

# VOICE OF LABOR

Published twice a month at Room 214, 1009 N. State St., Chicago

Vol. XIII

OCTOBER 5, 1923

No. 2

## The 101 John L. Lewis Lies Answered Disgraceful Attack on Labor Movement by United Mine Workers Machine Exposed

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The series of articles sent to the capitalist press of this country by the Lewis machine of the United Mine Workers of America in an effort to incite an attack on the Communist movement as represented by the Workers Party of America, are prefaced by a statement "These articles are the result of an independent searching investigation on the part of the United Mine Workers of America which lead directly to original sources."

This is the most despicable lie about these articles. It covers a fact which should arouse the hatred of the whole working class of this country for the Lewis machine, for these articles were not the result of any independent searching investigation. The garbled statements, mistruths and misrepresentations have as their source, the American Defense Society, the Burns Detective Agency, the Department of Justice and worst of all the District Attorney's office in that blackest spot of all in the United States, the Pittsburgh District. On their face these articles show that the Lewis machine in order to make an attack upon the Communist movement in the United States made an agreement with the worst enemy of the American Workers in the form of the great capitalist organization which dominate the steel and coal industries in and about Pittsburgh.

This is proven by the fact that the articles quote documents seized in a raid upon the headquarters of the Workers Party in Pittsburgh on or about May 1st of this year. There have even been suggestions and some facts to support the conclusion that the raids upon the Workers Party were inspired by the Lewis machine in District 5 because of the fight which the Progressive Miners Committee in Pittsburgh made against that machine.

How did John L. Lewis and Editor Searles secure the documents taken from Fred H. Merrick's office in Pittsburgh, by the District Attorney and his detectives? If John L. Lewis and Editor Searles will answer that question they will have to confess that they made a deal with the District Attorney in Pittsburgh to secure these documents. That fact alone should be sufficient to raise such a storm in the labor movement in this country so that John L. Lewis and his fellow traitors to the working class will be driven from that movement forever.

### Garbling the Facts.

Let any one gain the impression that the documents Lewis secured from the district attorney in Pittsburgh bear out in any way the argument made against the Communists in this movement it is necessary to show the method of argument of the Lewis machine articles.

In Article No. 4 of the series, this statement appears:

"Merrick was in frequent correspondence with Ruthenberg during last winter and spring concerning the details of the Communist campaign in the miners union. Ruthenberg was irritated at the resistance offered by the United Mine Workers to the distribution of radical literature by Merrick and on February 10th he wrote Merrick as follows: 'Certainly we cannot agree with your viewpoint in regard to the defense nor with the action of the District Committee in ordering the discontinuance of the distribution of the program in the Pittsburgh District. Certainly we should not because of attacks of the authorities and the arrest of three of our members permit that to interfere with the continuance of our work.'"

The Lewis machine secured that letter from the District Attorney in Pittsburgh. The Lewis-Searles article states "Ruthenberg was irritated at the resistance offered by the United Mine Workers to the distribution of radical literature." The fact is that this correspondence had nothing whatever to do with the United Mine Workers of America unless the Lewis machine means that it has become the policeman for the capitalist class to prevent any radical literature from being distributed in the United States.

The Workers Party of America had undertaken a campaign to distribute its program throughout the United States. It had adopted this program at a public convention in New York City. The program was being sent openly from its headquarters through the mails to various

### Lewis Aligns Himself With Employers.

Throughout the series of articles there is a continuous appeal for support of the bosses in the campaign against the Communists—the bosses who are using all their power to destroy the United Mine Workers of America and asked to join with the Lewis machine in order to fight against the militants in the labor movement. As shown elsewhere in this issue Lewis and his henchmen participated in a conference with representatives of the big capitalist employers in this country at which this alliance was cemented.

Do the members of the United Mine Workers of America want a leadership in their organization which the capitalist employers of

fused in the spring of 1922 to enter into negotiations for a new contract, altho they were bound to do so by the old contract, this refusal was due to anything the Communists said or did?

Lewis knows, as every man knows, and particularly every miner knows, that the coal operators' plan was part of the general open shop drive initiated by the bosses in the country after the unemployment wave and hard times of 1921.

Lewis knows and Editor Searles knows that every strike in which the miners had been engaged has grown out of the conflict between the coal miners and the coal operators—a conflict which will exist as long as the coal mines are privately owned and operated for profit.

If Lewis means that the Communists everywhere are ready to stand



Lewis' Job—Holding Them For The Bosses.

parts of the United States. A half million copies of this program had been distributed without any suggestion anywhere that it was illegal but in the Pittsburgh District three members of the Workers Party were arrested for distributing this program. The National Office of the Party instructed the district organization that it must not permit hindrance of oppression to interfere with the continuance of the work.

What had this to do with "United Mine Workers of America"? The Workers Party program is legal in its nature and has no relation except as it is a labor organization. The United Mine Workers of America is a labor organization. The Workers Party of America is a labor organization. The Workers Party of America is a labor organization. The Workers Party of America is a labor organization.

this country writes and dines and considers its best friends?

### Did Communists Incite?

Of all the absurdities of this series of articles, the most absurd is that the Communist Party is accused of inciting the workers in resistance against

the workers in resistance against the Lewis machine.



Lewis' Job—Holding Them For The Bosses.

# The Lewis Lies

(Continued)

The whole capitalist class of the United States has been engaged in a hue and cry against the miners of Herrin, Ill., who used force to protect themselves when force was used against them by the armed thugs of the bosses. Lewis joins the capitalists in "condemning the workers of Herrin who dared thus to protect themselves.

He denounces the Herrin miners as Communists, and their valiant resistance against the thugs and gunmen of the bosses as part of a Communist plot.

For many months the whole organization of the United Mine Workers of America in Illinois has been raising funds to defend the menaces of Herrin. Jury after jury with all the facts of the Herrin riot before them have refused to convict any of these miners. Now comes John L. Lewis to say that they are guilty and that the capitalist hangmen should have their prey.

Is that the sort of leadership the United Mine Workers of America want? This one act of the Lewis machine should result in its being thrown out of the United Mine Workers of America forever when the next elections come around.

## Cliftonville, W. Virginia, Nova Scotia.

Not only does Lewis and his henchmen attack the miners of Herrin in groveling before the employers of this country but he joins the bosses in their attack on the miners of Cliftonville, W. Va., and the miners of West Virginia, who for many years have been carrying on a heroic struggle for the right to organize in Logan County.

All this, says Lewis, is the work of the bad Communists. They are responsible for the miners of West Virginia carrying on their valiant struggle all these years against the Detective Agency and in that state. The Communists are responsible for all the violence, for all the fighting, for everything that has happened in West Virginia.

The Communists say frankly to John L. Lewis that they had inspired the miners of West Virginia to carry on the heroic struggle for their right to organize in that state the Communists would not be ashamed to acknowledge it but would be proud to have the credit of leadership in that struggle. If happens, however, that the Communists in the United States as organized in the Workers Party have practically no organization in West Virginia and have had no connection with the events of the past in that state. The Communists hope, however, that the attack of the Lewis machine will show the miners of West Virginia that the leadership which they need in their struggle is to be found in the Communist movement and that there will be soon a strong Communist organization there as a result of the Lewis attack.

The Communists are also responsible for the strike in Nova Scotia says Lewis. The Nova Scotia strike was declared by the mine workers in support of the British Empire Steel Co. It was a splendid demonstration of solidarity. The mine workers of Nova Scotia refused to aid the bosses in beating their brothers in the steel mills into submission. This is a "crime" in the eyes of John L. Lewis. His articles show why he believes in helping the employers beat the workers into submission rather than standing by them in their struggle.

When the future history of the American labor movement is written, there will be no more disgraceful page in it than that on which is told the story of the attack upon the Communist movement and upon the members of the United Mine Workers of America in the series of articles released in the capitalist press by the Lewis machine.

What are the facts of the situation in which these articles are sent forth among the people of the United States?

For more than five years the workers of this country, organized and unorganized, have found themselves in a bitter struggle of wages and working conditions and for the preservation of their unions.

In this struggle the whole power of the government in the United States and the governments of various states and municipalities has been launched against the workers.

Not only the most radical workers in the labor movement—the Communists—have been attacked and prosecuted, but the Trade Union movement has likewise felt the heavy blows of the capitalist dictatorship express itself through the existing governmental power.

While the Communists have been most mercilessly persecuted, Mooney, a trade unionist, is still in prison, the United Mine Workers members in West Virginia, including the officials, are on trial for treason and at Herrin, Ill., the members of the Trade Unions and of the working class generally have been tried and convicted because of their activities in strikes. The whole history of the years since the war is the history of one attack after the other against organized labor in an effort to destroy its power, and in these attacks the government has been the most effective instrument in the hands of the capitalists.

In this situation it would seem that any group of men having any loyalty to the labor movement, would stand up for the interests of the workers as a class, for it is as a class that they are being persecuted and jailed and even threatened with the death penalty. But it is in this situation John L. Lewis and his official machine of the United Mine Workers openly allies him-

self with the prosecutors of the working class. He joins the Burns Detective Agency, the Feltz Gunmen who murdered the miners of West Virginia, and the prosecuting officials of that blackest spot in America, Pittsburgh, in the attack upon the workers.

If the Lewis machine had merely leveled its attack at the Communists who are carrying on a struggle for a more militant leadership in the United Mine Workers and whom Lewis consequently fears, it would be disgraceful enough. Such an attack would be equally an attack upon the working class, since the Communists are merely the most advanced section of the working class. But the Lewis machine goes further than that. It does not only attack the Communists, but it attacks the members of the United Mine Workers of America who have stood unshaken for their organization in the hardest struggles.

The Lewis machine attacks the miners of Herrin, the miners of Cliftonville, W. Pa., the miners who fought the battles in Logan County, and holds them up before the authorities as a target for prosecution.

There has been no greater betrayal in American labor history than that which John L. Lewis and his machine has perpetrated against the rank and file of the United Mine Workers of America.

The attack upon the Communists will not hurt the Communists. The Communists in the United States have had similar lies, garbled statements, and misrepresentations used as weapons against them before, and have survived the attack and strengthened their organization. The attack upon the Communists and the United Mine Workers should, however, have one result. It should drive John L. Lewis and his henchmen out of the American labor movement for ever.

If the spirit shown by the rank and file of the United Mine Workers of America in past struggles is any indication, when the next election of officials of that organization comes around, John L. Lewis and those who with him are responsible for the series of articles in question will be driven into oblivion forever so far as the labor movement is concerned.

not hesitate to go even beyond garbling and misrepresentation.

One of the trump cards in this series of articles is a supposed letter sent by G. Zinoviev, chairman of the Communist International to the Communist Party of the United States. This letter is quoted as saying:

"It is necessary to the coal miners to the point of armed insurrection. Let them blow up and flood the shafts. Show the strike regions with proclamations and appeals. Thus arouse the revolutionary spirit of the workers and prepare them for the coming revolution in America."

This is an out and out fabrication. No such letter was ever written by Zinoviev and no such letter was ever received by the Communists of the United States. If such a letter exists it was manufactured for the Lewis machine by the private detective agencies which have so repeatedly engaged in similar exploits in order to blacken the working class movement in this country.

## The Million Dollars.

\$1,100,000, supposed to be raised by the Communist Party of the United States for the work of the Lewis machine.

## The Strength of the Communist Movement.

In order to win support from the bosses the Lewis machine naturally has to create the impression that the Communist movement has reached a great strength in the United States. According to the Lewis-Searles articles. "The Communist organization on the American continent is composed of more than six thousand active leaders and lieutenants and approximately one million members, adherents and sympathizers."

The facts are quite different. There is only one Communist party in the United States and that is the Workers Party of America. It does not hide its strength. It has today 20,000 members and it expects that by the first of the year the John L. Lewis lies will have aided it in adding 10,000 new members mostly from America. The Workers Party hopes that there are one million adherents and sympathizers of Communism in the United States but it is not quite so optimistic about its strength. There are probably this number under the aggressive oppression and exploitation of the capitalist class and the betrayals of the trade union bureaucrats of the Lewis type will undoubtedly soon reach and pass the million mark.

## The Pittsburgh Miners Relief Conference.

One of the organizations bitterly attacked by the Lewis machine is the Pittsburgh Miners Relief Conference. This conference was a thorn in the side of the Lewis machine because it was one of the worst betrayals of the leaders of the United Mine Workers of America.

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Lewis machine, for a month refused any relief to these heroic workers. The Pittsburgh Miners Relief Conference was organized through the Workers Party of America to give aid to these miners. It raised thousands of dollars in money and many truckloads of food and supplies to keep the Fayette County miners from starving.

While the Lewis machine sabotaged the Fayette County miners in the interests of the bosses, the Communists were doing all in their power to give food, clothing and shelter to these miners. This is the Communist activity which Lewis attacks and which he asks the bosses to help him in stamping out.

## The Friends of Soviet Russia.

Another target for the Lewis machine is the Friends of Soviet Russia. The Friends of Soviet Russia came into existence when famine was at its height in Russia. It has been engaged in raising funds and securing supplies for the famine stricken regions of Russia. This work has been to aid the workers and peasants of Russia, who for years bore the brunt of the attack of the capitalist countries of the world because of their establishing the workers and peasants government to withstand the attacks upon them.

The books and accounts of the Friends of Soviet Russia have been examined and audited by representatives of the labor movement and no one who has examined these books has dared to charge that a single penny collected by the Friends of Soviet Russia has been used for any other purpose than relief of and support of the workers and peasants of Russia. Even the Post Office Department and the District Attorney of New York have examined and investigated the Friends of Soviet Russia and found nothing which they can attack. Yet John L. Lewis and his machine try to blacken and discredit this organization which is helping to fight one of the greatest battles of the working class.

A similar attack is made upon the Labor Defense Council, an organization created for the defense of Communists who are being persecuted in the State of Michigan. Thus Lewis is up to his eyes in the mud. He and the prosecutors in Michigan are up to their eyes in the mud. (Continued on next page.)



# Lewis, Green and Searles Join Hands with Labor-Hating National Civic Federation Some Opinions of the Lewis Lies

By JAY LOVESTONE.

There is an old saying among the practical politicians in Washington: "Give me the name of your anger and I will tell you what kind of a president you would make." In plain English this means: tell me who is behind you and I will tell you how you will run your office.

The miners might very well paraphrase this truism about their own presidential vice-president and editor of their official journal. A couple of weeks ago President Lewis, Vice-President Murray, and Editor Searles got into a crowd of the pick of the blackest reactionary "angels" in the country.

As a reward for their surrender of the check-off and in recognition of their "blast" against the militant workers, under the guise of a "red exposure" in the columns of the bosses' press, that has always fought the workmen's tooth and nail, the strikebreaking "angels" of the notorious National Civic Federation honored President Lewis, Vice-President Phil Murray, and Searles. These three high-priced officials were dined and vined at the Lawyers' Club, one of the most gorgeous ballrooms in New York City. Here the leading officers of America's greatest labor union were made the guests of honor alongside of a Mr. T. W. Ashforth, one of the unscrupulous, die-hard, bitter foes of the Australian work-

### A Disgrace to the United Mine Workers.

While the scrap push of the country was busy pushing the six-cylinder anti-red sash which the Department of Justice in Washington and Pittsburgh had the renegade Socialist, Chester Wright, prepare, Lewis, Murray, and Searles were working their heads off pushing the United Mine Workers of America back almost a score of years.

In the game of disrupting the union and committing unspeakable outrages against the miners' organization, this unholy "Trinity" is by no means a trio of bush-leavers. Yet, since the wealthy John Mitchell officially ordered by the United

Mine Workers to stop nobnobbing with this gang of lock-out heroes and scab-bosses calling itself the National Civic Federation, had a single official of the Miners' union had the gall to have anything at all to do with this outfit for union-busters publicly. It was left to John Lewis and his ilk to sink to such degrading depths.

### In the Company of Select Strike breakers.

Since this little dinner party was organized for the cream of society folk, the general public and the workers in particular were deliberately kept out from this underground banquet (sponsored by the Open-Shoppers to Lewis, Murray, and their press agent, Searles). Only twenty-five persons were permitted to participate in these honors to Mr. Ashforth, the leader of the employees' association of Australia. But a perusal of some of these "chosen people" of our financial and industrial oligarchy unfolds many a salubrious story to the miners who have given their all for their union.

In this galaxy of sworn enemies of organized labor, linking to Lewis, Murray and Searles' health, was Walter Douglas, director of numerous anti-union corporations and general manager of Phelps Dodge and Co., and president of the Phelps Dodge Corporation. The corporations are the same companies that organized the outrageous B'bes deportations which made even some reactionaries blush with shame. For years Mr. Douglas has been associated with such brazen open-shop concerns as the Prescott Mining Co., the Copner Queen Consolidated Mining Co., the Detroit Copper Co., and the Consolidated Kansas City Smeltine and Refining Co. This same Mr. Douglas is also an executive of the American Mining Congress at whose annual sessions on October 17, 1922, Mr. J. S. Bradley, the president of the West Virginia Coal Operators Association, incited a blood-curdling, strikebreaking resolution against the United Mine Workers and openly in-

cited the coal bosses to violence and bloodshed against the miners through a declaration that "there are times when the use of the rifle is advisable and when people should be sent to the kingdom to come."

The miners might well ask Mrs. S. Lewis, Murray and Searles whether the Union is paying them fancy salaries for being dined and vined by such cherished friends of the hangmen of labor.

Along side of Mr. Douglas and near Phil Murray there was seated the multi-millionaire, Nicholas F. Brady, who is a director of about ninety huge corporations.

Prominent amongst Lewis' guests was Willis H. Booth, the world-renowned banker and president of the International Chamber of Commerce. At last year's Rome convention of the International Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Booth was particularly close with the black-shirted tyrant Mussolini, who is responsible for the arrest and murder of more trade unionists and the breaking up of more labor unions than any other strikebreaker in the world.

It was left to Mr. Searles, sneaking with all the prestige and authority of a representative of the miners, though he is not even a member of the United Mine Workers of America, to make the most disgusting attack on labor. His tirade against the recognition of the Soviet Republic of workers and farmers in Russia drew the loudest applause from the financial and industrial elite in the royal palace. In this vicious denunciation Mr. Searles was supported by a certain Colonel Matthews who is reported to have had considerable difficulty convincing diamonds out of Russia while he was there attached to Woodrow Wilson's Relief Administration.

This conference and "dinner party" show clearly who is behind the sinner's face of a "red exposure" prepared by Messrs. Searles and Lewis. This little select banquet of strikebreakers shows who are the "angels" of Lewis, Murray, Searles, and their stripe.

Robert Dunn, Associate Director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"We did not know that the officers of the United Mine Workers were so hard put to fabricate facts about the activities of the American Civil Liberties Union that they found it necessary to cooperate with William J. Dunn's agents in their hunt for material. Nevertheless, in the interest of truth and fair play, we offer you the use of our files for the purpose of giving correct information concerning the Civil Liberties Union to the public.

"We have already branded such statements of yours as the ridiculous lies that they are. Nevertheless, in the interest of truth and fair play, we offer you the use of our files for the purpose of giving correct information concerning the Civil Liberties Union to the public.

Frank P. ... President, Illinois District United Workers of America.

"The Communists had nothing to do with the trouble at Herrin, and I ask that in my behalf you make the most emphatic denial.

This is no doubt propaganda to injure the prestige of the Illinois miners. To make a long story short, it is a damnable lie." New York Call.

"There are three reasons why labor and the friends of labor should mourn over these articles. The first and most important reason is that they are not true.

The second objection to these articles is that they hurt rather than help the cause of labor. The New York papers, to be sure, are playing up Mr. Searles' story, whereas, no doubt, his heart rejoices. Not one of these papers will be one hit more friendly to the United Mine Workers in the next controversy.

Every one of these papers will use Mr. Searles' evidence, of alleged evidence, not against one group or fraction in labor, but against labor's cause.

The third reason for sorrow over these articles is the evidence they give of the lack of a spirit of fair play. Mr. Searles' methods and spirit against the enemies, or alleged enemies, is precisely the method and spirit of A. Mitchell Palmer, Harry Daugherty, and the Burns Detective Bureau."

Walter Nesbit, Secretary-Treasurer, Illinois District United Mine Workers of America.

"It is my opinion that the unfortunate and deplorable affair that took place at the strip mine between Herrin and Marion in Williamson County came about through a spontaneous uprising on the part of the residents of that county and its vicinity, preceded by the action of the owners of the strip mine, the brazen actions of their hired guards and gunmen, and the utter disregard for the rights and liberties of the people residing in Wil-

## The Communist Program in the United States

(101 John L. Lewis Lies—Continued)

ist laws which endeavor to deny the workers of their right of freedom of speech, assembly, press and the right to organize and strike.

### Violence.

All the violence that has occurred in the labor movement in recent years is charged against the Communists by Lewis and his henchmen.

Any thinking man or woman who considers the facts of the class struggle and violence in that class struggle will immediately see the absurdity of such a statement. There was no Communist movement in the United States at the time of the Homestead struggle, the McKees Rock strike, the Lawrence strike, the West Virginia strike of ten years ago, yet there was violence and violence on a large scale in all these strikes; there was no Communist movement in this country at the time of the Colorado strike and the Ludlow massacre, yet there was violence in these strikes.

Lewis knows as any intelligent worker knows that the violence which is part of the strikes in the United States, grows out of the bitter oppression of the workers in this country. When men are driven to desperation by starvation wages, long hours of work, by thugs and gunmen, police and militia used against them, they will resort to violence as a means of expressing their protest.

The Communists oppose all such individual use of violence or use of violence by small groups of workers. They know that such cases of violence are a detriment to the labor movement because they enable the bosses to raise a hue and cry against the workers. No Communist in the United States has ever been arrested, tried and convicted for an act of violence. Communists have been arrested and convicted for stating the truth about the class struggle and the development of that struggle but not for acts of violence.

While the Communists state their opposition to sporadic cases of violence by individuals or groups, they, on the other hand, do not hesitate to state their view that the class struggle in every historical epoch has resulted in a clash in which force has been used and that in all these clashes the development of the class struggle will bring such a clash in the States.

The capitalist system by its own laws is bound to produce such a situation as exists in Germany today. While today in the United States, capitalism seems secure and is operating fairly smoothly, its future lies along the path of disintegration such as is going on in all of Europe and particularly in Germany at the present time and this disintegration will produce a struggle of classes in which force will be used just as it has produced such a struggle in Germany.

### Communist Program.

The Lewis machine charges that the Communists in the United States have made three attempts to inspire armed insurrection. This is utter ROT.

The Communists in the United States know that here the workers are making their first feeble attempts at class action. These attempts are expressed in the movement for amalgamation of the trade unions into industrial unions and the movement for a labor party, not in any attempts at armed insurrection.

The Communist program in the United States is in full support of the movement for amalgamation and for a labor party. No Communist is so silly as to believe that there have been conditions in the United States at any time in recent years which would produce an armed insurrection nor has any Communist at any time suggested or attempted to incite such an armed insurrection. When the Lewis machine makes this it is that the Communists have tried to inspire insurrection; certainly must believe that of this country are will believe any presented to it.

The Communist program is for the workers.

will be produced as much by the disintegration and breakdown of the capitalist system as by the organization of the working class. When it does come the Communists will take their places as the leaders of the working class in that struggle as they are today the leaders in every struggle in the interests of the workers.

### The Communist Party of America.

Much is made by the Lewis machine of the fact that the Communist Party of America is a secret underground organization. Anyone who knows the history of the Communist movement knows that in 1919 and 1920 some 5,000 Communists were arrested in the Palmer raids in an effort to destroy the Communist movement; hundreds of these workers were deported and others were sent to prison. Naturally the Communists organized in a manner that would prevent further attacks of this character.

During the years 1920 and 1921 the Communist Party was an underground organization. Since the Communists have organized their way into the open, in December, 1921, the Communist Party has organized as a Communist Party in this country. It has a membership of 100,000.

The Communist program is for the workers.

# The Communists in the Trade Unions

By JAMES P. CANNON.

It was no accident that John L. Lewis should turn over to the capitalist press his 101 lies against the Communist, and it was no accident that these open-shop, anti-union newspapers should play them up and express general editorial approval. The labor leaders of the Lewis and Gompers type are hand in glove with the capitalists. They are nothing more nor less than the agents of the capitalists in the labor movement. This is the real explanation of their shameful conduct. This is the reason why they are against the Communists, and it is also the reason why the Communists are against them. The conflict is fundamental and irreconcilable. The fight of Lewis & Co. against the Communists is in reality a fight against the rank and file workers in the labor movement, against the interests of the working class as a whole.

What are the aims and purposes of the Communists in the trade unions? Lewis tries to paint us as fanatical disruptionists whose whole activity is designed to disrupt and destroy the unions. But this silly charge belies itself when it comes from such a source. The destruction of the trade unions is the greatest danger to the working class; and it is precisely because we understand it clearly, and strive with all our power to prevent it, that we bring upon ourselves the combined persecution of the capitalists, their government and their "labor lieutenants."

We look upon the trade unions as the basic and elementary organizations of the exploited workers, the first line of defense against the exploiters. And our sole endeavor is to build and strengthen them, to implant in them a sound proletarian outlook, to wrest them from the control of treacherous officials and make of them mighty weapons in the struggle for the daily interests of the workers and for their final emancipation from the degrading rule of capitalism.

There are hundreds of thousands of workers in America who already stand on this platform. There has always been a tremendous sentiment amongst the rank and file of the United Mine Workers, as well as the other big unions, against the corrupt and reactionary officialdom, its futile policies and its domination by the ideas of the capitalist class. Time and time again this rank and file revolt has risen up in mighty waves only to be beaten back again. The officials are well organized and know exactly what they want. It has been easy for them to thwart and defeat the radical workers because they have had no rank and file organization and no uniform program.

The Communists supply the one ele-

ment lacking to the victory of the rank and file because the part which the Communists play in this situation is to assist the rank and file workers to organize their revolt and to formulate their program. This is what is taking place throughout the labor movement today. The rank and file workers, together with the Communists, are beginning to put up a systematic, organized and carefully-planned fight for the regeneration of the unions. But without a Communist party there can be no victory of the rank and file over the corrupt officialdom, and there can be no victory of the working class over capitalism.

In order for the most militant and conscious workers to give a clear direction to the fight and exert the maximum influence on the movement, it is necessary for them to have a party of their own. This party is the Workers Party. It is a disciplined organization which makes heavy demands upon its members. Any worker who is willing to concern himself with the problems of his union and of the working class as a whole, who stands for the revolutionary goal of the struggle and who is willing to work and fight in the front ranks day after day is gladly welcomed into the party.

This party fights side by side with all other elements in the labor movement who want to go forward. Every single proposal for the betterment of the trade unions gets the hearty support of the Communists. In fact, it is becoming the general rule for constructive measures of every kind to be sponsored by the Communists first.

There are three basic weaknesses of the American trade unions today which render them practically helpless before the onslaught of the bosses. They are: First, the antiquated craft form of organization. (The U. M. W. of A. is an exception. It is an industrial union, and that is one of the principal reasons it has been able to offer better resistance to the open-shop drive than the other unions.) Second, the lack of a labor party to organize the workers for the political struggle; Third, the domination of the entire movement by capitalist-minded leaders of the type of Gompers and Lewis.

The Workers Party fights against these weaknesses with all its power and energy. It is making the whole movement ring with its slogans of Amalgamation, The Labor Party and honest, militant leadership. Every class-conscious worker knows that these slogans are constructive, not destructive; that they spell new life and power for the labor movement.

# Lewis the Agent of the Capitalists

By JOHN PEPPER.

Why are hundreds of thousands of miners, members of the United Miners of America?

They want higher wages, shorter hours of work, and better labor conditions.

They want to live as human beings, to have dwelling places fit for human beings, to buy clothes for their wives and assure the future of their children. The miners are members of the union because they know that the individual workman separated from his fellow workers is a slave of the capitalists, and is subjected to every caprice of the corporations.

But higher wages and a shorter working day—are these sufficient for the miners? Does not the minor require some protection against unemployment and some provision for his old age? Is he satisfied to see his children after a few years of school going to the mines in their childhood to continue his work of slavery for another generation?

The mine workers know that they need more than simply higher wages and shorter hours; that they must free themselves from the exploitation of the big coal barons. It is for this reason that the miners favor the nationalization of mines.

And the mine workers know that giving the coal mines to the miners, that nationalization, is impossible if the working class has no political weapon for carrying out this nationalization or for protection against the greed of the capitalists when this nationalization is put into effect. And that is why the miners are for an independent political party of the workers, for a labor party.

The mine workers who always were militant and revolutionary know that they can make their lives happy as well as the lives of their wives and children if they shake off capitalist exploitation, if they fight, not only for higher wages and shorter hours, but for establishing the rule of the working class.

The United Mine Workers is the most radical and most advanced trade union in the United States. The conventions of the mine workers' union have gone on record for nationalization and for a labor party.

Nothing, "thrice nothing!" But in practice, what has the United Mine Workers done for nationalization and a labor party?

Why? What is the reason that the hundreds of thousands of mine workers want nationalization, a labor party, alliance with railroad workers, and an international alliance with the miners of other countries, and that they decided all this in conventions of their union, and yet everything remains on paper while the union itself does not fight at all for these demands of the members?

What is the reason that in spite of the fact that the mine workers hate the capitalists and that a convention of miners decided that officials of the union must not work together with the most reactionary capitalists—with the National Civic

Federation, and yet Lewis and other officials of the union recently entered into secret conspiracies with these worst of American capitalists?

The reason for all this is that the United Mine Workers of America is not in the hands of the workers, but in the hands of the mighty machine of Lewis and other officials.

The reason for all this is that the powerful Lewis machine, despite that it was elected by the workers, is not an agent of the workers against the capitalists, but an agent of the capitalists against the workers.

The Lewis machine is but a part, on the one hand, of the capitalist National Coal Association and on the other hand, a department of the capitalist government.

Lewis was elected as president of the United Mine Workers through the aid of the capitalists, and he is thankful. In every strike until now he has betrayed the workers in favor of the capitalists.

Lewis sees that he cannot retain his power in the union, that his machine is endangered by the dissatisfied miners, and he is calling the state power to his help. And the Department of Justice comes to his aid, giving him fake material against the reds. Lewis does what no labor leader before has so shamelessly and so openly done. He accuses the miners of Herrin, and the miners who participated in the march of West Virginia of being murderers and robbers—and Communists. Even his friend, Farrington, who is himself a reactionary, threw at his face the words of the Damnable Liar! Hundreds of thousands of mine workers today throw at his face, "Damnable liar!"

How long will the mine workers tolerate the rule of the National Coal Association and the Department of Justice over the United Mine Workers within the United Mine Workers? How long will they tolerate the Lewis machine?

The mine workers will lose every strike! The cause of nationalization will never advance! The Labor party will never be organized! The exploitation of the capitalists will never be overthrown!—so long as the hundreds of thousands of mine workers will tolerate the Czarist rule of a few scores of officials, the rule of Lewis machine.

We turn to the workers and say to them: "Do you want a better life for you and for your wives and children?"

Do you want to provide for your old age?

Do you want to reduce the accidents in the mines?

Do you want a labor party of the working class?

Do you want an alliance with the railroad workers and miners of other countries?

Do you want nationalization of mines?

Do you want the abolition of capitalist exploitation and in its stead the rule of workers and farmers?

Then you must overthrow the Lewis machine at the January convention of the mine workers.

few years because they have learned by their own experiences that the Government is the agent of the bosses which helps them to force low wages and bad working conditions upon the miners that they are responding to the Communist and supporting the Communist movement. You will never eradicate Communism from the United Mine Workers of America as long as the miners have to meet the bitter persecution, the suffering and misery which has befallen them in the great industrial struggles they have gone through in recent years.

You will never be able to eradicate Communism from the United States as long as the class struggle persists and that means as long as capitalism exists. You must force the capitalist employers will not stop the Communist movement. It will grow until the time comes when the workers, through their own power, wipe out the abominable system under which they are now suffering.

## Resolution by U. M. W. of A. Local 4650, Edgemont, Ill.

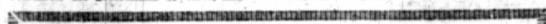
EDGEMONT, ILL.—Basis for bringing charges of treason against President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers of America, was found in resolutions adopted by the coal miners of the Belleville Sub-District of the Illinois Mine Workers Union. They were as follows:

WHEREAS, Articles being carried by the press of the country, accredited to Elsie Seeger, who is editor, by appointment, of the U. M. W. Journal, blatantly defaming the good name of the membership of the U. M. W. A., especially those of Williamson County, Ill., by branding them as men who are Reds and Revolutionists, who wish to overthrow the government by force, and

WHEREAS, We, the miners of the Belleville Sub-District, believe in justice to all our members, regardless of where they may be from, and we believe the miners of Williamson County are just as patriotic and law abiding as any other like number of citizens in the United States. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the miners of Belleville Sub-District, demand of the Executive Board of District Twelve that they call on John L. Lewis to produce proof of these charges, and be it further

RESOLVED, That in event of his failure to produce proof of these charges contained in these articles, that we demand of the District Executive Board that charges be preferred against John L. Lewis for TREASON to the U. M. W. A., and that they prosecute these charges before the International Executive Board.



...them in their struggle... ISSUE

## The Lewis Lies

(Continued)

facts about Communism they will support the Communist movement.

### The Communist Movement in America.

The charge is repeated again and again in the Lewis articles that the Communist movement in the United States is the result of scheming and planning by the Communist International.

This statement shows the utter ignorance of John L. Lewis and his henchmen of any economic or political science.

If Lewis and his machine with the aid of Burns, Daugherty and officials of this country were able to get every Communist in the United States and excluded from this country and from abroad who had any connection with the Communist movement, springs of capitalism exploits the Communists.

## Voice of Labor

Published twice a month by the Central Executive Committee of the Workers Party of America, C. E. BURNETT, Executive Secretary, Room 214, 1009 N. State St., Chicago, Ill. Subscriptions: \$1.00 for 12 copies, in advance.

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Entered as Second Class Matter under the name of "Social Democrat," October 5, 1918, at the Post Office at Chicago, Ill., under No. 1073, March 2, 1919. Changed to "The New Voice of Labor," April 23, 1921. Entry under the title "Voice of Labor" applied for.