

Will AFL-CIO Heads Meet the Real Issues?

By Fred Halstead

DEC. 4 — A major split confronts the American Federation Labor-Congress at its second constitutional convention scheduled to run from Dec. 5 through 13 in Atlantic City, N. J. At the first convention following unification of the AFL and CIO and just two years after the merger, George Meany and Walter Reuther and the rest of the labor leadership associated with them threaten to expel about ten per cent of the federation's membership. This includes the second largest union in the country, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The primary cause of the anticipated split is the mounting government attack on the labor movement, spearheaded by Sen. McClellan's labor-probe committee which began hearings last February, centering its major fire on the Teamsters.

McCLELLAN INJECTS ISSUES

The success of the government attack thus far is revealed by the fact that the issues injected by the McClellan Committee — particularly its pressure on the Meany-Reuther labor officialdom for action against the Teamsters — dominate convention preparations.

This comes at a time when the

working people are faced with a government drive to lower their living standards in the "more guns, less butter" arms race. The economy is in a recession with unemployment now expected to exceed five million in 1958. The struggle against segregation in the South continues to grow more acute and the need for a Southern organizing drive more imperative. Congress is planning a host of anti-union laws, and there is danger that a "right-to-work" law will be enacted in the industrial state of California and in other Northern and Western industrial regions.

The Meany-Reuther moves against the IBT and other targets of the McClellan committee do nothing to advance a solution for the pressing problems of labor's rank and file.

Suspended from the AFL-CIO, deprived of voting representation in the convention and threatened with expulsion are the Teamsters with 1.3 million

(Continued on page 2)

Submarines Used In Germ-War Tests

The following item is from the Nov. 26 Toronto Globe and Mail: "While the effectiveness of the submarine as a means of delivering a thermonuclear device on the target has already been related, little has been said of its use as a potential carrier for biological warfare. Sometime ago, a British ship completed an 80-mile run in the North Sea, deliberately releasing germs as it went. A few weeks later these microbes were found in every corner of the British Isles. "Some months ago, a U.S. submarine cruised beneath the surface of the Atlantic, funneling microbes into the air above. These were found in five Eastern States. A similar experiment along the Pacific coast resulted in the embarrassing death of two persons."

Gov't Drops Smith Act Case in Cal.

DEC. 2 — The government's use of the Smith Act as a weapon for punishing dissident political thought received a crippling new blow today when a federal judge in Los Angeles dismissed "conspiracy" indictments under the act against ten California Communist Party members. The dismissal came on the "reluctant" request of an Assistant United States Attorney who said that the Justice Department could not "satisfy the evidentiary requirements" laid down by the Supreme Court in its opinion reversing the conviction in this matter.

Those released were among 15 defendants convicted in 1952. On June 17 the Supreme Court freed five of the defendants and ordered a new trial for the others, declaring that the government must prove something more than abstract advocacy of ideas. The subsequent decision of the Justice Department to drop the case is glaring proof that the prosecution was based solely on the expression of political opinions.

Those who have now won their freedom are: Mrs. Dorothy Healey Connelly, Los Angeles; Mrs. Oleta O'Connor Yates, San Francisco; Mrs. Loretta Starvus Stack, San Francisco; Ernest Otto Fox, San Francisco; Carl Lambert, San Francisco; Albert Lima, Oakland; Frank Carlson, Los Angeles; Ben Dobbs, Los Angeles and William Schneiderman of San Francisco.

One of those freed, Dorothy Healey Connelly, still faces a prison term for contempt of court because of her refusal in the trial to answer questions that would have placed her in the position of an informer. She was sentenced to a year for each such question that she refused to answer, with the sentences to run concurrently. The Supreme Court struck down contempt penalties for each additional refusal to answer but upheld the penalty for the original refusal to act as a stool pigeon.

Educators, Clergymen Urge U.S. Halt A-Tests



U.S., French Imperialists In Rift Over Algeria War

By George Lavan

U.S. imperialism has executed a turn in its foreign policy on the war in Algeria. This was publicly revealed by the Dec. 3 speech of U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge in the UN. Described as a "middle of the road" speech by the U.S. press because it alternates praise for French imperialism's intentions in Algeria with praise for the "compromise" plan advanced by Tunisia and Morocco, the speech marks the end of Washington's unconditional support of the war against the Algerian people.

For three years U.S. imperialism has given France the armaments, finances and diplomatic support without which it could not have continued the Algerian war. The State Department is now convinced that French imperialism is incapable of putting down the Algerians. This war, which the French government is conducting with Nazi-like terror and torture methods, not only is generally embarrassing to U.S. propaganda about "the free world," it feeds the flames of anti-imperialism throughout the Arab Middle East making U.S. efforts to impose control there more difficult. Finally, U.S. business interests are pressing for a slice of the North African profit pie, till now the exclusive preserve of French capitalism, for important oil discoveries have been made in the Sahara Desert.

The U.S. plan is to settle the Algerian War by making the French government give a few political concessions in Algeria which will neither end French political control nor endanger the imperialist control of the economy.

Obviously the U.S. has set itself quite a delicate task. The majority of French capitalists and their politicians have been shouting for three years that they will grant absolutely no concessions to the Algerians. The Algerian people on the other hand have been fighting and dying for three years for independence. To impose upon them a settlement without independence would be like stopping the American Revolution of 1776 midway with a "compromise" of some minor political reforms within the British Empire.

U.S. imperialism doesn't expect to accomplish this task

overnight, but it has taken the first steps. First came the token arms shipment (500 rifles) a few weeks ago to Tunisia. The French Prime Minister screamed like a stuck pig because he realized the shipment signified that the U.S. and Tunisia had reached an agreement on Algeria. He dispatched his Foreign Minister Pineau post-haste to Washington for secret confabs to make Dulles reconsider.

NORTH AFRICA FEDERATION PLAN

Meanwhile the U.S.-sponsored deal began to take public shape. A North African Federation, consisting of Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, was envisaged as a substitute for Algerian independence. France would still control Algeria but should negotiate some political reforms and install in office there opportunist leaders of the National Liberation Front (FLN), which is controlled by the rightwing of the Algerian independence movement. These leaders, though proclaiming before the Algerian masses their devotion to the goal of independence, have on several past occasions given indications of a willingness to compromise.

(Continued on page 2)

Oppose Missiles "Crash" Program; Ask Unilateral Action on Atomic Arms

By Herman Chauka

Forty-eight prominent educators and clergymen called on the U.S. government, Dec. 2, to "cancel tests scheduled for April in the Pacific and declare a moratorium on all testing of mass destruction nuclear weapons in the hope other nations will follow the example." They also oppose the government's stepping up the arms race with a missile "crash program" in response to the launching of the Soviet satellites.

Among those demanding a halt to the tests were the Reverend Martin Luther King, leader of the Montgomery bus protest movement; A. J. Muste, secretary emeritus of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and chairman of the American Forum-For Socialist Education; Lewis Mumford, author and city planner; John Hayes Holmes of the Community Church in New York; Clarence Pickett of the American Friends Service Committee and Harry Emerson Fosdick of the Riverside Church in New York.

They declare that a halt to the Pacific nuclear tests is particularly vital because "it is morally indefensible and politically disastrous to hold tests outside American territory in international waters where people of other nations who have not agreed, and are indeed protesting, have to bear the consequences."

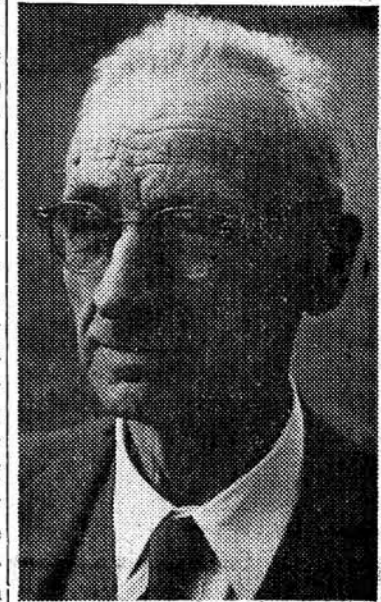
WORLD POLL

The extent of the protest by people of other nations, and particularly by those who bear the brunt of the danger of U.S. tests in the Pacific, was graphically revealed in the world poll conducted by the New York Herald Tribune. That paper reported Nov. 17 that 60% of the people of other countries saw the tests as a menace and that in Japan 76% of the population were so convinced.

It is above all the duty of the American labor movement to organize popular opposition in the U.S. in solidarity with that of the peoples abroad. But the top labor leadership's support to U.S. foreign policy seriously handicaps resistance in this country to nuclear tests at this time.

The demand of the 48 for unilateral U.S. action in suspending explosions is particularly relevant inasmuch as Wash-

Backs A-Protest



A. J. MUSTE

ton deliberately sabotaged an opportunity last summer to reach an international agreement for a long-term test stoppage. At the London disarmament conference the Soviet Union made a clear-cut proposal for such an agreement and offered substantial concessions to the U.S. regarding rights of inspection forces to ensure enforcement of the test ban. The U.S. diplomats found a variety of pretexts to reject the offer.

NEW HOAX

At that time Washington tried to combat the world-wide demand for a halt to the tests by launching a propaganda campaign around the fake claim that continued testing was essential to perfect a "clean" bomb. The present demands for a test ban is being countered with a new hoax. The AEC is now claiming that further explosions would actually be beneficial to humanity as an aid to engineering projects. This is based on an underground A-blast in Nevada last Sept. 18. The AEC reported that the explosion made the top of a mountain jump six inches before falling back in place. AEC director Willard Libby said, "I've not seen anything in years so exciting."



AFL-CIO President George Meany (right) and Vice-President Walter Reuther at the merger convention of the AFL-CIO in December 1955. As the second convention of the merged organization convenes, labor's unity is threatened by Meany and Reuther's policy of cooperation with the anti-union McClellan committee.

Nat'l Conference Opens New Fight in Sobell Case

By Myra Tanner Weiss

Representatives of local Sobell Committees from all over the country came together in New York City for a two-day conference on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 to discuss the next stage in the fight to free Morton Sobell from Alcatraz.

The conference made clear that the blow dealt to justice by the Nov. 12 refusal of the Supreme Court to study the most important "conspiracy" trial in U.S. history would be answered with an even bigger effort to rouse the indignation of the American people at the terrible injustice done to the young scientist in Alcatraz.

The conference made plans to acquaint over a million Americans in the period ahead with the facts in the case and to ask their participation in the campaign to free Sobell. Delegates expressed new optimism that this campaign would be successful because of the changing political atmosphere in America. Attempts to create new "spy" scares to explain away the Soviet sputniks, not only failed to create a hysteria of the type that sent Sobell to prison over seven years ago but were greeted by many with irritation and disgust. The fact that some of J. Robert Oppenheimer's defamers are now taking a second look at whether or not the noted atomic physicist was given justice or was victimized by witch-hunters gives rise to the hope that all earlier

cases of injustice will get a new hearing.

The Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell will engage in intensified legal research and investigation to obtain new evidence for further court action following the Supreme Court's refusal to study the case. At the same time a campaign will be launched for a Presidential pardon or commutation. Sobell is now serving his eighth year of a 30-year sentence.

The conference elected a subcommittee to draw up detailed plans for such campaign. New literature will be issued that will explain the case of Morton Sobell in popular form and present the accumulation of evidence of the frame-up that the Supreme Court callously refused to examine.

Methods of reaching the American workers in the labor movement were discussed at some length. Significant progress in this direction was reported at the Conference. Those who have fought many years to establish the truth in the Sobell case have an unshakable confidence in the vindication of Morton Sobell and his liberation from prison in the near future.

Economy Slumps; War Spending Seen Only Prop

By Joseph Keller

America's economic situation — now generally referred to as a "recession" — is beginning to push its way more forcefully into the newspaper headlines and columns. Capitalist political and press commentators still generally describe the economic slowdown as "mild." That may be true in terms of profits for the big corporations. But for unemployed workers and their families there can be no such thing as a "mild" recession.

Economists of the U.S. Department of Labor, who are always the last to stick their necks out when it comes to making unfavorable predictions about the private-profit economy, got around on Nov. 21 to conceding that a considerable rise in mass unemployment is in store. They forecast a jobless total in the neighborhood of 4,000,000 by next February. We may take this as a conservative guess.

Increases in unemployment were reported in November from more than 60 per cent of the country's major industrial centers. This indicates lay-offs not merely in a few scattered industries and areas but on a widespread national scale.

"OVER-CAPACITY"

Business analysts and economists are more and more putting emphasis on the central factor in the current decline — so-called "over-production." They mean the fact that productive capacity of industry has outstripped the ability of the consumers to absorb the amount of goods thrown on the market at present stratospheric prices.

Speaking of "public resistance to increased prices" — that is, public inability to pay higher prices — N. Y. Times financial commentator John G. Forrest cited on Dec. 1 the example of Ford's new Edsel car. He says that the largest dealer in New York City has given up the

franchise for the Edsel after only three months. "This occurs," writes Forrest, "at a time when over-capacity prevails in many lines of business."

STEEL, MACHINE TOOLS

This "over-capacity" appears in such basic and economically-significant industries as steel and machine tools. Noting that many companies which had planned expansion in plants and equipment "are now taking a second look at their problem," Forrest points out that new orders for machine-tools, "fell in October to the lowest point since February 1950. This was a 58% drop from October 1956."

As for the most basic industry, steel, it operated in the week ending Nov. 30 at 73.6% of rated capacity, down from 76.0% the previous week and 101.1% a year earlier. According to a Dec. 2 report in the N.Y. World-Telegram, the steel

industry expects ingot output in 1958 "to slip no more than 5 per cent" below this year's considerably lowered production.

How do the Big Business rulers of this country expect to forestall a prolonged and deep slump?

EUROPEAN MARKET

One of the factors that helped overcome the 1953-54 recession was the strong European demand for U.S. commodities. The European boom at that time, aided by huge U.S. grants and loans, continued almost in full stride. Now U.S. exports have begun to sag badly. But this

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time, Europe appears less of a prospective customer for our surpluses. As Edwin L. Dale Jr., N.Y. Times correspondent, observed on Nov. 30:

"Europe today is definitely not booming as it was in 1953-54. . . the generality holds true that the rate of increase in over-all economic activity has slowed sharply in the last year or year and one-half."

Another N.Y. Times writer, Richard E. Mooney, asking where the new spur to economic advance may be sought, rules out another plant and equipment boom because of "the tremendous productive capacity [industry] has built for itself in postwar years." He concludes that "the kicker will come from defense spending."

"LESS BUTTER"

But more war spending will not mean a higher standard of living for the wage-earners. The Big Business press has already launched a campaign to prepare

the people for reduced social welfare benefits and for higher taxes. A Nov. 23 N.Y. World-Telegram editorial proposed to get "extra cash" for missiles by raising postal rates and killing the soil bank program, as examples, "and if still further funds are needed, they should be raised by higher taxes."

Along the same line, Associated Press staff writer Sam Dawson summed up ways to get more war funds. First would be "paring sums from various domestic programs" such as farm price supports and veterans outlays — "less butter for either the farmers or the veterans." A second way "to pay for more defense would be to raise taxes." A third way is "deficit financing, raising the federal debt limit . . . an inflationary measure, one of the classic reasons why prices rise." He concludes: "Any of the three ways, therefore, end up in meaning less butter. . ."

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THE MILITANT

Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People... THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION...

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's policies...

Vol. 21 - No. 49

Monday, December 9, 1957

The Debate in People's World

For the past number of weeks a running controversy has taken place in the pages of the People's World...

They offer some kind of a 'labor' party instead... Some people say that the Communists should have run a candidate in the local elections...

A REPLY BY PLAYWRIGHT GEORGE HITCHCOCK... Like Vincent Hallinan and Warren Billings, I have endorsed the candidacy of Frank Barbara and Joan Jordan...

first place... The SWP sure got its money's worth from a one-inch ad. I think Brown's letter was intemperate and vituperative...

Meany's Complaint on Integration

The American labor bureaucracy's narrowness of vision on the struggle against Jim Crow and its relation to the labor movement may well be gauged by a statement made on Dec. 3 by AFL-CIO President George Meany at Atlantic City...

the reactionaries to convert it into a weapon against labor. The domination of the official channels of public opinion in the South by the white-supremacists, the growth of the WCC and other night-riding groups...

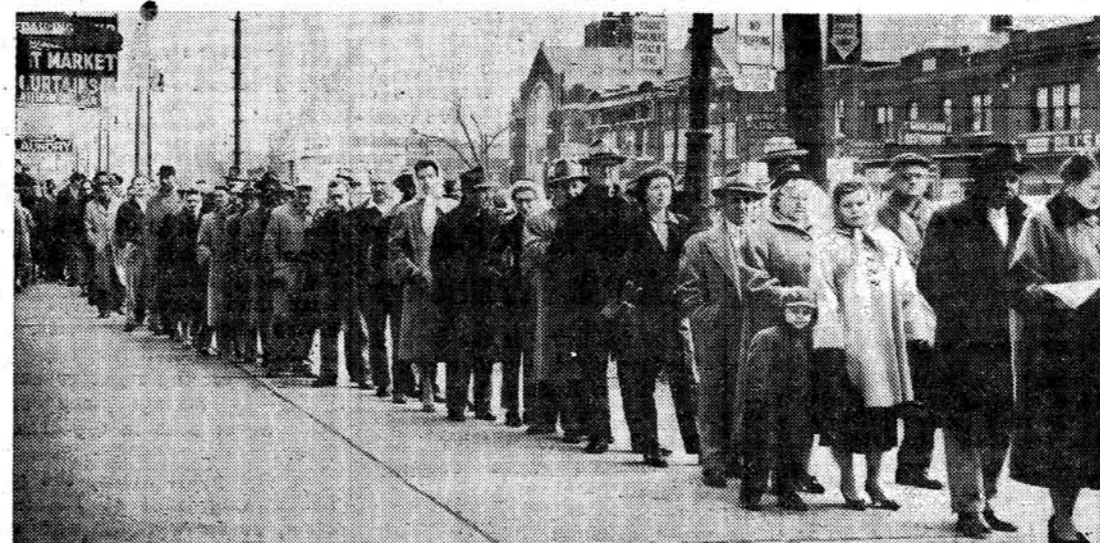
It must be remembered that the present climate of opinion in the white South did not exist immediately after the Supreme Court decision. At that time the prevailing attitude among the whites was one of acceptance or resignation to the decision...

From this it would logically follow that the Supreme Court decision against school segregation was an unfortunate and unwelcome development for labor. Now there are probably some labor bureaucrats who secretly think this, but none of them would say so openly...

But even with this generous view of the statement, Meany, Reuther and the rest of the top brass of U.S. labor cannot be excused for calling off the promised campaign to organize the South. Indeed, they must in large measure bear responsibility for the growth of the White Citizens Councils and the present pitch of racism in the South.

The Supreme Court decision, which brought Southern Negroes to a new point of militancy and receptivity to unionization which persists to this day, could also have been a powerful weapon for labor in organizing white workers of the South. Instead, the labor bureaucrats permitted

Unemployment Lines Are Growing



Unemployment compensation lines, like the above during the auto cutbacks in Detroit last year, are now becoming more frequent throughout the U.S. as the current recession begins to be felt...

A Mild Recession

By Bob Whitehead

It's 6 A.M. The place: New York City. A young couple awaken to the pealing of a Big Ben. The young man jumps out of bed and hustles into his clothing...

for over a week now," says the first, "and that boss ain't sent me out on a job yet." The young man walks to a counter where a well-dressed executive-looking chap is writing on a pad...

Soon it was too full for everyone to sit or stand within. The latecomers had to stand on the sidewalk. The young man had a seat which he wangled pretty close to the boss's desk...

Sues U.S. Gov't



JAMES KUTCHER

Fidel Castro Describes Cuba Under Imperialism

(A vivid picture of what the rule of U.S. Big Business means for tens of millions of people throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America and South America who live under its economic dictates...)

Cuba's land situation, the problems of industrialization, living standards, unemployment, education and public health: these are the problems—along with the attainment of civil liberty and political democracy—to the solution of which the revolutionary 26th of July Movement [the Castro-led movement] directs its efforts...

At least 85 per cent of Cuba's small-scale farmers rent their land, and face the constant threat of eviction. More than half of our best arable land is in foreign hands; in Oriente, the broadest province of Cuba the lands of the United Fruit Company and of the West Indies Fruit Company unite our northern and southern shores...

Except for a few food-producing industries and some wood-working and textile plants, Cuba is essentially a producer of raw materials. She exports sugar and imports candy; she exports leather and imports shoes; she exports iron and imports plows...

As bad, or worse, is the tragedy of our housing situation. There are about 200,000 huts and shacks in Cuba; 400,000 rural and urban families live crowded in slums without the barest necessities of sani-

As he proceeds west he takes a card from his pocket and reads an address. The line on the card he likes best is: "Temporary work. Pay by the day." The name of an acquaintance is scrawled across the top. The friend had told him he had weight. The boss would be sure to put him to work once he saw the name of the guy who'd sent him down there.

The front has the name of the establishment. The windows say shape-up at 6:30, but there are men in there already at twenty after. The room is hot and stuffy with a heater hanging from the ceiling going full blast. The store is only 15 by 15 but there are more than thirty men huddling together and more filling in by the minute.

Two men, sitting on one of the five wooden benches, have made friends: "I've been coming down here

"I think," said the second, "that it's just a matter of him seeing you enough times." He noticed the young man for the first time. "Never saw you here before, son," he said in a friendly mid-western voice. "What line of work do you usually do?" The young man was deep in his own thoughts, realizing that he'd lost a whole morning from his uptown hunting. He looked up slowly and said, "Newspaper." The order men exchanged glances. "That makes you out to be a long way from home, don't it?" asked the first man. "You got college?" The young man nodded yes.

"Pfeffer, Jones, McCoy, Stubbs, Parker, Lipschultz, Tanner and Bohme, come and get this slip. That's all I have. You guys can stay and keep warm if you want to, but that's it for today. Try the department stores for stock jobs if you like." The boss turned and went into his office and the men dispersed. The young man took his last quarter and went into a lunch-ette to have coffee and to think. "What am I going to do when she comes home, and I didn't get anything?" He gives the waitress his order for coffee and a Danish—a cheese Danish, more protein. As he sits sipping his coffee the radio news comes on: "The cost of living index has risen for the 13th consecutive month, the Labor Department announced. Meanwhile a statement from that same department says the employment picture has grown more serious with more layoffs in the East and West Coast aircraft plants. Other industries have reported mild cutbacks in skilled and unskilled personnel."

Legless Vet Goes To Court to Win His Back Pay

DEC. 5 — James Kutcher, the legless veteran who last year won back the government job from which he was fired for membership in the Socialist Workers Party, today filed suit for back pay due him. Kutcher's attorney, Joseph L. Rauh, filed the suit in the U.S. Court of Claims in Washington for the \$23,000 pay coming to the legless veteran for the eight-year period during which he was illegally separated from his job in the Veteran's administration.

The court action was taken after the U.S. Comptroller General denied his claim for back pay even though the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered him reinstated to his job, after finding that he had been removed from it without legal cause. The Comptroller General's office had notified Kutcher that the back pay would not be granted without a court order.

Washington, Oregon Hit by Layoffs

SEATTLE, Dec. 1 — Unemployment in the Northwest has been rapidly rising since August 1956. The state of Washington has the highest number of jobless since 1949, while unemployment in Oregon follows a similar trend. This down trend has been accelerated since September 1957. Lumber, Aircraft, Ship Building and Metal Trades felt the sharpest decline in employment.

Peter H. Giovine, Washington State Employment Security Commissioner reported 35,318 persons applied for jobless benefits during the week of Nov. 5. This was 16% more than the previous week and 60% more than the same week a year ago. This was brought about by heavy layoffs at Boeing aircraft and in lumber industries. Since then, unemployment has leveled off to the tune of 3,000 new persons per week. During the week ending Nov. 23, 3,673 were thrown on the unemployment rolls which brings the total for Washington to 45,695 — this is 15,624 more than the same week last year.

Unemployment in Oregon in the past month showed a 13,600 increase over October 1956 when 25,400 were seeking work. The Washington Metal Trades Council, AFL-CIO reports that one third less man hours were worked during last September than during September of last year. — J. B. and R. T.

BOOKS - PAMPHLETS On Socialism and the Labor Movement Order Free Catalog from: PIONEER PUBLISHER 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

NAACP in L.A. Says Don't Buy Budweiser Beer

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 17 — The Los Angeles branch of the NAACP has launched a boycott against Budweiser beer as the initial action in a carefully planned campaign designed to convince the nation's breweries of the desirability of adopting fair employment policies in all phases of their operations.

Anheuser-Busch, manufacturer of Budweiser beer, is not the only company which practices discriminatory hiring, but the NAACP has decided to tackle one company at a time in order to obtain the most effective results.

It is reported that Budweiser has a \$30,000,000 plant and that in its entire operation it employs only two Negroes, one as a bar boy and the other as a salesman.

The local community has responded enthusiastically to the NAACP appeal. The word is rapidly being passed along: "No Bud." Tavern and cafe owners have joined the Beverage Improvement Committee of the NAACP, under the temporary chairmanship of Rev. Maurice A. Dawkins, president, and reportedly have stripped their shelves and iceboxes of Budweiser.

They have also adopted a policy of refusing to make any separate agreements with Anheuser-Busch, insisting that all negotiations be handled through the committee.

WANTS CP TO RUN ITS OWN CANDIDATES

"... Brown states there is 'great merit' in the idea of Communist candidates in local elections and then proceeds to say that one of the problems preventing this is job security. In my mind, job security is a secondary question and should be regarded as such. What appears to me to be the first step is the decision amongst the Communist Party membership to run candidates. In the past such decision was decided in the Party's county state committees... and never discussed widely among the rank and file. I personally have been in favor of CP candidates but in my eight years of experience in the party a full discussion among the membership has not taken place..."

SWP CAMPAIGN MGR'S ASHER HARA WRITES

"... I would like to thank the People's World for accepting our campaign rally ad... That some would protest the PW's recognition of the changing times is to be expected. But is it too much to expect that such a protest—at a minimum—should be based on fact, not fiction? For example, Brown slurs the SWP candidates by saying that it is a strange thing that they can run for public office but do not lose their jobs..."

ADAM LAPIN THINKS SWP GOT BARGAIN ON AD

"That one-inch ad for a Socialist Workers party campaign rally... a few weeks ago has been parlayed into a good many inches of copy. The PW found it necessary to accompany the ad with an editorial statement denouncing the SWP. Then Archie Brown wrote a longish letter wondering if the ad should have been printed in the

New York Xmas Bazaar

SATURDAY, DEC. 14 Opens at 11:00 a. m.

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