

Labor Union Trends

Two Million-Dollar Organizing Campaigns

By Bert Cochran

When the CIO was first formed in 1935 and announced that a million-dollar war chest had been set up to organize the steel industry...

Can it be that the employers have seen the light and now intend to cooperate in extending to their workers good wages and decent working conditions?

The announcement of a million-dollar drive to organize the department store workers came right after the Portland CIO convention held last November...

Sidney Hillman's heirs did not stop with this in making their inspiring bid to the underpaid and overworked department store employees.

What did the Amalgamated officials tell the department store workers that unionization was going to do for them specifically in the way of improved conditions?

Under the circumstances, it is not too surprising that the masses didn't flock in serried ranks to

the Amalgamated offices. As a matter of fact, despite its million-dollar kitty, the organizing drive up to the present has been a prize fizzle.

First, several tens of thousands of New York workers organized in the independent Department Store Employees Union were duly impressed — in reverse — with the Amalgamated propaganda and decided they had better stick with their own union, even if it was Stalinist-run.

That was only the first catastrophe to hit the Amalgamated campaign. Soon, the Wanamaker local and Oppenheim-Collins unit succeeded from the CIO clerks and joined up with the AFL Retail Clerks Protective Association...

The AFL Clerks have been in business since 1899 and have never up to now worked up any high blood pressure about organizing the department store workers...

For example, Peter Formica, AFL Clerks Council President in Cleveland, in announcing the drive in that city, outlined to the public press his labor philosophy at the same time: "We do not intend to attack or malign the personality of the employer. We have no faith in the fiction that the employer is a malefactor.

But despite their high-sounding talk and "million dollar drive,"

the AFL Clerks are small potatoes. Behind the real power in the AFL bid looms the sinister figure of Dave Beck, Vice President of the Teamsters international, who is gradually emerging as the boss of the Teamsters and one of the two-three most powerful bureaucrats in the whole labor movement.

DAVE BECK MOVES IN

Dave Beck first established himself as an important labor figure in Seattle. He took full advantage of the NRA and CIO upheavals to organize everything that wasn't nailed down.

Beck is very aggressive and ambitious. He doesn't smoke or drink and he works at his job. In the early days, he made frequent use of goon squads and gangster tactics to bring employers to terms.

A decade ago, the CIO broke the backbone of the employers' resistance to unionism. But if the bosses had to deal with unions, then the Dave Beck brand of unionism was the one they most preferred and found least obnoxious.

BECK'S METHODS

When insurgent groups of workers threatened to disrupt this beautiful partnership, Beck would go into action with his strong-arm squads, black-jack artists, dynamiters and similar labor activists.

Atlantic Pact Ceremonies



Secretary of State Dean Acheson is shown addressing delegates from the 11 European countries who signed the new war alliance along with the U. S. The agreement must now be ratified by the Senate.

MARITIME UNION HEADS DEMAND 'LOYALTY' OATH

(Continued from page 1) "ocratic" in existence, contains adequate provisions for defending the integrity of the union and punishing those guilty of overt violations.

The existing constitution was largely rewritten by the Curran group through extensive revisions presented to and adopted by the 1947 convention.

"The National Maritime Union shall strive to completely eliminate and outlaw Jim Crowism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination against racial, religious, national or political minorities."

This pledge was incorporated and repeated over and over again in the statements issued by the Rank and File Caucus.

Thought-control, loyalty oaths, yellow-dog affidavits and witch-hunts are reactionary concepts completely alien to the spirit and practice of working class democ-

Auto Workers Fight Speedup In Detroit

DETROIT, April 11 — The flurry of strikes against the increasing speedup in auto plants here continues. Charging the Ford Co. with speedup, the general council of the giant Ford River Rouge Local 600 ordered a strike vote among its 60,000 members for April 16.

It is entirely logical, therefore, for Time magazine to chortle over its "labor leader": "The great majority of employers think he is wonderful and applaud like happy seals when he speaks at the Chamber of Commerce.

This is the vicious figure who has now stepped into the national labor picture, and among other projects, has decided to move in on the department store field.

At Briggs Local 742, producer of Packard bodies, a general walkout occurred when men in the trim shop refused to work overtime while 1500 men were still laid off.

Fund Campaign Passes Quarter-Mark of Quota

By Reba Aubrey Campaign Manager

With the \$7,500 Militant Fund at the one-third mark, the national percentage is lagging 8% behind schedule. With only four weeks to go our "Scoreboard" shows collections have reached 25% of the quotas.

Ten of the Socialist Workers Party branches, however, are right on schedule, with Morgantown in the lead. The comrades of this branch rushed in their \$30 payment to boost them to first place with 120%.

Other branches are using the scientific method of reaching their goals — regular piling which fulfills a certain percentage of their quota each week. This is the method that places Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Newark, New Haven, Baltimore, San Francisco-Oakland, Reading and New York, just where they should be at this moment — or a little bit ahead.

A little extra spurt during the week by those branches in the 20% category will put them on schedule before the next "Scoreboard."

Not only branches of the Socialist Workers Party, but also friends of the Militant are pitching in to make sure that the Fund drive reaches 100%. R. M. of Milwaukee, an "old Socialist and fine comrade, donated \$2 for the Militant Fund." W. B. of Portland, Oregon, contributed \$8.80.

KREMLIN STEPS UP ITS RABID CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVS

(Continued from Page 1) loped too much 'nationalist' independence as underground leaders to be trusted by Moscow."

Most famous of the ousted leaders was Markos, leader of the Greek guerrilla forces. He was charged with "Tito-ism" and is reported to have been spirited off to Moscow.

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As planned by the Cominform, a "fine Macedonia" pledging allegiance to Stalin would be carved out of Macedonian areas of Yugoslavia, Greece and Bulgaria.

In any event, as long as Tito survives, the rifts in the Kremlin's periphery states will grow. As the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party pointed out last August, "Far more than Yugoslavia itself is involved here.

Since that time, a wave of purges has hit the Communist Parties of Eastern Europe. Important leaders have been accused of "Tito-ism" and "national deviations" for seeking a measure of independence from Moscow's economic and political squeeze.

As the Times points out, the purge victims "including Wladislaw Gomułka of Poland, Lucretia Patrascanu of Rumania and Laszlo Rajk of Hungary — deve-

SCOREBOARD FOR MILITANT FUND

Table with 4 columns: Branch, Quota, Paid, Percent. Lists various branches like Morgantown, Seattle, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Newark, New Haven, Baltimore, San Francisco-Oakland, Reading, New York, Flint, Buffalo, Chicago, Youngstown, St. Paul, Worcester, Cleveland, Lynn, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Detroit, Milwaukee, Akron, Allentown, Boston, Los Angeles, New Britain, Rochester, Toledo, General, and a Total through April 12.

THE MILITANT ARMY

New Haven Reports Encouraging Sale At Student Debate

Two comrades in New Haven, Conn., met with encouraging results selling The Militant and Fourth International, the monthly magazine of American Trotskyism, at a "political student debate" on the Taft-Hartley law, reports Literature Agent N. S.

George S. of Bayport, N. Y., on renewing his subscription, wrote us, "Never before has your fighting paper of the working class been more needed. May the ranks of your subscribers continue to swell and with them the ranks of socialism."

J. G. B. of Alberta, Canada, enclosed a \$10 bill upon renewing his combined subscription to The Militant and Fourth International. "The balance," he explains, "is a donation toward both publications."

L. B. Courts of Sharonville, Ohio, ordered five extra copies of The Militant. "I never read anything better," he says.

A Railroad worker of Minnesota sent in for 150 extra copies of the April 4 issue containing the Socialist Workers Party call for

united action in defense of civil liberties. He thinks the Jehovah's Witnesses are inconsistent but "will support and defend their civil right to refuse military service the same as I will defend the rights of Socialists and all others to refuse to collaborate with the war makers."

St. Louis is working hard to increase circulation of The Militant. Through the efforts of D. C., two more newspapers are taking small bundles.

Literature Agent F. R. of West Virginia writes: "Most of us are very pleased with The Militant. Keep up the fine work. We're going to make a special effort to start sending some local articles by miners."

Worcester, Mass., also increased its bundle by five more copies. "The last issue of both the paper and magazine were exceptionally interesting," P. and J. declare.

Dan Roberts of Seattle reports, "We are now discussing plans for a drive on selling the press after May Day to make up for neglect in the past months." Comrade Roberts thinks that "the press is very good. All the comrades are pleased with the quality of The Militant articles. However, I think they tend to be too long, even with our emphasis on explaining to the vanguard."

Literature Agent G. H. of Milwaukee tells us that "Favorable comment has been received on the heads you are using on the sub blank in The Militant; the LAID OFF and the atom bomb explosion picture heads are eye-catching."

AGAIN AVAILABLE SOCIALISM ON TRIAL

The official record of James P. Cannon's testimony in the famous Minneapolis "Sedition" trial of 1941, with a new introduction by Farrell Dobbs.

35c (in bundles of 5 or more, 28c a copy) AMERICAN STALINISM AND ANTI-STALINISM by James P. Cannon

This 48 page pamphlet explains: 1. Why and how the Communist Party degenerated. 2. The crimes and betrayals of American and European Stalinism. 3. The working class fight against Stalinism.

15c (in bundles of 5 or more, 12c a copy) Pioneer Publishers 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE - NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

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Leon Trotsky, who gave his life in the struggle to make our globe safe for mankind, understood what power women can wield when they decide the time has come for a basic change. Among these wage-earners and housewives, said Trotsky, will be found "inexhaustible stores of devotion, selflessness and readiness to sacrifice."

These are the pioneer women of today. Why not join their ranks? Start your subscription to The Militant now.

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