

MARITIME STRIKE ENDS WITH VICTORY

Auto Strikers 'Hold the Fort' In Flint Plants

Epic Struggle Centers On Maneuvers To Eject 'Sit-Down' Strikers from Occupied Plants

The publicity spotlight on the greatest auto strike in labor history this week swung back from futile Washington maneuvers to stern class struggle in Flint, Michigan.

Crucial issue of the strike remained the sit-down capture of the Fisher Body plants. Fifteen hundred new sit-downers were added to the army of occupation when they forced their way into Chevrolet Plant No. 4 in spite of company and police violence which brought injury to fifteen men.

SIT-DOWN POWER

Every test of strength during the thirty-five day old strike has centered on the question of the auto workers right to remain in the plants that they alone can operate.

Along the employers would be helpless, but the courts and state and national government officials are busily testing every possible method of driving or luring the workers from their trenches.

MURPHY OFFER

Latest maneuver, according to Wednesday press reports, is a proposal offered by Governor Murphy acting under special authority from President Roosevelt.

The union has been asked to withdraw all sit-down strikers from plants at Flint in return for Governor Murphy's "flat guarantee, backed by the National Guard, that General Motors will not resume production in those plants."

REAL OBJECT

At press time neither workers or GM officials had accepted this proposal. If accurately reported, it marks a considerable retreat from former government demands that the unions abandon the plants unconditionally.

If the union consents to abandon the plants, it is admitting that there is something wrong, or illegal, about the sit-down. That admission may help an immediate auto settlement but it will end.

(Continued on Page 2)

Court Referee Decides Against Tom Mooney

SAN FRANCISCO.—California "justice" moved the Mooney case a step nearer the U. S. Supreme Court when Referee A. E. Shaw recommended to the California State Supreme Court that no writ of habeas corpus be granted to Tom Mooney.

Ignoring a mountain of proof of frame-up and perjury, accumulated by Mooney's attorneys and witnesses in more than a year of inquiry, Shaw declared the Mooney

Defend Commonwealth

NEW YORK.—The Civil Liberties Union and other liberal groups throughout the nation in defense of academic freedom, demanded an open hearing on the Horton Sedition Bill that is being pushed through the Arkansas legislature in an effort to eliminate Commonwealth College, labor school at Mens.

Push Work For Column At Chicago

Socialists Take Leading Part In Campaign for Spain

CHICAGO.—With a Chicago Chapter of the Friends of the Debs Column now established in Chicago and working under the direction of the parent organization in New York City, Illinois Socialists this week contended for honors in the competition to render the quickest and most effective aid to the Spanish workers and peasants in their struggle to crush International Fascism.

The response in Chicago to the organization of a local group of the Friends of the Debs Column, according to Syd Devin, secretary of the new chapter, was so immediate that steps are being taken to organize four regional groups of the Friends of the Debs Column in addition to the North Side division which is already functioning.

SOUTH SIDE MEETING.—Socialists are enthusiastically seconding the Friends organization and taking a leading part. The South Side meeting for Norman Thomas February 9th at the Shotwell Hall in the heart of the University district has been taken over by the Friends of the Debs Column which will use it to organize the South Side division of the Friends of the Debs Column. This promises to be the hottest meeting in near-university precincts in a long time.

The 7th Congressional District Branch had already got a highly successful raffle and card party scheduled for its headquarters at 1241 N. California Avenue for the evening of February 20th and promises to raise enough to finance at least one volunteer or more. All receipts will be turned over for aid to Spain. A north side divisional meeting of the Friends will be held at Cafe Eldrott Thursday, February 11th, open to the public.

Gas Workers Win

TOLEDO.—Toledo gas workers have just won a ten-day strike. A new one-year contract provides for wage increases, stricter seniority, a 40-hour week, job tenure, sick pay allowances and special overtime pay.

San Diego Unions Go On Strike

Celery Workers Act When Bosses Stop Negotiations

SAN DIEGO.—Five hundred San Diego County celery workers walked out of the fields and set up picket lines at 11:00 a. m. on January 27, in response to the strike call issued by the three agricultural unions here. The strike was provoked by the employers who broke off negotiations. The unions' demands are union recognition, 40c minimum wage, and the eight-hour day with time and a half for overtime.

The striking unions are the Union of Laborers and Field Workers of San Diego County, the Agricultural Industrial Workers Union of America, San Diego County, and Filipino Federated Workers Union of California, San Diego County. The unions voted unanimously to strike ten days ago and have been waiting only for the call from the joint strike committee.

The previous contract between the employers and the unions, the result of last year's militant celery strike, expired last August. Negotiations for another contract were opened November 14, 1936, and broken off on December 19. The growers presented an individual one-man contract which they proceeded to force upon every worker before allowing him on the field. At the same time, the Celery Growers' Association, composed of the Shipper-Growers, notified the unions that they were turning the matter over to The Farmers Protective Association, notorious smashers of the agricultural unions.

WAGES AND PROFITS

Last year's celery workers gave the growers a crop upon which they took a net profit of \$900 per acre, on an outlay of \$150-\$200 including all costs of production. For agricultural workers, employment is not steady. Much of the time workers are able to get only a few hours a week. The total annual income for agricultural workers in this state averages \$360 per family. Contrast this to the \$900 clear profit on each acre of celery these workers produce for a grower in a four-month crop. Then you can have a brilliant refutation of any argument presented by the employers.

The growers were able to take this enormous profit by paying a basic wage of 25 cents per hour, and in order to maintain this the growers have organized under the "Farmers Protective Association," as they did in Salinas. The employers have used the negotiations as a screen behind which to attack the unions and the wages of the workers. In an effort to forestall strike they promised a five-cent raise which was never paid. They have regimented the workers with little blue cards which they must carry, binding them to the Farmers' Association as slaves.

TEAR UP BLUE CARDS

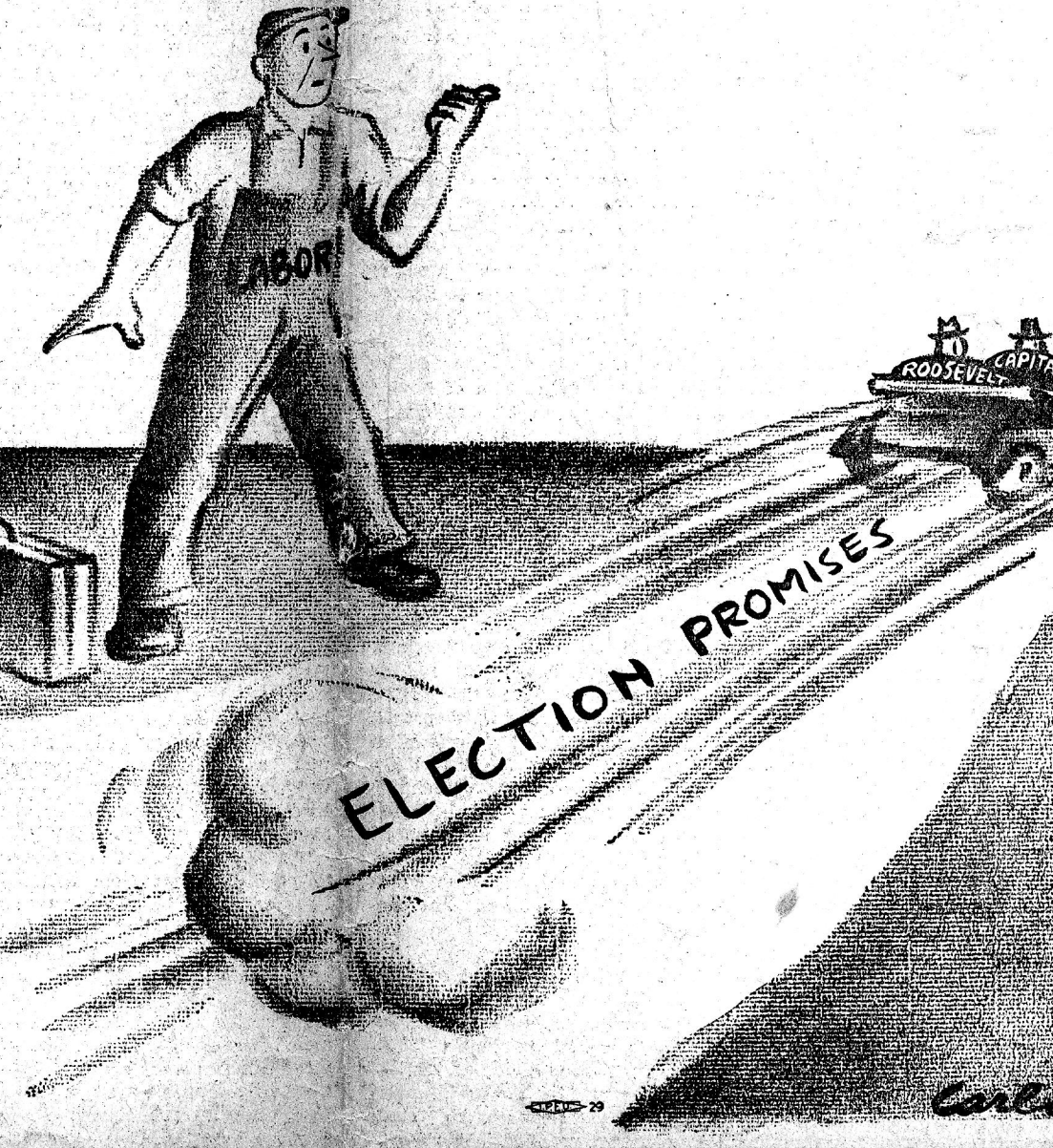
On the morning of January 27, the workers in all celery fields tore up these little blue cards and threw them on a pile of newly cut celery symbolizing the beginning of a determined fight to the finish for the right to bargain collectively rather than individually for a better wage. The Workers Alliance has called upon all workers to support this strike with every means at their disposal. Members of the Workers Alliance are expected to show up on the picket lines and give the agricultural unions, all their support.

Send Strike funds and food to Jose Castillo, Chairman of the Committee for Relief and Defense, 1709 National Ave., San Diego, California.

Ruling Favors Guild

Two editorial workers, whose union activities caused their discharge from Hearst's Seattle Post-Intelligencer, were ordered reinstated by the National Labor Relations Board. The discharging of these two men, both long-time employees of Hearst, was an important factor in the Newspaper Guild strike that kept the Post-Intelligencer closed down for 104 days.

Gone With The Wind! - - By Carlo



To Publish Spy Lists Of Bosses

La Follette Committee Forces Agencies To Give Names

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"When once you start this damnable business of spying, you never can stop." It was Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah who made this remark at the hearing of the Civil Liberties Committee on labor espionage.

It was generally a lively session that day. Senator La Follette was sick, Thomas was in charge, and the Corporations Auxiliary Co. bunch tried to get contrary. They had been told the day before to bring the names of some of their labor spies to this session, and had promised to do it. Now, they tried to renege. Buckley, attorney for Dan. G. Ross, general manager of the CAC, said they did not think the names pertinent to the subject.

RECORD CONTRADICT WITNESSES

"Why," said Senator Thomas, "we have two experts in espionage. Mr. Ross and Mr. Smith, tell us that spying is a laudable occupation and that it doesn't hurt anybody. I'm sure you wouldn't like to contradict their authority on that subject."

Ross at first tried to say that he didn't say it.

"I meant that spying didn't hurt the man spied upon," he said. "Of course, disclosures that a man is a spy harms him socially, makes him an outcast."

FORCED TO TELL NAMES

The CAC bunch begged, pleaded, argued, consulted; but Senator Thomas continued to demand the names, and he got them. Then Charles Rigby, grievance man of the union at the Auto-Lite Co. in Toledo, took the stand; and told how Bartley Furey, a paid spy, came into the works as a longshoreman seeking another job; and almost wrecked the whole union movement. Rigby pointed out one of the spies in the hearing room, Burnside, who formerly was called Bronson. Burnside was put on the stand and protested his perfect friendship for Rigby.

Union Actives First Fifty Will Confer At South Bend

CHICAGO.—The first of a series of conferences of Socialists working in the mass production industries will be held this week-end, Feb. 6 and 7, at the Hotel Oliver, South Bend, Ind. Another will be held in Pittsburgh Feb. 20 and 21.

Participants will include Socialists who are members of and active in unions, affiliated and unaffiliated with the C.I.O., officials of the Workers' Alliance, officials of the party, members of labor committees and representatives from national headquarters. The conferences will be confined to party members.

The South Bend conference will be opened by Roy E. Burt, national executive secretary of the Socialist party, reporting on the general perspectives of the party. He will be followed by Frank N. Trager, national labor and organization secretary, who will speak on the official party position on labor problems.

The second session will be in the form of round table discussions on steel, auto, rubber and meat packing. Members of craft unions and delegates to central labor bodies will have their own round table. Discussion will take place on the reports of these round tables and recommendations will be adopted.

Upton Sinclair Joins Debs Column Friends

NEW YORK.—Upton Sinclair, noted novelist and liberal politician, has joined the sponsoring committee of the Friends of the Debs Column. Hal Siegel, executive secretary of the organization, announced yesterday (Tuesday). Jack Conroy of Moberly, Mo., author of "The Dishonored" and Albert Sprague Coolidge, Harvard professor, have also joined the sponsoring committee. Sinclair, who is a resident of Pasadena, Calif., is now at work writing a novel of the international volunteer brigade of the Spanish revolution, entitled "No Pasaran" ("They Shall Not Pass"). In his letter of acceptance he wrote: "I wish I had money instead of debts so that I could contribute."

Enthusiastic Sendoff for Vanguard Group of Debs Column

NEW YORK (FP).—Fifty men, first group of the 500 volunteers to be sent to Spain to join the International Brigade by the friends of the Debs Column, were given an enthusiastic send off at a large Hippodrome mass meeting by an audience that booed Mussolini, Hitler and so-called neutrality legislation.

Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, assailed the present neutrality act as an aid to the Spanish rebels and as a denial of a right to a friendly government dealing with armed rebellion that it has always granted to other states. Specific mention was made of China, Japan, Italy and Germany. Thomas declared that no obstacles were put in the way of volunteers joining Mussolini's army in its campaign in Ethiopia.

Louis Fischer, European correspondent, declared that a defeat of Franco might avert a world war in Europe. What he had seen in Spain recently convinced him that the loyalists were never in a better position than they are today.

Other speakers included: Roger N. Baldwin, Frank Crosswaith, Brendon Sexton, Prof. Leroy Bowman and James Burnham.

soring committee include: Jack Altman, Secretary - Treasurer; Roger Baldwin, Murray Baron, Leroy Bowman, Louis B. Boudin, James Burnham, Roy Burt, V. F. Calverton, Max DeLeon, Clifton Fadiman, Ben Fischer, Harold J. Gibbons, Charles Yale Harrison, Sidney Hook, Dorothy Kenyon, Isidor Laderman, Alfred Baker Lewis, William Ellery Leonard, Ludwig Lore, Charles Malamuth, Amicus Most, A. Phillips Ryan, Brendon Sexton, Lillian Sylph, Norman Thomas, Frank Trager, Caro Tresca, Glen Trimble, Girolamo Valentini.

The Friends of the Debs Column was organized to give financial aid to Americans who have volunteered to serve with the International Brigade of the Spanish Loyalist forces.

Big Gains For Unions After Bitter Struggle

Maritime Labor Emerges From 99-Day Struggle With Strengthened Position And High Morale

The great West Coast Maritime strike, which began Oct. 28, came to an end Thursday, Feb. 4, 99 days later, with the final tabulation of the ballots cast by the membership of the affiliated unions.

The agreements secured, by the settlement represent one of the most clear cut and sweeping victories for unionism since the great revival of the labor movement which began with the organization drives and strike waves in 1933.

The major objectives of the shipowners—the elimination of union control of hiring and the consequent smashing of the unions—have been completely defeated.

UNION DEMANDS ATTAINED

The major demands of the unions—hiring hall, wage increases and strengthened recognition of the unions—have been attained. The longshoremen retain their hiring control and safeguarded working conditions with wage increases.

The Cooks and Stewards, failing in their full objective of a universal 8-hour day in a spread of 12 hours, compromised on a 9-hour day on passenger vessels in a spread of 13, gaining the 8-hour day on freighters—a vast improvement over the intolerable 10-hour day in a spread of 15. It is the universal 8-hour day is next in order.

The Marine, Firemen, Oilers, Waterenders and Wipers rejected the off-shore agreement, according to reports at press time, and will return to work pending arbitration of the disputed issues.

SAILORS' VICTORY

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific, which, together with the Cooks and Stewards and the Firemen, was the chief object of the struggle with all its major demands achieved—Union control of hiring, increased wages and cash payment for overtime.

Thus the great industrial battle, which heralded the new advance of the American Labor movement in the face of an intensified union-smashing campaign of the bosses, ends with the position and morale of the workers strengthened all along the line. The embattled auto workers, now engaged in decisive combat with the auto barons, will take heart and hope from the maritime victory.

The labor movement in the West is immeasurably strengthened by the improved position of its mainstay—the maritime unions. These unions themselves, emerging victorious from the second test of strength with powerful opponents, are in a position to consolidate their ranks and press forward with increased confidence.

The victory is, first of all, a vindication of the STRIKE POLICY advocated by the militant wing of the unions as against all super-clever substitutes represented by proposals for delay, mediation, "waiting for Roosevelt," and similar fantasies. The unions can gain what they are strong enough to take from the bosses in a test of strength—This is the outstanding lesson of the maritime strike. The waterfront unions owe their victory to the victory of the militant policy within their own ranks.

Because of the nature of all-metal airplane construction the aircraft workers are being organized into the Aircraft Industrial Council of the United Automobile Workers. There will be branches in each of the factories and shop committees formed of the workers from each of the various departments. However, all the aircraft workers in Los Angeles County will be organized into the one local, Local 188 of the U.A.W.

INDUSTRY EXPANDING

The aircraft factories of Southern California are expanding at an unprecedented rate. The Douglas plant has doubled in size in the last year, having close to 7000 workers on its payroll today. The number of workers in the Lockheed factory has tripled since last June.

Two new large companies have moved in, Consolidated Aircraft at San Diego and North American at Inglewood. Orders totaling tens of millions of dollars are on the books today with new orders coming in steadily in an ever increasing volume. Watch the aircraft workers achieve industrial unionism in a hurry. They may be young and inexperienced (the average worker being about 25) but any young worker buck rivets at Douglas for six months and his illusions will be smashed to bits. Once again, keep your eyes on aircraft, the boys mean business.

FIGHT THE FINK BOOK!

The big cloud now on the horizon is the Copeland Fink Book—the attempt, by government interference, to accomplish what the shipowners could not accomplish.

Cannon to Speak On Trade Unions

"Trade Unions and Political Parties" will be the subject of a lecture by James P. Cannon, editor of Labor Action, on Sunday evening, February 7, 1937, at 236 Van Ness Avenue. The meeting will be under auspices of the Socialist Party of San Francisco.

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COLONEL WOOD ON MOSCOW TRIAL

The Action Army

Noted Lawyer And Liberal Explains Why He Defends Trotsky's Right Of Asylum

By FRANK STERN

The first two weeks of the drive for a thousand new subscribers for Labor Action have come and gone, but we are still far from our goal.

Trotsky Answers Stalin's Indictment

Again Challenges Accusers To Face An Impartial International Commission

By LEON TROTSKY

(These telegraphed statements appeared in the Manchester Guardian on January 25 and 26.)

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 25.—It is unnecessary to state that since 1928 I have had no relations whatever with Radek and Piatakov, who have periodically insulted me in the official press.

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 26.—The charges in the present Moscow trial are framed with one object—that of exploiting international relations in order to suppress internal enemies.

PREPARING BOOK

First, how can one accept the fact that all the men who carried through the revolution, with one exception, Stalin, have become terrorists, enemies of socialism, agents of the Gestapo, ready to dismember the U.S.S.R.?

Second, how is it that these "criminals," who for nearly to years have been committing terrible crimes can suddenly repent and after having demanded death for others, suddenly demand it for themselves?

Third, how is one to explain that Zinoviev, Kamenev, and other leaders of this alleged "Trotskyist" group, knew nothing about this grotesque plan to dismember the U.S.S.R. for the benefit of Hitler and the Mikado, while Radek, whom none of us ever took seriously, suddenly reveals himself at the head of a world conspiracy?

Real Conspiracy

If there is any conspiracy, it is the conspiracy of the G.P.U. It is Stalin's totalitarian dictatorship which has come into ever more serious conflict with the economic and cultural development of the country.

Embodiment of the Bureaucracy

The spirit of daring which he learned in the school of the revolution is now applied only to maintain his own omnipotence and his own privileges by methods that are fantastic in criminal ingenuity.

This last trial shows that a terrible political crisis is approaching in Russia.

I am ready to denounce Stalin before any impartial and authoritative international commission. I make this appeal to all men of good will and to all that section of the press which is honest and independent and I know full well that the Manchester Guardian will be one of the first to serve the truth and humanity.

Marine Strike Ends in Great Union Victory

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plish in open struggle—the strangulation of the unions.

But the same militant policy which carried the unions to victory in the strike is the prescription for victory in the fight against the fink book—direct and unyielding struggle.

The same treacherous and fatal policy which was advocated to stall off and avoid the strike is again being offered now. "Don't refuse the fink book; accept it, and protest afterward,"—this is the suicide formula now proposed in some quarters.

What is a proposal for the unions of the unlicensed personnel to surrender all the gains of their bitter struggle—nothing more.

UNIONS CAN WIN

Will the Roosevelt administration, which made such pretensions of friendship for labor, dare to try to fasten the Copeland dog collar around the necks of the seamen? Will they dare to aim such a direct blow against the unions after they have defeated the bosses in a 99-day strike? Only if the unions bow their neck to the yoke! Only if the unions listen to treacherous advice to give up without a struggle!

A firm and united stand of the rank and file of maritime labor can relegate the fink book to the discard. Now is the time for the militant elements in the unions to put all their power behind such a policy.

(Charles Erskine Scott Wood, famous liberal lawyer and poet, widely known as the author of "Heavenly Discourse" and other satirical poetical works, became a member of "The American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky." In reply to criticism of this action he sent the following letter to the Daily Worker. Upon the refusal of the Daily Worker to print his letter, Colonel Wood released it for general publication.—Ed.)

Communists Should Favor Asylum

Communists should be the last to deny or lessen this doctrine. What would have become of Lenin if Switzerland or England had surrendered him to the Tsar?

But also it is a settled condition of Asylum that the refugee shall not abuse the protection afforded him and from this harbor of safety continue his revolutionary activities and make revolutionary soil of the country that has sheltered him.

I presume the Worker, full of Trotsky and the recent executions of fifteen former active Revolutionists, was sent to me because my name appears on the Trotsky Defense Committee.

I greatly respect Earl Browder, and felt like congratulating him on his reception at Terre Haute, by Force, Terrorism, Bigotry and Intolerance, all so foreign to the pronouncements in that Constitution of which we talk so much and which we observe so little.

At the outset, therefore, I wish to answer for myself a question by Mr. Browder which I observe on the front page of the Worker: "Do you defend the right to use Asylum—(political)—to plot and execute assassination?"

I answer very emphatically—No. And neither does anyone else informed in International Law and the civilizing and civilized doctrine of Political Asylum.

Political Asylum implies that the crime must be political—revolt against tyranny—against oppression and injustice by Government—or something like that. It may be revolution and may involve assassination as a terrorist protest; but the crime must be political.

The country affording asylum has no opinion—either approval or disapproval—but simply under the modern code of humanity offers refuge to one in danger because of his political activities.

nothing "staged." But in spite of me, certain puzzles arise in my mind. I do not seek them—they come of themselves: Why the official announcement to the people in the government's official organ that the conspirators had been shot "in spite of their pleas for mercy?"—Why pleas for mercy?

They had refused mercy.—Was facing death at last too much for them, these old soldiers of the revolution?—Or were they perhaps promised immunity? I must think, too, that it was a mistake in governmental policy to have such speedy shooting—to let silence come with no possibility of future disclosures. And I think it was a mistake in policy not to hold out a few of these conspirators as witnesses against Trotsky, who could appear against him, be cross-examined by him, or who could at least tear to pieces whatever defense he may make.

The only one who did not confess and beg for death is the Informer—the only one saved is the Informer—and he the least valuable of all witnesses. Informers are always discredited.

I do not agree with this. To be absolutely honest with Mr. Browder and the Worker, forty years practice of the law, in which I was much engaged in trying to secure justice and free speech for the I.W.O.'s, Socialists (the "Communists") of that period, and such like political outcasts and "enemies of society," has given me so much of experience in confessions by men afterward proved innocent, which confessions were secured by the Third Degree or by promises of immunity, and I know so much of the "doping" of victims about to be led to the chair or the gallows, that the unanimous confession of the fifteen is to me not convincing.

The reporter for the New York Times who was at the trial and whose statement is in the Worker, says this unanimous accusation against Trotsky, unanimous confession of guilt, refusal of counsel, unanimous pleading to be shot, leaves him "baffled." The Worker, of course, gives statements by other observers, who though astonished saw no unfairness,

Disturbing Thoughts

Then I cannot get rid of the disturbing thought—Trotsky: One of the great revolutionists, turned assassin. What little I do know of him is that he and Lenin united in a sound practical opposition against terrorism. As I remember it, they both intellectually discarded terrorism and agreed that it was a useless revolutionary weapon—worse than useless—a knife which always turned against the one who used it.

Trotsky a terrorist and trying to play the part from exile—impossible to do effectively as it seems to me and as it has proved—fishing as he well knew for the fish of his honor and his refuge in asylum.—And above all Trotsky in league with German Nazis—the arch enemies of all he had given his life to—the very opposite of Russian Communism. Trotsky to stage a reign of Terrorist—and for what? To be the puppet and slave of Hitler and the German state—This seems incredible to

The Meat of the Matter

Having made full confession to the Daily Worker, Mr. Browder and the world, with much expense of space and ink, let us now turn to the meat of the matter: Has Trotsky been tried and found guilty by any competent tribunal of any country of the civilized world?

(Continued Next Week)

Maritime Labor And The Government

4. The Fight Against the Copeland Fink Book at an Acute Stage

The vicious legislation, present and proposed, aimed at destroying the maritime unions, is only the forerunner of a carefully planned drive on the part of big industry and the government, to throttle all militant labor organizations in this country. Positive proof of this fact, long well-known to alert workers was given this week in Secretary of Labor Perkins' proposal to Congress for the creation of a permanent labor board with authority to intervene in all industrial disputes.

This is only the beginning. It won't be long before a "Copeland fink book" will be suggested for all workers—gradually, one industry at a time—the longshoremen first, then other transportation workers, then others in order. Every worker in whatever trade, must realize that the present seaman's struggle against the Copeland bill is HIS struggle, and that if the seaman loses, he will have an even more difficult fight in his turn.

At the present moment this struggle has reached an acute stage on the waterfront because the government has brazenly injected the fink books and "certificates of efficiency" into the midst of strike negotiations deliberately to throw confusion into union ranks. Relying on the waterfront workers' natural eagerness to end the strike as soon as satisfactory agreements are reached, the government has hoped to slip through a dastardly piece of legislation which it couldn't have put over at any other time against the united opposition of all maritime unionists.

Since 1934 the shipowners have been powerless in the face of militant unionism to force blacklisting books and certificates upon their employees. Consequently they are using the government to accomplish the same purpose. These documents (the fink discharge book and the even more vicious "efficiency" certificate) will be public property and all the information on them will be available at all times to the shipowners, who will know only too well how to use this information however innocent it may appear on the book. Moreover, there is no way, outside of total abolition, in which the book and certificate can be kept from being used and for blacklisting purposes. This was even admitted the other day in an editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle where it was stated that it would not be difficult for shipowners to get around any "anti-blacklisting amendment" which Copeland might get passed by Congress.

In other words, to refuse to take the book is to resist the anti-labor drive of the shipowners, and to fight for the very life of the unions. Because of the inspiring unity among seafaring workers against the fink books, the refusal to take the books can and must be successful.

The government is the obedient stooge of the ship-

owners, hiding behind the cloak of "neutral authority" and prestige. And, in turn, the government has its own stooges—two kinds of them: the undisguised reactionaries and the Stalinites.

The first are those who go about spreading deliberate mis-statements imitating those of C. W. Sanders, supervising officer of the navigation bureau. "These books are the outgrowth of such disasters as the Morro Castle and Mohawk, where inexperienced employees were to blame for the great loss of life," Sanders was quoted in the papers. "Use of these books will eliminate the chiselers who have even robbed lifetime seamen of their livelihood."

The Morro Castle and Mohawk were manned by non-union crews, presumably "company men" whom the government agencies certified for service at sea. Existing laws already prescribe experienced crews, and both shipowners and government officials break these laws! Far from eliminating "inexperienced employees" the Copeland books will make possible an extension of this collusion between officials and owners even in ports where unionism, which alone is able to maintain real seamanship and safety-at-sea, has finally succeeded in establishing such standards.

The other stooges, the Stalinites, are more subtly treacherous. They began by taking (outwardly) a militant position against the fink book. But the high Stalinite officials had already worked out a long-range plan to help the Roosevelt administration to "put over" the fink books, and to support his re-election in return for prospective diplomatic concessions to the Soviet Union. The foreign policy of Stalin everywhere in the world, in Spain, in France—has sacrificed the workers to these diplomatic considerations.

On the waterfront the Stalinites worked to divert the militancy of the workers into a blind alley where they would be forced to accept the fink books. Of course the Stalinites don't dare tell the seamen that the book is not a bad one, they merely say: "It isn't as bad as we thought it was." They also explain that "an amendment will eliminate the bad features." And now, finally, they are telling maritime workers that they must accept the book—"under protest." In other words: accept the fink book! This is the net result of their maneuvers.

Little does the government care whether the seamen "protest" as long as they take the book. The government would be glad enough to get the book over at all—which it didn't think could be done in face of the united opposition of all Pacific Coast seamen. But the Stalinites joined this united opposition only for the purpose of diverting it and strangling it in the end.

They rationalize their present capitulatory position by saying "to resist the fink book will wreck the union." But they also avoid explaining how disastrous to militant unionism acceptance of this book will be. Solidarity of all maritime workers in refusing the book can effectively defeat it. The Stalinites are doing all they can to weaken this solidarity.

That puts the issue squarely to the maritime workers. If they want to defeat the fink book they have to expose and defeat the treacherous fink book policy of the Communist Party.

Auto Strikers Hold Fort In Flint Plants

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danger the steel drive and weaken all future union campaigns.

After all if Governor Murphy is willing to use the National Guard to keep GM plants closed, why not save money and let the strikers do it? They've done very well for over a month. Actually that is what both Murphy and General Motors are worried about. Murphy, at least, is willing to concede a good deal, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO MORE SIT-DOWNS.

Some indication of the reliability of the National Guardsmen as union defenders was given in the first days of military occupation. Associated Press, not noted for over-stating violations of labor's rights, states in a February 2nd wire, "This afternoon Michigan Guardsmen, at bayonet point pushed a small group of pickets away from Chevrolet's motor assembly department, Plant 4—seized a union sound truck because its operators were 'doing too much talking,' demolished a picket shanty, and detained six men." These Guardsmen, who also shut off the food supply to sit-down strikers for 12 hours until public pressure forced a reversal, are to guarantee the plants against scabs!

SHERIFF AWED

Efforts of GM officials to oust the strikers through a vicious injunction failed when the local sheriff was overawed by popular sympathy with the strikers and by the difficulty of moving men who sang "we shall not be moved" and meant it. He announced that General Motors would have to get an outer court order for eviction before he would act.

Final important news of the week was the attempt of Secretary of Labor Perkins to gain subpoena power for herself so that she could compel the appearance and testimony under oath of all participants in industrial disputes.

While the immediate excuse for this request was the refusal of GM president, Alfred P. Sloan, to meet with the Labor Secretary and union officers, the legislation itself would give the government semi-fascist powers over labor unions.

PERKINS-COOLIDGE FRONT

Exactly the same legislation was proposed by Calvin Coolidge and was too reactionary for even his Republican Congress. That Madame Perkins, undoubtedly with presidential consent, uses the auto strike as the pretext for seeking arbitrary government powers of interference in labor affairs is one more indication of the totalitarian ambitions of the Administration.

Despite hasty endorsement by John L. Lewis, the Perkins proposal met a cold reception in both labor and congressional circles. The legislation is apparently shelved for the moment, but the next labor show-down will see a stronger Administration effort to push it through.

In the meantime the fate of not only autos but the entire CIO campaign in the mass production industries depends upon the valiant garrison who "hold the fort" in Flint.

A CO-OPERATIVE GROCERY STORE 'HOWARD STREET'

Readers of Labor Action should be interested to know that a Cooperative Grocery Store, based upon the principle of the Rochdale Stores in Great Britain, is now in operation in San Francisco. Active Socialists and trade unionists are among its members. The address of this cooperative enterprise is 678 Haight Street. The store is run by volunteer help—members who work for a living at other jobs during the

Local Stockton's Action Army brigade has made a start this week with 20 cards and a promise of a repeater.

The newly reorganized Fresno local of the party opened this week with 24 two-bit trial subs. These comrades really intend doing things.

Marjorie Kerrigan of San Diego spent a day visiting contacts in order to see how successful she could be. Result—3 visited, 8 subs sold. Comrade Kerrigan took 50 more cards, and by now she's really going to town.

With this morning's mail in we find that Chester Johnson of Minneapolis sends in his second \$10.00 bill for an order of 40 cards. That makes 80 for the Minneapolis section of the Action Army.

From Billings, Montana, comes a new recruit to the Action Army R. Marie Hansen, who sends in five dollars for 20 new sub cards, and adds a list of prospective Action Army members.

And in Glendale, California, Ben Sands comes to the fore with three yearly subs and a plea for 25c sub cards by return mail. Welcome to the Action Army, Comrade Sands. We need more like you.

Ernest Perl, our plugging Action Armyite in Los Angeles, has disposed of a lot of cards too date, but we haven't as yet reached a total. We suspect it's in the vicinity of 50. However, the rest of the Action Armyites in L. A. seem to be sound asleep. And that goes double for San Francisco. Wake up, comrades!

Though those listed here look like a shining array, they stand almost alone in the ranks of Labor Action builders. Unless every comrade comes through with similar work Labor Action is in grave danger.

The plan for the 25c three month trial subscription drive is a simple one. It provides financial support and builds circulation for Labor Action. We need 4000—4000 Action Army members who will dispose of 8 two-bit subs weekly. This will cover the cost of publication and build an ever increasing circle of readers.

All you have to do is send in the money for as many cards as you think you can dispose of. They are 25c each, or four for a dollar. You in turn sell these cards to contacts and friends for 25c each. The postage for the sub is paid here in the office. All that is necessary is that the subscriber fill in his name and address and drop it in the mail box.

Comrade Kerrigan in San Diego has proven that it is possible to sell these cards simply by visiting contacts and registered Socialists, or by making a direct appeal to workers and trade-unionists.

The workers are ready for our message. The field for circulation is unlimited. The price of the trial sub is inviting. All that is needed is an army of determined Labor Action builders to go out and do the work. Comrades send in your orders for trial sub cards NOW. Don't delay. Labor Action must go on and must be built.

Through an error in the print shop the name of the author of "Howard Street" in last issue was omitted. The sketch was written by Paul Kollinski.

day—and is open to the public during the following hours: Monday and Tuesday evenings, after 8 p. m. Saturday afternoons, between 2 and 5.

CHICAGO MEETING! Let the Truth Be Known! THE MOSCOW TRIALS AND TROTSKY Speakers: FRANK W. McCULLOCH, NORMAN THOMAS, ALBERT GOLDMAN Chairman At the Capitol Bldg., 159 N. State St., Drill Hall FEBRUARY 14th—3:00 P. M. Auspices: Socialist Party of Cook County Admission 25 Cents

They Are Organizing A Pogrom Against The Revolutionary Forces In Spain!

Stalinist Traitors Set Stage to Turn Machine Guns on P.O.U.M. and C.N.T.

By ALFREDO ROJAS

Eyes on Spain! And the most important factor to be watched there, even more important than the military struggle because its outcome will eventually also determine the outcome of the military struggle, is the lynch spirit being developed by the Stalinists against the P.O.U.M. and the CNT.

Both the P.O.U.M. and the CNT have taken the position that the present struggle is a definite one between socialism and fascism. For this "crime," the Stalinists are determined to crush them, by force if necessary.

The revolutionary development of the Spanish proletariat is the most embarrassing single obstacle to the international strategy of Stalinism. For, if the Spanish workers go forward to seize all power, the new epoch of wars and revolutions—already foreshadowed by the Ethiopian war, the French general strikes, and the Spanish civil war—will mature rapidly. The inspiration of the Spanish workers will fire the French masses to renewed onslaught, to a direct struggle for power. Europe will burn with the fires of proletarian revolution.

And this is counter to the plans

of Stalinism. The cynical bureaucrats in the Kremlin have lost all faith in the strength of the international working class. They put their faith, instead, in their diplomatic alliance with the French imperialists, which they hope also to extend to the British imperialists. And they want to prove their loyalty to the capitalist rulers of the "democratic countries" by guaranteeing them against revolution.

Hence the veritable pogrom against the Spanish workers' organizations which call for the revolution. Hence the plot, in combination with the Catalan bourgeoisie, which drove the P.O.U.M. out of the government.

At first the Stalinists pretended that the expulsion of the P.O.U.M. from the Generalidad was in accordance with the "popular will."

The other elements in the new cabinet, however, insisted on clearing their skirts of any responsibility and therefore published a declaration that the issue was one solely between the Stalinists and the P.O.U.M. Since then, the Stalinist leader in Catalonia, Comorera, has bluntly stated that "We provoked the governmental crisis with full consciousness of our responsibility."

The first step against the P.O.U.M. was the campaign of infamy. The second was its expulsion from the government. The third step, now unfolding, is nothing more or less than an attempt at its physical crushing, annihilation. We have already reported in these pages details of the first two steps. The latest papers arriving from Catalonia give us some details of the third step.

Campaign of Incitement

"Mundo Obrero," chief Stalinist organ of Spain, in an editorial of December 25th calls the P.O.U.M. militants, "provocateurs," and "worthy companions of the assassins of Kirov, the agents in Spain of the agents of Hitler's police." It says their press reports "coincide entirely with what is everyday released by the fascist press," and calls them "deserving servants of Fascism."

Finally, "Mundo Obrero"—not daring to face the P.O.U.M. in open discussion and covering this up by saying, "It is not necessary to answer one word of their infamous literature"—calls for the suppression of the P.O.U.M.: "We demand that these provocateurs, in the service of Fascism, be not permitted to continue their vile campaign, which is acclaimed by the fascist camp."

The line laid down by "Mundo Obrero" is stated even more grossly by its local satellites. Thus the "Red Flag," Alicante organ of the Stalinists, declares: "One must consider the elements of the P.O.U.M. as much or more dangerous than those which are besieging Madrid. We consider them as the general staff of the Fifth Column (of France). And since we must annihilate the

Fifth Column, we must give them (the P.O.U.M.) no quarter."

Thus the stage is set for turning machine guns on the P.O.U.M. in order to prevent the socialist revolution.

Plot Denounced

By CNT

The CNT was tricked into agreeing to the exclusion of the P.O.U.M. from the Catalan government, under the formula that no proletarian political parties would participate in the cabinet. Thus, ostensibly, only the trade union federations would be represented. Thus, the old anarchist prejudice against political parties was manipulated.

But under the formula that they represented the "petty-bourgeois elements in industry," the chief capitalist party, Catalan Esquerra, also joined in the cabinet. And the Stalinist leaders entered the government as the formal representatives of the trade union federation, UGT.

But soon the CNT began to realize its mistake. The radio stations of the FAI—the Anarchist Iberian Federation—and the Barcelona organization of the CNT—broadcast speeches denouncing the plot against the P.O.U.M. Meanwhile, steps were taken by the reformists against the CNT in Madrid, where it is far weaker than in Catalonia.

The CNT published a manifesto, dated from Madrid, December 22, pointing out its various attempts to work in harmony with the UGT, but that "systematically there is denied to our comrades representation in directing bodies where we are a minority. Without cause or stated motive our comrades are disarmed in some places. In others, they are denied the right to organize into the CNT."

The manifesto ends with an appeal for cooperation, but makes clear the determination of the CNT not to be cut to pieces by such methods. The latest move against the CNT is the forced suspension of its Madrid daily, "CNT," with no reasons given—exactly as the "POUM," a daily, was suspended in Madrid several weeks ago.

Only a few days after the new Catalan cabinet was organized with a re-shuffling of cabinet posts which sent Domenech, the CNT leader, from the Ministry of Food to the Ministry of Public Services, the Stalinist leader Comorera attacked Domenech's previous conduct of the Food Ministry. In a conference with the press, Domenech was able to show that difficulties in procuring wheat were mainly due to the non-cooperation of the control government, and Comorera had to retreat somewhat. But this incident reveals the kind of campaign which the Stalinists are planning against the CNT; ostensibly on non-political grounds they will seek to drive the CNT out of the government as they

The Party At Work

Picket Duty for Red Truck

The big red Socialist Sound Truck Number One is in California! Its introduction to the golden state was the strike of celery field workers in the San Diego area.

The truck was promptly put to work by the Joint Council of San Diego Agricultural Unions. A union organizer climbed aboard and the truck headed for the celery fields. Beside each field where workers were still picking, the truck drew up and records of Mexican and Spanish songs went out over the powerful amplifiers. Curiosity emptied the fields and the Spanish-speaking union organizer had an audience ready to listen to his talk and sign up for picket duty.

With that christening, the red truck is due for big things in California!

Convention Ballots Sent to Locals

Ballots for the election of delegates to the national convention are in the hands of local secretaries. Members at large will receive ballots within the week. All votes mailed to the State Office on or before March 5th will be counted.

Local Minneapolis Note

Local Minneapolis of the Socialist Party announces that Rubin Latz, business agent of the Laundry Workers' Union, local 153, is no longer a member of the Party. His actions during the recent elections in his union, in which he acted in a thoroughly un-Socialist, even anti-Socialist manner, has made it necessary for him to sever his connections with the Socialist movement.

Local Minneapolis of the Socialist Party is deeply concerned for the welfare of the labor and Socialist movement, and has always instructed its members in workers' organizations to act in the best interests of the workers' movements. We cite the recent growth of the local labor movement for proof, for in many cases one will find Socialists in leading roles among the progressive labor forces of this city.

Therefore, when in rare instances it is found that a Socialist is acting against the best interests of the labor movement, the Socialist Party takes the steps necessary to discontinue and to abolish such practices. The Party's disassociation from Rubin Latz is such a step.

Los Angeles Local Changes Address

Los Angeles comrades have a new office in Room 419, Grosse Bldg., 124 W. 6th St. The Modern Book Shop has also moved to this new address.

Oxnard Asks For Agricultural Organizer

Comrades in Oxnard, down Ventura Way, have offered to supply "keep" for an organizer to work

Socialist Convention Discussion Opened

CHICAGO.—Looking forward to the important, special national convention in Chicago starting March 26, Socialist party branches and locals have set aside special meetings to discuss the important items on the agenda.

The special convention was called "in order to consider the application of Socialist principles and program to the present time and to formulate plans for meeting conditions that will confront the party in the coming years."

Among the subjects being discussed by Socialists throughout the country are work with other organizations, the activities of the Socialist party with respect to labor unions, cooperatives and other economic organizations, the relationship of the Socialist party to labor parties, reorganization of party machinery, party press, finances, and machinery for making the Socialist anti-war, anti-fascist position more effective.

A sub-committee of the national action committee has made detailed plans to provide for a maximum of discussion time at the convention after which the 150 delegates will, by majority vote, decide the future course of the party. The members of the sub-committee are Roy E. Burt,

Thirty-Six Hours To Los Angeles

Written In The Cab of a 21-Ton Truck, Going Up a Long Hill

By CRARY TRIMBLE

The solidarity of the working-class is one of the most heartening experiences a hitch-hiker meets on the road. When it's cold and dark, when you need a ride most, the chances are that the smooth, fast cars (with a single driver and completely empty car) will sail by and leave you stranded. It's the worker with a little old ratty Ford roadster who stops for you because "he knows what it is to be stuck on the road."

We will always remember the one who picked us up in Gonzales. He had a passenger already, and his rumble seat was full, but he stopped for us, even though it meant crowding for him and his friend. Almost his first words after we got in were that the working-class had to stick together and help each other because no one else would.

He was a young, friendly person. He had hope and ambition to live a full, honest life. Instead, he was eking out an existence by working on a farm tractor—night shift—for 30 cents an hour. On that he tried to live, help his family, and keep cheerful. He knew what the score was, and with a little more contact with union principles and tactics would be a leader in his group.

He staked us to coffee to warm us up before we went on, and we gave him some copies of Labor Action—the issue with the story about the registration of agricultural workers. He said he would give some copies to his friends, and we gave him a three-month sub for which he was very grateful. His eyes shone as he read about other workers and their struggles and he was glad to get a paper that was written for the working-class. Talking to him gave us courage to "take" the long, cold waits and slow traveling because of the bad breaks we seemed to get on this trip.

And any tourist who makes nasty remarks in my presence about these big old trucks that clutter up the highway will have to do battle with me—personally. When you're stuck on a desolate road at the edge of a town which isn't even a dot on the map, and wondering if the one "eat" stand will stay open long enough for you to go in and warm up along about the fifth hour of the ten before dawn it's the truck-driver who will help you out. Hunched up with the cold and humbled by the elements, you wave a shivering thumb at the fast touring cars. Often as not the driver will shy away as he tears by—as if you had pointed a gun at him, and the air fairly burns with his comments about the "bums" by the wayside at night. But a truck-driver, with his schedule to make and a heavy load to stop and start, will throw on his fifty-seven varieties of brakes and take you on. He, too, knows what it's like to be stuck in a place like that. That's solidarity!

Or later, after an hour and a half of waiting in the rain—shoulders wet, water trickling off matted hair and running coldly down behind your ears into your neck, a damp chill seeping into your bones, and every muscle twisted from fighting the shivers—a big 21-ton trailer-truck (slow and cramped for space because of

its battery of gear shifts) stops. A fresh, sweet bed in the best hotel never looked so good as that warm, dry cab. And vibrating through the cab (like steam off a wet pavement drying in the sun) a rich, raw smell of work. One of those combinations of many smells that lose their own identity and take on a new substance of their own—a mixture of dirt, age, and oil, the piercing sting of a rancid leather jacket, and the undying atmosphere that clings to work clothes worn in the all-night eat joints. That is an odor which I shall remember with more pleasure than a whiff of some rare perfume. It symbolized the warm friendliness of one worker with a job for his fellow-worker on the road. Solidarity again!

Three months ago, the truck-drivers who stopped were half-dead from sleep. They ran a 14-hour schedule, had to help unload, grab what sleep they could while the new load was packed over the same 14-hour run. And now, most of the drivers are wide awake, full of pep, and with an air of proud independence that is heartening in comparison to the beaten, tired, hang-dog look of the unorganized truck-drivers.

Trucks aren't allowed to come into San Francisco with non-union drivers, and the same will soon be true in Los Angeles. The advance in organization among the drivers who work in and out of Los Angeles is something to celebrate. The tide is turning now, and it sure is good to hear a driver talk about home for a good sleep when he gets in after a run with a heavy load. He doesn't touch the load after he drives it into the terminal. He has time to rest, see his family or friends, and see something besides trucks before he takes another load out.

One line has a completely closed shop. They run the San Francisco-Los Angeles trek in three shifts, get paid good wages, and have time off between, with a full Sunday to themselves.

Time was when I rode with truck drivers who actually looked scared when I talked about union organization. They'd heard about somebody getting fired for being in the union.

One fellow who picked us up seemed so wide awake and rested that I was surprised—it was so unlike the old experience of having to keep the driver awake so he wouldn't run off the road. I asked him what hours he ran. When he told me about "shifts" and "7-hour runs" and good wages, and time off, I knew the boys must have been busy organizing. I said, "You boys must have a union to get hours like that."

His quick comeback was, "You bet your sweet life we have a union!" And from what he and others told us, it won't be long before the trucking in California will be 100 per cent union. More power to them!

The demands of the strikers were immediately limited to the introduction of the 40-hour week, and a 15 per cent wage increase to meet the rising cost of living. It must be remembered that the collective agreements and the laws called for both the 40 hour week, and for the adjustment of salaries to meet the rise in prices that would follow the devaluation of the franc. Moreover, to present minimum demands at the very outset is to place the workers at a disadvantage both in the negotiations with the bosses and in mobilizing support for the strike.

Concerted Drive Against Workers

The small shops, 23 in number, settled almost immediately, but the large plants, Five-Lilles, Peugeot, Alsthom etc., who had precipitated the struggle, were organized into a syndicate the members of which were bound not to deal individually with the unions. These industrialists, closely linked with the Fascists and with Comité des Forges (the French Steel Trust), had mobilized for the struggle, and had prepared months in advance to crush the workers.

The C. G. P. F. (the General Federation of French Industrialists) had already come out against the application of the 40 hour week and even more violently against any increases in wages. Here then was the beginning of a concerted drive. Obviously, the success of the strike, in the face of such an alignment, depended on its extension throughout the entire Nord district, holding in reserve the threat of a general counter-offensive on the part of the 600,000 organized metal workers in the country.

The strategy of the bosses was equally obvious: to isolate the

THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN FRANCE

2. The Metal Workers' Strike And The Peoples' Front

On November 18, 1936, 2,500 metal workers struck at Fives-Lille because an influential militant Emile Meyer, a coppersmith was fired. The movement immediately spread throughout the entire Lille district with its 12,500 metal workers. The shops were occupied. The trade union bureaucracy that had been doing nothing to combat the flagrant violations by the bosses of the agreements signed after the June strikes, and that had continually restrained the workers from taking any action themselves, now became very active indeed.

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Repercussions in Sambre Basin

But the Lille strike had repercussions likewise in the Sambre basin where there are 15,000 workers and 2,000 technicians. The workers in the Sambre basin as well as in Valenciennes, Denain and Anzin had been negotiating with the bosses for months—ever since the June strikes. In November they were still without a collective agreement.

The demands of the 40-hour week, and the 15 per cent increase could not but appeal to them. Moreover, the unions in Maubeuge, the largest center in the Sambre basin, were bound with the unions in Valenciennes by a pact ratified by their factory delegates that they would act in solidarity against the bosses.

On November 26, the French industrialists were so well satisfied with the progress of their offensive in the key metal industry that the C.G.P.F. (the General Federation of the French Industrialists) broke off all negotiations with the representatives of the French trade unions (the C.G.T.). On the same day the Metal Workers Congress convened in Paris.

Jouhanx, the secretary of the C.G.T., spoke there and among other things he said: "If contrary to our wishes, we do not receive a definite word (from the C.G.P.F.), we will give the floor to the Government which need only utilize the agreements acceptable to us to apply the necessary legal steps." On that self-same day, the delegates of the Sambre basin laid their grievances before the national leader-

CHICAGO SOCIALIST NOTES

Burt-Trager Reception

Plans are now complete according to the Arrangements Committee for the banquet and reception to Roy Burt and Frank Trager, new national secretaries of the Socialist Party, scheduled for Wednesday evening, February 10th. Norman Thomas will be on the program as speaker, outlining the work and perspective of the Socialist Movement, with particular attention to work that Socialist have accomplished in the organization of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. The only other speeches will be acknowledgments from Roy Burt and Frank Trager, plus a program which will include music and a dramatic program by the Chicago YPSL Dramatic Group, which won acclaim at the Lenin-Liebnicht-Luxemburg Memorial Meeting held here last week.

DEBS COLUMN RALLY

The first public meeting on behalf of the Eugene Debs Column for Spain will be held in Chicago Tuesday, February 9th, at Shottwell Hall, 55th and Blackstone. A local Committee of the Friends of the Debs Column is being organized in Chicago and will actively take up the work for the midwest.

THOMAS TO SPEAK ON RUSSIAN TRIALS

On Sunday, February 14th, there will be a mass meeting in the Capitol Building, 159 North State Street, Drill Hall, on the present Russian trials and on the question of political asylum for Leon Trotsky. The speakers are Norman Thomas and Albert Goldman and Frank McCulloch will act as Chairman. The meeting will be held at 3 p. m.

LABOR ACTION

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WESTERN FEDERATION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

JAMES P. CANNON, Editor; GLEN TRIMBLE, Associate Editor; FRANK STERN, Business Manager

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The Issue

Every capitalist daily in the country is worried about the auto workers sit-down strike.

The issue has taken front pages from the greatest flood in the history of the United States.

The issue is squarely one of property "rights" against human rights.

No wonder the entire capitalist class is panicky — No wonder that just three months after Roosevelt's election as "labor's friend" he is bending every effort toward forcing or wheedling labor into a surrender of its new-found weapon.

The issue is not one of legality or "right." It is an issue of class power.

The Real Aims of the Trotsky-Baiters

The mass murders in the Soviet Union are intended above all as a bloody demonstration by the counter-revolutionary Stalin bureaucracy of solidarity with the capitalist world against the remnants of the Russian Revolution.

In Spain today the authors of the Moscow frame-ups are directing a conspiracy against the fighters for socialism in Spain with one murderous objective — their bloody suppression in the name of democratic capitalism in Spain.

In the United States the lackeys of the Stalin murder-machine, thrown into panic by the revolutionary advancement of the Socialist Party, are attempting to organize a patriotic lynching movement against it.

In the Daily Worker of Jan. 30, Browder gives away the whole game.

Reactionary Trends In South America

FASCIST TRENDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

February 2, 1937. MONTEVIDEO. (NNS) — Social currents in South America are not seething and frothing openly as in Europe or Asia, but there are significant movements under way, especially in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, the importance of which is obvious.

In Argentina, for instance, two years ago a new law was passed authorizing the teaching of Christian morality in the public schools.

These fears were only too well justified. In more than one of the provinces, Catholic doctrine

is now being taught by Catholic priests in the public schools and Evangelical protests have availed nothing.

ALLY OF REACTION

Fascism in Argentina looks to the Catholic Church as a political ally and in the case of a fascist revolt, it can certainly count on the immediate and official support of the Church.

Brazil is another country rapidly going fascist. Since the frustrated revolution of last year, the country has been under martial law and there is no prospect of the restoration of constitutional liberties.

Here are his words: "... the 'dogmatic' insistence of the Trotskyites here of the necessity of preparing to defeat the United States in the expected war with Japan, was a 'theoretical' smoke-screen for the exceedingly practical preparation of helping the Japanese military government in perfecting its plans to attack the Soviet Union."

That is, in plainer English: "If you are against the United States Government in the war with Japan, you are a 'Trotskyite' and an enemy of the Soviet Union."

Browder calls on "progressives and lovers of peace and freedom" to join in "isolating and driving out this fascist virus from the labor movement and beyond the pole of everything decent."

Who is Browder really talking about? He is talking about all the opponents of war in the Socialist Party!

They are the "Trotskyites" against whom Browder calls for a patriotic mob.

It has been many years since the Socialist Party has experienced the extent and variety of worthwhile activity that it is now engaged in.

The 1936 campaign established our party as the only one which would not compromise on the issue of the day—Socialism or Capitalism!

This apparent contradiction between heights of activity and opportunity and depths of financial support has a definite reason: THE PARTY IS BECOMING A FIGHTING PARTY.

At the same time the thousands of Socialists and workers who want a class-struggle, fighting, militant party have not yet filled the breach left by the desertions of those for whom the fight was too heavy.

There can be no choice except forward! Let every Socialist who wants a fighting, uncompromising, truly Socialist Party take the responsibility of that choice.

Whatever happens we pledge ourselves to carry on. We ask all real Socialist fighters to make the same pledge.

There is REAL HOPE ahead! A revolutionary Socialist Party is being born!

professional men, and laborers are charged with being Communists. Large numbers of officers and enlisted men in the army and navy are listed as "Reds," eager to establish a Soviet regime.

In Uruguay, too, fascism is making headway. A raving fascist diplomat was received as Minister from Italy and was given every facility for sowing the seeds of fascism.

Uruguay has further broken off diplomatic relations with the Soviets on a very slender and unproved pretext. In the Spanish civil war, sympathies are openly with the Fascists and this is reflected in the attitude of the press.

Socialist Policy In The Trade Unions

Work Of Socialists Must Be Coordinated

By GLEN TRIMBLE. Note: This is the fourth of a series of articles on issues confronting the March convention of the Socialist Party.

No question of Socialist policy and tactics has been subject to more heat and less light in recent years than has the question of Socialist work in the trade unions.

"Shall" Or "May"? The heart of the Cleveland trade union resolution was the sentence, "Each local organization shall elect a Local Labor Committee whose duty it will be to co-ordinate the action of Socialists within the trade unions in order to carry out the policy of the party."

In the change of a single word, the rightest elements snatched victory from defeat, not only upon this question, but for the entire convention.

Let us return to a question which requires answer, "Who are we to tell the trade unions what to do?" We are Socialists, every one of us a member of the union of his trade, every one of us students of economic and labor history and labor

economics, every one of us trained, or in process of training, to apply to today's problem the experience and understanding gleaned from all the yesterdays of labor's victories and defeats.

Who are we to tell the workers what to do? Ask rather, "How are the capitalist minded labor fakers, the job-artists and the blind leaders of the blind to tell the workers what to do?"

This should be so obvious that it is necessary to examine the mistaken policies of working class political parties in the past in order to understand the objections to disciplined trade union work by Socialists.

There is, first, the De Leonist policy, rejected by the Socialist Party of the United States thirty-six years ago.

They set up classrooms in back-balls and waited for the workers to come to them. They have been waiting for 40 years.

Communist Playboys The Communist Party's trade union record offers a complete course in how to wreck unions and discredit a working class party.

Workers' education in the things which capitalist education ignores or distorts must be encouraged and strengthened.

These are the essentials of Socialist trade union policy. It should be obvious that the pre-requisite for making the party membership a driving force for these things is that the National, state and local organizations of the party SHALL have Labor Committees which include all trade union members and which have the responsibility for co-ordinating the action of Socialists within the trade unions toward these ends.

They claimed a membership of more than 22,000 at the time, lacking neither the "numbers nor morale to do anything else."

"The campaign will enable us to enter the third party, to form a left wing within it and split it away," wrote a Party strategist in the "Inner" Party Press.

It is possible to argue, of course, that dishonorable intentions toward the virtue of a labor party are more "revolutionary" than honorable ones, or that the vices of Third Period Communism were virtues in the Second.

Comrade Trimble's analysis of the 1924 situation has little historical value since he fails to point the whole picture. The history of American Communism in the 1920s is also full of object lessons.

"leaders," they have always maintained the same basic trade union attitude. The unions were not regarded as real and serious weapons for fighting the economic battles of the workers, but as toys to be "used" for party ends—to swell "innocent" congresses and make window dressing for party publicity.

Equally dangerous is the attitude frequently expressed, and more often practiced, by old guard trade unionists, now largely cleared from Socialist ranks.

A correct Socialist policy must avoid all these, and many lesser errors. Socialists must be active, militant members of the unions of their trade, they must work and fight for a union program and union tactics which will genuinely aid the interests of the workers, and they must win general worker understanding and support for this program so that, though individual leaders may grow weak-kneed or turn sour, the organized militant unionists will carry on.

The essential points of a militant trade union policy are clear to most of us and to thousands of progressive workers outside party ranks. We favor fighting, class struggle tactics rather than the "bargaining" of craft aristocrats who maintain their soft place in the economic scheme by ignoring, or even by working against, the interests of the workers as a class.

The local trade unionist who cannot see beyond the walls of his own meeting hall helps neither his own brothers or his class.

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Note:—Next week's article will deal with effective party machinery for trade union work and with the important question of party relation to the CIO-AF of L controversy.—G. T.

Sharecroppers Meet MUSKOGEE, Okla.—Representatives of over 30,000 white, Negro, Indian and Mexican sharecroppers and tenant farmers met here at the convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Shoe Unions Merge BOSTON.—The merging of three shoe workers unions has resulted in the formation of an industrial union capable of organizing the workers of the vast shoe-making industry.

Sharecroppers Meet MUSKOGEE, Okla.—Representatives of over 30,000 white, Negro, Indian and Mexican sharecroppers and tenant farmers met here at the convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

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SIDELINES

By JONATHAN DOE

Stalin Smashes Cameras

Back in 1926 there was a great strike in the woolen mills at Passaic, New Jersey. For some days after the outbreak of that strike the capitalist press maintained its usual "impartial attitude."

Then suddenly something happened. New York reporters and camera men went over to Passaic and the provincial police, mistaking them for strikers or strike sympathizers, cracked their heads and smashed their cameras.

AN EYEFULL

The next morning the nation was treated to an eyeful. The papers were full of horrendous accounts of police brutality in Passaic.

The moral of this charming episode was not lost upon employers. The capitalist class may be stupid but there are limits to its stupidity.

The gentlemen of the press have moved about the fringes of our great industrial conflicts with considerable more freedom and confidence ever since the battle of Passaic.

BUSTED CAMERAS

All of which is in the way of an introduction to what has happened in relation to the latest Moscow trial. It is undoubtedly unfortunate from the viewpoint of Stalin that what happened in Passaic in 1926 had not been brought forcibly to his attention.

Assignment For Spain Canvas Unfolds a Panorama

By HARRY KORMER

Several weeks ago Comrade J. and I went out canvassing for food, clothing and money to aid the loyalists in Spain.

We knocked at a place and a tall young man opened the door. Blond, dressed in blue denim, he would have fitted Hitler's description of an Aryan.

"Have you got a few moments to spare?" He nodded. We told him the reason for our coming.

"Well," blue denim continued, "I can't give you anything because I ain't got nothing for myself. I'm on W.P.A."

"Are you a member of the Worker's Alliance?" I asked. "No. But I go to all their meetings on X Street. They're doing a lot of good work but I don't belong. I ain't a member of no organization."

Then, as if to apologize to us he said loudly, "But I'm a member of the National Guard!"

We left, after promising to send him notices of lectures and meetings. Our emotions were a bit awry—a mixture of pity and soreness. The National Guard! Hell!

Another home. Ukrainians. The wife did the talking in this family. "Yeah, we read all about Spain in the newspapers. We got nothin' to give."

Then husband muttered something about clothing. The missus immediately squelched him. "How do we know these guys ain't fakes?"

J. showed our credentials. She still refused to give. Husband turned away abashed.

I tried a new angle. "May we send you notices of our meetings?"

tively smashed the cameras at Passaic.

Throughout the world a press which paid comparatively little attention to the trial and execution of such figures as Zinoviev and Kamenev was up in arms.

The American Stalinists, with their usual line of "reasoning," will probably draw from this the conclusion that Radek and Romm, together with all who may protest against the Moscow frameups, are allies of Hearst and the capitalist press.

John L. Lewis, according to the press, has made a great blunder. He intimated that he took the President's election promises seriously. One just doesn't do that in our great American democracy.

Trotsky Covers the Waterfront

A San Francisco newspaper columnist is beginning to write about "the Trotskyist leftists" in the Sailors' Union.

This particular columnist, by the way, is a well-meaning chap who ought to know better than to get all his inside information on the waterfront from his friend and colleague, Mr. George Wilson, whose "impartial" reporting of inner maritime controversies entitles him to a bonus from the Daily Worker.

Assignment For Spain Canvas Unfolds a Panorama

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"We don't want any. You people would begin to pester us. We want nothing to do with it."

"Sure, send me notices." "Write glared as he gave us the name and address. . . . It would be well to follow them up. I can smell a family tragedy in the offing."

And another home. Seated around a table in the kitchen were several adults and children eating supper. Again we went into our discourse.

"Have you got a few moments to spare?" He nodded. We told him the reason for our coming.

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