corporation of New York. The Agriculture Department charged that between December 1942 and May 1944, General Foods cornered the market on rye. It held or controlled 11,805,000 bushels of cash rye, amounting to 89 per cent of deliverable rye on the Chicago market. Jack W. Bain, Agriculture Department legal officer who acted as referee in the 16-month-old case, declared in his report that General Foods thus "artificially manipulated prices." But the only punishment facing this greedy and wealthy monopoly is a possible year's ban from the contract market!

A & P Convicted In Anti-Trust Suit

John Hartford, president of the giant Atlantic & Pacific food chain monopoly, convicted in Danville, Ill., in an anti-trust suit brought by the Justice Department, craftily tried to conceal the A & P's robbery of millions of hard-earned dollars from the consuming public. On the witness stand he stated: "Our company grew to its present size because we believed it was better to sell 200 pounds of butter at one cent per pound profit than 100 pounds at two cents per pound profit." What Hartford concealed was the fact that the A & P, through ruthless and illegal practices succeeded in eliminating many of its smaller competitors, and then shot up its prices as soon as it cleared the field for itself. The 117-page decision handed down by the Court reveals some of the corrupt methods by which the A & P achieved its monopoly. "Its position and its practices created a sharp differential between A & P's purchases of produce and those of its competitors," the court decision charged. It further declared that the practices of the Atlantic Commission Co., produce-buying subsidiary of the A & P, "over the years leaves a bad odor." The A & P "consistently selected the highest quality of produce for the A & P and the less desirable for its outside buyers, thus securing for A & P not only a buying price differential but also a preference in quality. . . . This in turn served to give A & P's retail units a preferential position in competition with other retailers at the expense of the latter. . . . But the quality deteriorated and the prices went up after this competition was eliminated. The court also revealed that the A & P collected brokerage fees from other retailers. The A & P complained that "the pattern" of its monopolistic practices are "usual" to the whole "American business system." That's true — but no defense.

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Only Victorious Socialist Revolutions Can Prevent The Third World War!

Manifesto of the Fourth International to the Workers, the Exploited and the Oppressed Colonial Peoples of the Entire World April 1946

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Diary Of A Steel Worker

The Story Of Stanley Berek

By Theodore Kovalesky

His name was Berek, Stanley Berek. He was an old man, so the thing didn't seem quite as tragic as it might have if he were younger. I don't suppose it was tragic at all, just pathetic.



The way we got the story was that Berek came to this country years ago. His father went to work in the mines in Pennsylvania, and young Stanley started there too at the age of twelve.

Stanley Berek grew up in the lean, tired way his friends and companions grew up in the town. There were layoffs, there were strikes, and there was violence.

Then Stanley Berek put all this behind him and went to Pittsburgh. He knew very little of what lay before him, but he knew what he was leaving behind.

Stanley Berek found himself a room in the Smoky City, and he found himself a job in the steel mills. Some time later he found himself a woman and married her.

A couple of years after that it happened. It seems that something had gone wrong with a shear.

It didn't kill him. He had fought hard for his life ever since childhood, and his body and system were tempered in that fight.

It's good to be able to say that he was not swindled out of all compensation like so many other workers. He wasn't. It was a lucky break.

Only, they couldn't save anything, naturally. They heard of those wonderful dogs that blind people could buy, dogs that were almost human and could guide a blind man safely anywhere at all.

And then one evening last week as he was tapping his way home, he walked into the way of a truck. It was very quick. When he heard the footsteps gathering around him in the darkness and sensed somebody bending over him, he murmured, "I no see..." and died.

When we heard the story, we all thought, what a lousy shame he couldn't have afforded one of those dogs!

New Jersey Candidates Fight For Housing To Be Financed By Taxing The Monopolies

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 28—

The housing crisis has become the key political issue in New Jersey's election campaign, and the Socialist Workers Party candidates are in the thick of the fight.



Alan Kohlman State Legislature convenes in special session next Monday to deal with the housing question.

The high point of the campaign this week was the proposal to finance housing through a two-cent tax on cigarettes advanced by Republican Governor Edge at the beginning of this week and hastily withdrawn yesterday to prevent a smashing Republican defeat at the polls in November.

The initiative in the fight against the cigarette tax was taken by Alan Kohlman, SWP candidate for Governor, who was soon joined in his attacks on the proposed legislation by veteran and labor organizations.

Exposing the purpose of Edge's program — to tax the workers while helping the profiteers — Kohlman advanced the SWP demand: Tax the rich and not the poor.

He called for a fight to "increase corporation taxes on the profit-bloated trusts and monopolies to pay for long-range housing;" use of the state post-war reserve; higher taxes on horse-racing, bank stocks and the railroads.

Kohlman and William E. Bohannon, SWP candidate for Congress from the 11th District, spoke on the housing question last night at a well-attended meeting in State Campaign Headquarters.

Here Bohannon showed that Negro workers and veterans were hardest-hit in the present housing crisis, and called for a vigorous fight to kick out the legislators who have stalled on this vital question.

Kohlman devoted part of his remarks to an analysis of the Driscoll program, which he branded as "even more conservative than Edge's on the matter of permanent housing."

MEET THE SWP CANDIDATES

Warren Creel Candidate for U. S. Congress 3rd District, Minnesota

Warren Creel comes of Socialist parents. His father, H. G. Creel, was a writer and speaker of the Socialist Party, and circulation manager of the Appeal to Reason; later he was editor of the state newspaper of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, the Farmer-Labor Leader.



Creel, now 37 years old, is married and has a five-year old daughter. He was born in Chicago, spent his grade school years in Texas and Oklahoma City, went to high school in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended the University of Chicago for one year, 1928-29. During his next two years as an office worker in Los Angeles, he was an active forum speaker on economic subjects.

In 1932 he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, and organized study of Marxist economics in the Farmer-Labor youth organization. Because of the success of these study groups, the state Farmer-Labor Association set up an Educational Bureau to carry on further educational work, with Warren Creel as secretary.

In 1934, during the Minneapolis drivers' strikes, he came in to contact with the Socialist Workers Party forces and he joined them in 1936.

The following year he left the Farmer-Labor Party state office

to go to Duluth, Minnesota, as business agent of the Duluth Teachers Association, Local 692 of the American Federation of Teachers. During his eight years in this post, the organization made an outstanding record in the national teachers union. He resigned in 1944, to take up work which would allow more political activity.

Today he is an assembler and punch press operator in a Minneapolis factory. He is a member of the United Electrical Workers, CIO, Local 1140, and a delegate to the Hennepin County CIO Council.

Warren Creel is a frequent contributor to The Militant and the Fourth International.

California SWP Election Drive Goes Into High Gear This Week

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Sept. 26—The Socialist Workers Party's write-in election campaign in this state went into high gear this week with the signing of radio contracts in San Diego, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The candidates, Steve Roberts for Governor, Cynthia Rogalin for Los Angeles County State Senator, and Robert Chester for 20th District State Assemblyman, will be heard on the air in a total of nine 15-minute broadcasts. (See Page 6 for details.)

A wide network of listening parties is being arranged in all parts of the state.

An attractive two-color six-page leaflet with the SWP's platform, a radio card and a special edition of The Militant will be distributed by the tens of thousands in neighborhoods and before factories.

A tour of whirlwind speeches by the three candidates is now in preparation. In addition to covering sections where SWP branches exist, the tour will cover such places as Stockton, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Bernardino, Azusa, etc. Labor and minority organizations are being urged to invite SWP candidates to their own meetings.

A series of mass meetings and neighborhood rallies in San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Pedro is already underway.

Publicity is being released almost daily to the press. In addition the party is issuing the Trotskyist Campaigner, with full information on election activity, for the remainder of the campaign. Militant readers can be placed on the mailing list for the Campaigner free of charge by writing to the Los Angeles Local headquarters, 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd.

On The Radio Hear Sylvia Blecker, SWP candidate for Atty.—General of N. Y., Friday, Oct. 4; Milton Richardson, SWP candidate for Lt. Governor, Saturday, Oct. 5.

Both on WLIB Public Program, 4:10 p.m. — 1190 on dial.

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Carlson Pledges Fight Against Jim Crow

By Winifred Nelson ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 28.—Pledging Socialist Workers Party candidates to an uncompromising fight to end Jim Crow, Grace Carlson, Minnesota SWP candidate for U. S. Senator spoke at the local SWP headquarters, 540 Cedar St., last week on "The Menace of 'White Supremacy'."

Tracing the growth of the myth of racial superiority as an instrument in the capitalist policy of divide-and-rule, the speaker declared:

"We in the SWP say that the oppression of races is an integral part of capitalism and that equality of opportunity cannot be attained unless we change the capitalist system... We have taken our place in the great fight to free mankind from oppression—to create a new world where there will be no discrimination and segregation and inequality, only the human race and the brotherhood of man."

Dr. Carlson reminded her audience of the promise of the Four Freedoms "everywhere in the world" as a result of World War II. "But the Negro veteran Isaac Woodard," she continued, "didn't return to the Four Freedoms when he had his eyes gouged out by a brutalized chief of police."

The very attentive audience, which filled the headquarters to capacity, contributed generously to a collection to aid the election campaign.

Most of the SWP candidates in these states had articles in the special editions.

SWP Candidates Hit Sales Tax In Washington

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 27.—Washington State sales taxes will still be pegged at three per cent according to the program set forth this week by Democratic Governor Mon C. Wallgren. The Governor is opposed to any lowering of the tax which is levied on the sale of all commodities in Washington, including food. The main burden of this tax falls on the working class.

Wallgren justified the continuation of this tax on the poor as necessary "if we are to continue the liberal program we have in social security, medical aid and the rest of the program we've started." This means that the working class itself is to foot the bill for the small social security concessions it has been able to win.

In sharp opposition to the Democratic Governor's program, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in Washington call for the outright repeal of the state's sales tax and the adoption of the principle "tax the rich, not the poor — no taxes on incomes less than \$5,000 a year!"

Don't Be A Vitamaniac!

By Grace Carlson

Increasing numbers of people are coming to regard vitamin pills as the cure for all of the ills of the human race. Very disturbed about this situation, public health authorities have coined the phrase, "a vitamaniac," to describe the victim of the current vitamin-pill-craze.

That there are so many "vitamaniacs" in the United States is due, in the main, to the unprincipled and unscientific advertising campaigns of the country's vitamin pill manufacturers. Whether vitamin pills benefit the patients or not, they certainly benefit the drug companies! Some \$200,000,000 a year is taken in by vitamin pill manufacturers. This is a third of all drug sales.

There is no doubt but that vitamin deficiencies create serious health problems for American workers. In 1940, there were 2,373 deaths from pellagra, beriberi, scurvy and rickets — all vitamin deficiency diseases. And for every actual death from malnutrition; there are thousands who are seriously ill from diet deficiency diseases and millions who have mild or moderate vitamin deficiencies. A 1942 survey of the diets of the relatively well-paid workers

in the Lockheed Aircraft Plant in Burbank, California showed that 87 per cent had diets which were unsatisfactory. Surveys of the diets of Southern sharecroppers and of North Carolina textile workers showed 100 per cent unsatisfactory records.

But attempts of individuals to make up for diet deficiencies by "doctoring" themselves with vitamin pills are frowned upon by medical men. U.S. Surgeon-General Thomas Parran has this to say: "The solution of malnourishment for the population as a whole is not that we become a nation of drug-takers but that there be readily available an adequate supply of all the foods we need at the prices we can pay. Occasionally, synthetic vitamins are necessary when acute illness develops and years of faulty feeding must be made up by a few weeks or months of addition to the diet of specific minerals and vitamins. This is a problem of medical care."

A balanced diet, which includes plenty of meat, milk, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables and whole-grain cereals — that is what human beings need. Despite all of the claims of the pill manufacturers, synthetic vitamins are no substitute for rich, nourishing food!

Fight for the kind of wage scale that can buy vitamin-rich food for you and your family! Don't be a vitamaniac!

Girdling The Earth With Bases

By Joseph Hansen

A 24-hour general strike, staged in Iceland, Sept. 24, protested granting U. S. imperialism the military bases it wants there. Lying directly on the highly strategic North Atlantic route to the Soviet Union, this small island is important in Wall Street's projected war against the Soviet Union.

Since the close of the Second World War, the Staltnests have actively opposed entrenchment of Wall Street's military machine in Iceland. The proposed deal over retention of air fields with permanent skeleton crews of American troops is now up for consideration in the Icelandic Parliament.

Iceland, however, is but one point in the vast circle of bases sought by Wall Street's militarists. Already American bases dot such strategic points in the West Indies as the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Antigua, St. Lucia and Trinidad. The brass hats want an outer ring of bases from Iceland through the Azores down to South America. To put pressure on the Portuguese government to concede bases on the Azores, eight United States warships visited Lisbon August 16 during the negotiations.

Around the Panama Canal American militarists project a perimeter of bases on a radius of more than 1,000 miles. During the war the U. S. armed forces held 130 bases in Panama. The brass hats want to retain the Galapagos Islands that belong to Ecuador, and build a ring of bases extending through Peru, Ecuador,

Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Salvador and Guatemala.

Wall Street is working overtime to bring Latin America into its military plans. U. S. military missions have visited 13 Latin American countries this year. In 20 U. S. Army missions some 500 officers and men have been involved. Top-rank generals and admirals like Eisenhower and Halsey have made tours. Spanish and Portuguese editions of military publications and field manuals are distributed free of charge. Key Latin-American officers have been brought to the United States for study and indoctrination.

In the distant Pacific, the Wall Street militarists insist on retaining Manus in the Admiralties islands which have been under the Australian flag.

As for the Japanese Islands seized during the war, the State Department has coolly announced it does not even intend to place them under a so-called "trusteeship agreement" with the United Nations.

These steps to convert the Western Hemisphere into an armed camp and the Pacific and Atlantic into U. S. Army and Navy ponds are part of Wall Street's preparations for another war. A five-member delegation of the House Military Affairs Committee upon returning from a 38,000 mile inspection tour of the Pacific made no bones about these war plans.

They demanded haste in ringing the Pacific with strong bases within striking distance of the Soviet Union!

What Is Moral Turpitude?

By Ruth Benson

The gigantic Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, whose food store chain reaches every corner of the country, was found guilty last week by a federal court of "conspiring to monopolize a large portion of the nation's food business." It had stolen millions of dollars from workers' pockets by short-changing, short-weighting, and price-boosting.

In 1941 alone, A&P profits amounted to \$26,125,000, and almost two millions of this sum came directly from cheating its customers! Moreover, by its ruthless law-breaking, the A&P had wiped out competition, driving thousands of little grocers from the stores into which they had poured their life savings.

In Danville, Illinois, on Sept. 27, Federal Judge Walter C. Lindley passed sentence on these crooks. Under the anti-trust laws, the guilty heads of the corporation and its subsidiaries, were liable to fines and prison terms of two years.

But did they go to jail? Not on your life! You see, explained Judge Lindley, these thieves were not guilty of "moral turpitude"! To rob

workers' families of millions of dollars was "only an economic offense," Lindley claimed.

In fact, Lindley did everything but apologize to these silk-hat criminals. "It would serve no purpose to enter a sentence of imprisonment," he said. And since he was going to set them free, he excused them from even showing up in court to hear his decision! According to Lindley, it was "unnecessary to take them from their vocations" of robbing the poor.

Reluctantly he fined the corporation a mere \$175,000 — petty-cash compared to their loot. And then he hastily put a stay on the fines, so the crooks could appeal even that insignificant "punishment."

In the same week down in Pittsburgh, a strike leader, George L. Mueller, president of the power workers' union, was arrested, sentenced without bail or a jury trial, and thrown into jail for a year's term. Mueller, it seems, had shown "moral turpitude." He was "guilty" of leading 3,500 workers in a fight for higher wages so they could buy some of the food which the A&P and the other monopolists, had put beyond reach. That's no trifling "economic offense" like stealing millions from the working people!

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