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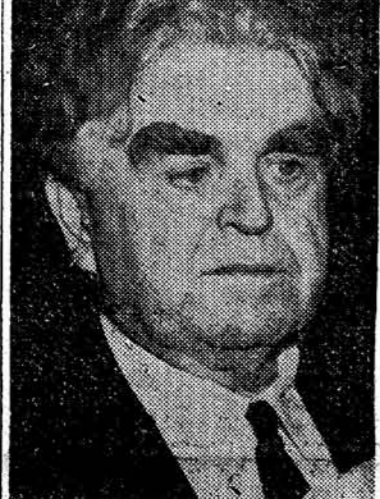
CP TRIAL VERDICT HITS RIGHTS OF ALL

Lewis Urges Joint Labor Defense Fund to Support CIO Steel Strike

United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis has pointed the way to victory for labor in the crucial test of strength between the American plutocracy, spearheaded by the steel trust, and nearly a million striking steel and coal workers.

In a dramatic appeal for labor solidarity, Lewis on Oct. 14 proposed to AFL President William Green that the nine largest affiliates of the AFL join with the UMW in providing a \$2,500,000 weekly strike fund to back the CIO United Steel Workers strike.

The day before his letter to Green, Lewis stated his uncompromising opposition to government interference in strikes through "fact-finding" boards or "seizures." He said the only way the miners will welcome government operation of the mines is if the mines are worked not for the greater profit of the owners but for the "people's account."



JOHN L. LEWIS

MURRAY'S REPLY

CIO and United Steel Workers President Philip Murray responded to Lewis' proposal with the statement that the steel union and the CIO "stand prepared to join with the United Mine Workers and affiliates of the American Federation of Labor to pool their resources for the common defense and general welfare of the labor movement."

Paying tribute to the "mighty struggle" of the 400,000 soft coal miners, Murray said he was for a joint defense fund to aid the miners and "all unions which are forced into necessary strike action" by "the monopolists and financial interests who dominate the great industries of this country."

In his letter to Green, Lewis pointed out that "one of the great segments of organized labor," the United Steel Workers, is facing a "vast and barbaric attack" of the "entrenched" steel industry and its "crushable allies," who "are out to crush the power and destroy the structure of the steel workers' union."

Lewis demanded that it be a "bona fide seizure" and that the mines be operated "on the account of the people and the Government, and independent of the operators."

Lewis' proposals for labor solidarity and joint action against the steel corporations, which also own many "captive" coal mines, and his declaration of opposition to government intervention in any form undoubtedly have the approval of the overwhelming majority of union men and women.

What is necessary to make this program a reality is a United Congress of Labor, representing all sections of the union movement, to take the practical steps to put this program into action. If Lewis and Murray mean business by their statements on joint strike defense, either of them or both together should take the initiative in issuing a call for a national conference of all unions to be held as quickly as possible. Once the ball is set rolling, we can be confident there will be a tremendous pressure of the AFL ranks on their leaders to join forces with the CIO and UMW to beat back the offensive of Big Business.

Canton Surrender Assures Stalinist Rule of All China

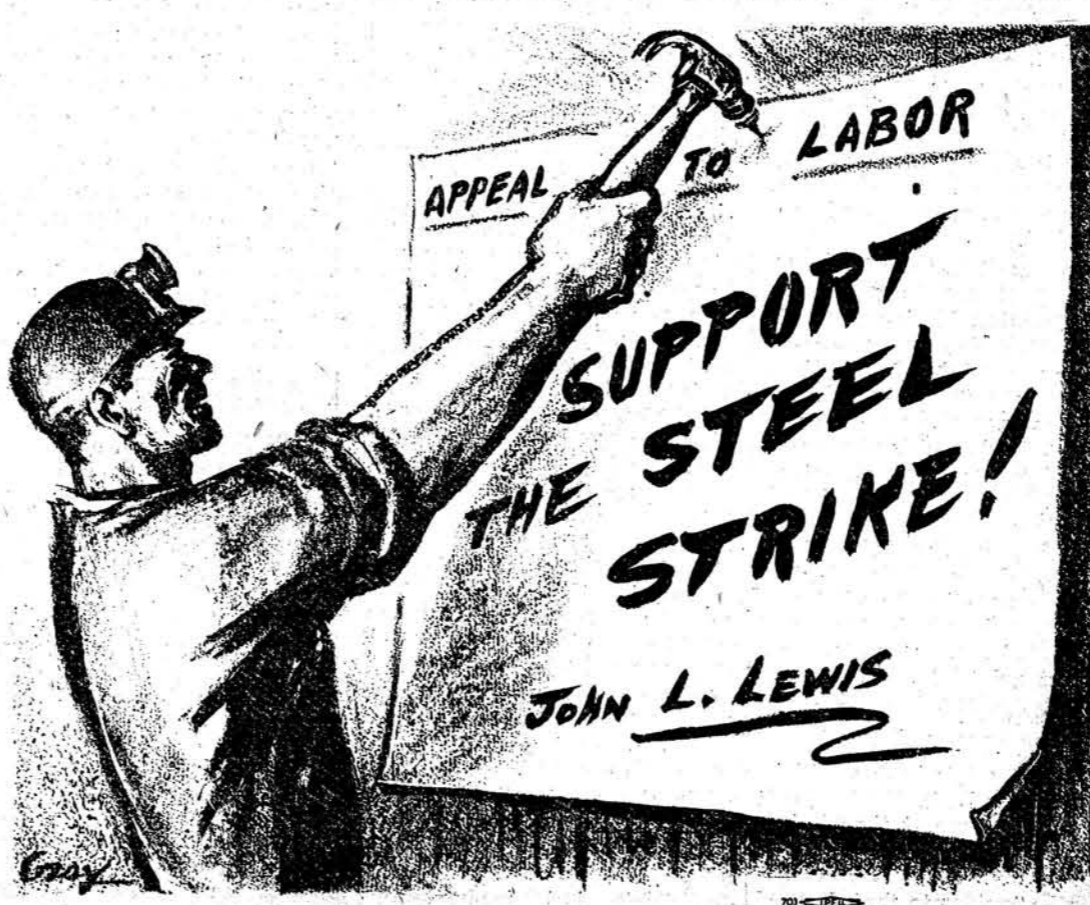
By John G. Wright

On Oct. 14 the Stalinist-led armies of insurgent Chinese peasants marched unopposed into Canton, occupying the last big city on China's seaboard. The city's surrender was, as elsewhere, arranged in advance by the Nationalist military authorities and by "local negotiators," that is, by representatives of Cantonese capitalists.

In Canton, as in Shanghai, Nanking and other cities, the workers remained silently in the background. There were no demonstrations, let alone any mass uprisings. Underground Stalinist cells were obviously under strict orders to maintain "law and order." It is reported that they even issued "warnings" to the municipal police "to continue their services."

The fall of Canton, within six months after becoming Chiang's "provisional capital," virtually assures a speedy termination of large-scale warfare on the mainland. The Nationalist government — a government in name only — has now fled to the hinterland, establishing a new "provisional capital" at Chungking. Completely surrounded, amid a hostile population, the Chungking regime is in a hopeless position. Its liquidation is a matter of mopping up operations.

The life of the branches of the Socialist Workers Party during the fall and winter months will be dominated by an intensive Party Building Campaign outlined by the National Committee and enthusiastically greeted by the party membership. To finance this program of expanded activities to build and strengthen the party and increase the circulation of its press and publications, the National Committee has called for a \$12,000 Party Building Fund and has assigned the quotas (listed on Page 2) after consultation with the party branches on the matter.



\$12,000 Party-Building Fund Launched by SWP

By James P. Cannon

Additional plans for other tours, the publication of new books and pamphlets, and strengthening of the organizational staff of the party are in the works for gradual unfolding as the necessary funds come in from the Party Building Campaign.

The Party Building program has been hailed with enthusiasm, and the party members have pledged

around the whole circle from coast-to-coast.

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Conviction of 11 Stalinists Emphasizes Need for United Front Against Witch-Hunters

Friday, Oct. 14, 1949, will go down as a black-letter day for civil rights in America. The conviction on that day of 11 Communist Party leaders in the political trial at Foley Square struck a hammer-blow against the democratic liberties of the whole working-class.

We are irreconcilably hostile to Stalinism. But we recognize that the trial and conviction of the 11 gives a green light to the government witch-hunters, the book-burners, all the storm troops of reaction.

The war against the Bill of Rights, launched in 1941 when the government used the Smith Act to convict 18 Trotskyists in the Minneapolis Labor Case, has assumed blitzkrieg force with the conviction of the 11 Stalinists under the same Smith Act.

Green Light for Witch-Hunters

The purgers and thought-controllers are rolling up their sleeves for a busy season. The witch-hunt against teachers, aliens, scientists will be whipped up to greater ferocity. Open-shoppers in industry will hound and victimize militant workers.

The political mouthpieces and press of Big Business are trying, above all, to represent the trial and conviction of the Stalinists as no threat to the liberties of the American people.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Medina cynically said: "Books are not on trial here . . . It is not your function to pass upon the relative merits of communism or capitalism or any other 'ism.'"

But the very wording of the charges made plain that what was on trial were precisely books and ideas — and specifically the books and ideas of Marx and Lenin.

REUTHER'S PRESTIGE BADLY SHAKEN BY ROTTEN AGREEMENT WITH FORD

By Joseph Keller

Due to his miserable settlement with Ford, CIO United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther has suffered a severe loss of prestige among the UAW ranks and local leaders, according to reports from Michigan auto centers.

The myth of Reuther's "militancy" and "brilliance" as negotiator and strategist has been badly cracked. He now appears of the same stripe as other old-line conservative union leaders with whom he had been favorably contrasted in the past.

At this writing it is still a moot question whether the Ford workers will ratify the contract, although Reuther has mobilized his whole apparatus and the union's press to persuade the Ford ranks to approve his agreement. But even if they do, it will not be because they believe Reuther's claim that the proposed contract contains "more basic improvements" than any contract since the first major ones won in the industry.

In the past couple of weeks, widespread opposition has been expressed not only among Ford workers, but by General Motors and Chrysler workers who fear and resent the Ford "pattern." This opposition has become strong in sectors of the union where Reuther's influence has been dominant.

Reuther is attempting to sell his contract with the crudest kind of false claims. Here are some examples from the "Special Ford Edition" of the United Automobile Worker, the official UAW paper controlled by Reuther:

1. The Ford settlement provides "for a pension plan of \$100 a month paid for by the company" and is based on "the principle of no contributions by the workers."

required to "sacrifice all wage increases under a 2½-year contract. . . . The old 'Company Security' clause has been completely wiped out. . . ." says the UAW paper.

Actually, the only major change is in the title of the clause, now called "Strikes, Stoppages and Lockouts." The company still has "the right to discipline (including discharge) any employee who instigates, participates in or gives leadership to an unauthorized strike in violation of the Agreement."

Articles on Yugoslavia, the repercussions of the CP trial, and the review of Deutscher's biography of Stalin.

Split in CIO Would Be Crime Against Labor

By Art Preis

Will the CIO rally all its forces in the face of the corporate onslaught led by the steel monopolists or will the struggle for power between the Murray-Reuther and Stalinist factions disrupt and split the CIO? This is the crucial question confronting the CIO convention delegates when they convene on Oct. 31 in Cleveland.

This convention will witness the climax of the divisive "cold war" between the Murray machine and the Stalinist clique. The Murrayite tools of the U. S. State Department are threatening their minority opponents with expulsion. The Stalinist stooges of the Kremlin are preparing, if no other course is left open to them, to scrape together what they can from the CIO and embark on an "independent" adventure. The barons of industry and the AFL craft raiders are poised to take full advantage of any split.

initiative in forcing this disruptive conflict. It has carried the war to the Stalinists from the start and has moved ruthlessly and bureaucratically to drive the Stalinists from the CIO.

The fight began with the breakup of the Washington-Moscow honeymoon. The Murray-Reuther forces — who didn't find it too hard to stomach the Stalinists when they supported the no-strike pledge, incentive pay, the wage freeze and the War Labor Board — turned on these Stalinist partners of many years standing at the behest of the U. S. State Department.

At the November 1946 CIO Convention the Murray machine pushed through unanimous endorsement of its "Declaration of Policy" stating that the CIO "resents and rejects" the "interference of the Communist Party."

Reuther. This same convention gave extraordinary bureaucratic powers over local CIO bodies to the top CIO leaders — the preliminary to moves to take over local councils under Stalinist control.

By the time of the November 1948 convention, the Murray machine was prepared to push its war against its one-time Stalinist allies to the limit. Declaring that it was now "CIO national policy" to support every "cold war" measure of U. S. imperialism and to maintain a dirty political alliance with the Truman gang in Washington, the Murrays declared they would no longer allow anyone to live in the CIO who did not conform in word and deed to this policy.

The Stalinists, far from defending autonomous rights and union

democracy in the CIO, sought as long as possible to appease Murray. They had voted in the 1936 Convention for the "resent and reject" resolution and for the anti-democratic regulations on local CIO councils.

The Stalinists gave the Murray machine a new weapon when they tried to thrust the Wallace movement for a third capitalist party on the CIO. This was the occasion for the Trumanite majority of the leadership to crack down with "CIO national policy."

In the course of the irresponsible warfare between these two bureaucratic factions, the CIO has been in steady retreat before the corporations and government reaction. The real interests of the membership have been thrust aside.

tant fight against passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. Every year since the 1946 strikes has seen bigger and bigger compromises on CIO wage demands. And this year has brought the biggest compromise of all — the agreement to abandon the "fourth round" wage increase.

But further retreat can mean disaster. American capitalism is now lined up behind the steel trust to break the power of the CIO. A split in the CIO would be a crime against the whole American working class. Unfortunately, the independent militants will have little voice in this CIO convention, whose delegates are picked by the top bureaucrats of both factions. But whatever the outcome of the convention, the independents will oppose any move to split the workers from the mainstream of industrial unionism, the CIO, where they will continue to fight for democratic, militant unionism against the totalitarian methods of both the Murray and Stalinist camps.

