

The MILITANT

Semi-Monthly Organ of the
Communist League of America
(Opposition)

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THE MASSACRE AT MARION

The Trial in Charlotte

While mill owners' guns were barking death to five textile workers in Marion, the second trial of the Gastonia defendants was getting under way. The utter worthlessness of the case for the prosecution in the first trial, the great difficulty it would experience in getting a conviction under first degree murder charge against the thirteen men, has now been partially "remedied" by the new set of charges brought against the defendants. Three women and six of the men have had their cases dismissed "with leave", and the other seven men, including their leader Fred Beal, have had their charges changed to call for a sentence of the 30 years in prison that go with second degree murder.

The fact that the prosecution has been forced to change its line of action and back down from the charges that involved death sentences for the defendants is a definite victory for the workers of the United States. Had it not been for the protest movement, had it not been for the consequent fear of the North Carolina capitalist class that an attempt to repeat the crime of Massachusetts would make them the center of a nation-wide working class attack, this victory would never have been won, and the workers would still be in the shadow of the electric chair.

But this victory is not the whole battle. It is only a part of it. With the apparent softening of the charges, the prosecution wants to secure an easy conviction. The peremptory (absolute) challenges of the defense have been radically reduced (from 168 to 28) and this makes it all the easier for the prosecution to pack the jury and cinch the frame-up. The temporary removal of the women defendants from the case is a "chivalrous" gesture by which the prosecution wants to get a surer conviction of the men. Finally, a second degree murder case permits the acceptance of a juror despite admitted prejudice on his part.

To rely upon the capitalist courts, North or South, for a "fair trial" is to build hopes on treacherous quicksands. The more widespread and militant is the protest movement of labor the greater is the assurance that sufficient pressure will be exerted upon the mill barons' courts to free these fighters. Their cause is the cause of all labor. The "chivalrous" Southern textile mills are largely controlled by Wall Street interests, which hold the reins of American industry and finance in their hands. Should the seven men be convicted, it will not only mean a blow at the unionization of the Southern workers but also a setback for workers everywhere.

Now more than ever must every worker rally to the protest movement. As the case proceeds, it becomes steadily clearer that it is a frame-up of the bosses and their legal tools. The witnesses for the prosecution perjure themselves with tongues made glib by a golden oiling. They bear a startling resemblance—the policeman Roach, for instance—to the characterless underworld degenerates who testified Mooney and Billings to life imprisonment.

The latest developments have demonstrated to the hilt the correctness of the slogan raised by the Communist League of America (Opposition): "Fight the Gastonia frame-up!" The fight against the frame-up is the main issue in this case, to which all others are secondary and subordinated. Even more clearly than in the first trial the essentially legalistic "courtroom" slogan of the right of self-defense, put in the foreground by the Party, now falls to the ground. More firmly than ever we believe that the prosecution is trying to frame-up the outstanding leaders of the strike, particularly the Communist fighters in it; we cannot accept a conclusion that the nine whose cases were dismissed have thereby won the capitalist court's acknowledgment of their right to self-defense. It is a good sign that the *Daily Worker* has ceased to put forward this latter slogan and is turning correctly to emphasis upon the perjured testimony and the attempts to railroad the defendants, that is, upon the essential features of a frame-up case. It is necessary to take the full step and to mobilize a broader movement, on a genuine united front basis, among the broadest possible sections of the workers. The first victory gained so far can and must be made final and conclusive.

The 'Impossible' WEEKLY

The publication of the *Militant* has been the achievement of the impossible! When we issued the first number of the *Militant* as a semi-monthly paper, the Stalinist leaders scoffed at it and said that it was not only the first number but also the last. This "prediction" has been made now for almost a year and the *Militant* is today more securely established as a spokesman for the regeneration of the revolutionary movement than when it was first issued. The Party bureaucrats, who cannot conceive of any progress unless it is organized by a subsidized apparatus, thought that to publish the *Militant* would be impossible. Many even of our closest friends were doubtful in the beginning of the likelihood of our continuation. But these very friends—and supporters helped to achieve the "impossible". The place established in advance for our work by the opportunism and adventurism of the Stalinists has been filled by the *Militant* now for almost a year, by the stubborn spirit of sacrifice of our small fighting army.

But now the requirements of the situation demand that we advance a step further. The disintegrating effects of the present official Party policy upon the Communist movement, the crisis in the International, the dangers confronting the dearly-bought achievements of the Russian Revolution—all these are making big demands upon the revolutionary vanguard that has rallied to our banner. The *Militant* as a semi-monthly is insufficient to meet these demands. It is not frequent enough in its appearance to enable it to react in time for the burning issues of the day.

THE MILITANT WILL BE A WEEKLY MILITANT ON THE TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION! The American capitalist class is becoming more arrogant in its offensive upon the working class. The misleaders of labor are becoming more cynical in their trafficking with the interests of the working class. The socialist party, nourished and revived in part by the blundering of the official Communist Party, is experiencing a re-birth and new strength in this country. The Communist Party is being led by its present leadership from one catastrophe to another. On the twelfth anniversary of the victory of the Russian working class, the appearance of the *Weekly Militant* will raise the flag of Bolshevism higher, a challenge to its enemies and its revisionists.

THE CREATION OF THE WEEKLY MILITANT IS A PART OF THE WORLD MOVEMENT FOR RE-INVIGORATING THE COMMUNIST RANKS! In France, our comrades of the Opposition have finally succeeded in establishing a central WEEKLY organ, *La Verite*, a rallying point for Leninism in France. In Germany, our comrades of the Opposition have begun a campaign to make their four-times-a-week *Volks-wille* a regular DAILY paper. Our Russian comrades have begun the publication of their first organ, the *Bulletin of the Bolshevik-Leninist (Opposition)*. In underground China, the Opposition has begun the issuance of the *Proletarian*. In the International, preparations are being made for the issuance of a CENTRAL organ of the Opposition in the French and German languages. The *Weekly Militant* will be part of this growing army.

THE WEEKLY MILITANT IS POSSIBLE ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF ALL OUR COMRADES AND FRIENDS! The *Militant* is your paper. Its publication as a Weekly by November 7th can be accomplished only if we are assured of widespread support. We repeat what we have said before: If an average of TWO HUNDRED comrades will pledge an average of ONE DOLLAR A WEEK for the next period, the *Weekly Militant* is assured of regular publication. We are depending upon every reader to respond. Only they can make the "impossible" Weekly a genuine reality.

SEND IN YOUR PLEDGE OR YOUR DONATION! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

5 Workers Murdered

After the murder of Ella May Wiggins and the attempted lynchings of half a dozen organizers of the National Textile Workers Union growing out of the recent Gastonia strike, comes the cold-blooded massacre of five Marion, N. C., textile workers and the wounding of more than a score of others by the gunfire of Sheriff Adkins and his law-sworn, mill owners' thugs.

On October 2, a group of strikers picketing the Marion Manufacturing Company were confronted by the Sheriff and his legalized plug-uglies and ordered to disperse so that the scabs might enter the mill. The workers, unarmed though they were, stood their ground and refused to scatter. Without a word of warning, the Sheriff fired a tear gas pistol into their midst and he and his gang followed it up with a fusillade which left three workers dead and more than 20 wounded. In the course of the next few days, two others who had been fatally wounded died in bed; many of those shot will probably be crippled for life. The dead are George Jonas, a man past 60, Sam Vickers, Randolph Hall, Luther Bryson and James Roberts.

The brutality of the butchery is almost indescribable. Medical investigation shows that many of the workers were shot in the back while fleeing from gunfire. One of the murdered workers, George Jonas, bleeding to death and clubbed into unconsciousness, was carried to a hospital in handcuffs, and was operated upon while still fettered in steel!

The frightful assault followed almost directly upon the heels of the declaration by Governor Gardner for the "improvement of the textile workers' conditions" and against the Communists. The smooth hypocrisy of the mill owners' governor was immediately supplemented by the bloody reality of Marion. The massacre also followed upon the sell-out of the first Marion strike by the reactionary officials of the United Textile Workers union. The workers found it impossible to continue their work under the "agreement" made between the bosses and the union officials. The attempt to weed out the militants from the mill by transferring them to the night shift and then abolishing that shift, caused a practically spontaneous walkout. The fruits of class-collaboration, the gospel of the A. F. of L. leaders which the progressives of the Muste group timidly refrained from condemning openly, were brought to rapid bloom, drenched with martyred blood.

The murder of the Marion workers is a crushing answer to the state officials, the mill owners, the A. F. of L. fat boys, the sugary liberals and the pink socialists who laid all the "troubles" in North Carolina to the "interference" of the Communist and Left wing militants. The black day in Marion, where the Communists were not even in evidence for various reasons, points to where the "trouble" lies: in the fierce exploitation of the textile slaves, in their resultant misery, in the class collaborationist policies and downright betrayals of the old line labor leaders. The "trouble" with the Communists has been that they have dared to break into the Solid Non-Union South and lead the mill slaves in struggle for better conditions without using them as pawns around the conference tables of the boss or the governor.

Because of these very facts, it is essential that the Left wing conduct its work in such a manner that will make it possible to unite the forces of all the workers. The bosses prefer the A. F. of L. union to the National Textile Workers Union. But they prefer no union at all to even an A. F. of L. union. This stubborn hostility of the bosses, coupled with the rising sentiment of the textile workers, makes imperative and possible the fight for a united front of all workers, regardless of their opinions, for the unionization of the South. A wrong policy now will destroy possibilities that may take years to recover. A correct course will bring advances all along the line. The only reason why the mill barons can execute such horrible massacres is the lack of organization and unity of the workers. The winning of this organization and unity is the best reply and vengeance for the martyred dead. This victory will be found through the broad path of united struggle.

Mass Meeting

at the
LABOR TEMPLE
242 E. 14 St. —(near 2nd Avenue)
on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1929.
7:30 p. m. sharp

ADMISSION: 25 CENTS

Auspices: New York Branch, Communist League (Opposition).

Speakers:
James P. Cannon
Martin Abern
Max Shachtman

"The Crisis in the American Communist Movement"

Vote Communist!

The municipal elections to be held next month in New York City confront every worker with the necessity of expressing his opinions at the polls and voting in the interests of his class.

In spite of this, the workers conscious of their interests must utilize every opening existing under the present system to mobilize their opposition to capitalism, to test their strength, to weaken the political Parties of capitalism, to get their representatives before the legislative tribunals where they can reach the ears of hundreds of thousands of other workers.

To vote, in the coming New York elections, for the twin Parties of capitalism, the Democratic and the Republican, is to vote for the rival representatives of capitalist exploitation, of imperialist war, of piratical colonial oppression, of strike-breaking and political corruption.

There is only one Party in the New York elections for whom the worker can cast his vote: the Communist Party. Despite our differences with the leadership of the Party and the course it has adopted, it remains today the only revolutionary Party in the elections.

National Committee Communist League of America (Opposition)

THE MILITANT

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Martin Abern, James P. Cannon, Max Shachtman, Maurice Spector, Arne Swaback.

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Holland Bars Trotsky

The press carries the news that the Dutch government has added its name to the list of those who refuse the request for political asylum and medical treatment to comrade L. D. Trotsky, at present a virtual prisoner under the reactionary regime of Kemal Pasha in Constantinople.

C-A-B-A-R-E-T & DANCE

For the Benefit of the Weekly Militant on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1929, at 8 p. m. at the HUNGARIAN HALL, 323 East 79th Street

Excellent Musical Program—Dancing—Entertainment Admission: 50 cents in advance, or 60 cents at door.

Party Plenum Opens

As we go to press, the Plenary session of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party has opened. The sessions are being held in unprecedentedly "strict secrecy"; that is, practically every one but the Party membership knows about it.

There will not only be no more factionalism but that the Party (for the twentieth time in four years) is at last on the verge of the road to becoming a genuinely Bolshevized Mass Party.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of Sept. 1929. HENRY J. Freedman, Notary Public (My commission expires March 31, 1931)

Hoot! MacDonald

Mr. James Ramsay MacDonald, prime-minister of His Royal Majesty's Christian government of Great Britain, has arrived in the United States to confer with President Hoover on how to establish peace and good will among the English speaking peoples of the world.

MacDonald was born with an opportunist spoon in his mouth. For years during his pre-war membership in the Independent Labor Party of England, his opportunist strivings had to be constantly curbed by Kier Hardie.

In the word war, his position was that of a purely bourgeois pacifist, and he achieved thereby a cheap martyrdom at the hands of British chauvinism akin to that "suffered" by Victor Berger and William F. Kruse in the United States.

After the war, this "pacifist" and "socialist" came out for indemnities to be paid by Germany, and his criticism of the Versailles Treaty instead of being a denunciation of this murderous peace, was indistinguishable from that of an advanced liberal.

To make his way towards a Labor ministry, he forewore every elementary principle of socialism acknowledged by its founders for scores of years.

The first Labor government under MacDonald was black enough to delight the heart of the most ruthless Tory die-hard. His attitude towards the Soviet Government could hardly have been worse under Lord Curzon.

MacDonald was one of those who helped drag the British miners' strike to an ignominious defeat and to strangle the British general strike in 1926.

His record in the second Labor Government is more pitiful than in the first. The infamous Trade Union Act of the Baldwin government has not been and will not be repealed.

MacDonald comes to these shores on no working class mission. He comes to bargain with the great, respect-commanding Dollar for a let-up in armaments competition—not so as to "end war", but to permit British capitalism to divert some of the golden life stream from battleships and cruisers into its own sick economic body.

Briand's Plan for a United States of Europe

By Arne Swaback

Following closely upon the heels of the agreement reached by the imperialist powers on the reparations question the wily old diplomat Briand formally launched his slogan for the United States of Europe.

In the first place it is one expression of strivings toward an anti-American front of the European debt or nations. It is an endeavor to resist the efforts of the United States to put the European powers on an ever more limited ration, which forms one of the greatest sources for coming imperialist conflicts and proletarian revolutions.

BRIAND'S PROPOSAL

Preceding Briand's utterances, European capitalists at the congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, held at Amsterdam this Summer, alarmed at the menacing growth of American imperialism as an exploiter of all countries, advanced the idea of a United States of Europe; advanced as an immediate retaliation against the new American high protective tariff policy.

The advancing of this slogan is but one additional proof of the further accentuation the growing conflict between American and European capitalism and particularly British imperialism.

European imperialist diplomats, including those bearing the name social democrats, will perhaps increasingly indulge in discussions of the problem United States of Europe—whether an economic or a political union.

TROTSKY AND THE SLOGAN

Comrade Trotsky has long ago, in discussing this problem, clearly emphasized the impossibility of a European union being accomplished on a capitalist basis; this even aside from what efforts the United States may make in seeking allies within the European nations.

The rationalization of industry process initiated in America, with its colossal mergers and technical improvements of machinery, but based primarily on increased intensity of speed up of the workers, has been transplanted to Europe. One of the big tasks of the MacDonald "labor" government is to complete this process in England, including the labor policy of American imperialism with its so-called high standard of living.

The enormously growing American investments in European industries, with which goes increased political dominance, are rapidly acquiring control for American imperialism of these industries and becoming the means whereby the kings of American finance can take their payments for European debts, all in all, war debts and industrial debts, estimated at the staggering figure of \$20,000,000,000.

Incidentally this refutes the reactionary silly nonsense peddled by such types as Matthew Woll in boasting the high tariff policy to prevent dumping of "cheap European goods" on the American market as repayment of European debts.

Very concrete manifestations of this increasing role

played by American financial interests and American imperialism in general in European affairs are the Dawes plan of the past and the present Young plan worked out under the tutelage of Wall Street's most powerful magnates. Again in the Kellogg Pact, the hypocritical talks of diplomats about outlawing war found the representatives of American imperialism rushing to the fore maneuvering for first place for themselves.

The international bank for reparations settlement, proposed by the Young plan and being organized under the immediate direction of Wall Street, American imperialism has undoubtedly conceived of mainly as an additional instrument to further the process of acquiring control of European industries and with it control of the intensified exploitation of the European workers.

THE SOVIET U. S. OF EUROPE

These conditions must recall pointedly to the world proletarian movement and, to the Comintern in particular, the growing vitality, importance and correctness of the revolutionary slogan of a Soviet United States of Europe.

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Lovestone Issues a Dishonest Document

One of the latest faction circulars issued by the Lovestone group, dated August 31, 1929, and entitled "How the E. C. C. I. 'Fights' Trotskyism Today" sets itself to prove that: 1. The Trotskyist "danger still exists in menacing form"; 2. That the Stalin regime in the Russian Party and in the International is going or has gone over to "Trotskyism", i. e., to the viewpoint of the Russian Bolshevik Opposition; and 3. there is a "complete suppression of the struggle against Trotskyism".

In order to "prove" this absurd contention, Lovestone, who was never notorious for his political honesty proceeds deliberately and unscrupulously to distort, maul and squeeze his "facts" to fit them to his untenable thesis. Consider them one by one:

1. We are glad to have an acknowledgment that the Opposition "still exists in menacing form"—in spite of the fact that Lovestone and his ilk in the International have announced its disintegration, burial and disappearance a thousand times in six years.

2 and 3. To prove these points, Lovestone quotes at some length a letter written by Preobrazhensky in April 1929, a few months before his capitulation to Stalin. In his letter to Oppositionists, Preobrazhensky already forecasts his surrender, and attempts to justify it on the main ground that "both of these ideas (hastening the tempo of industrialization and struggle against agrarian capitalism) have been adopted by the official majority of the Party".

On Preobrazhensky's letter, Lovestone then makes the entirely false comment: "It is important to bear in mind that it was on the basis of this letter that P. really was recently admitted into the Russian Party." Lovestone knows this to be untrue. Preobrazhensky, Smilga and Radek wrote their letters while still in the Opposition ranks, and "defended" the Platform of the Opposition solely for the purpose of winning support in its ranks for their impending capitulation—something they could not do had they rejected the Platform from the outset. But when they finally capitulated to the Centrist swamp, they declared in their official statements to the Party (which were published in the *Impecor* and the *Daily Worker* and of which Lovestone cannot therefore be ignorant) that they *whole line of policy, all their activities had been wrong for years, that they renounced their entire past, and that they withdrew their signatures from all Opposition documents including the Platform!*

The rest of Lovestone's "proof" is of the same caliber. "Maslov, Fischer and a whole series of Leninbund functionaries in Germany" are being readmitted. Maslov and Fischer are even less of Oppositionists than Radek and Co. They left the ranks of the Opposition—which they should never have entered—almost two years ago but have not yet been taken into the Party although they have sought to negotiate this step for many months.

BEG PARODY! In the article by comrade Trotsky on Brandler and Thalheimer published in our last issue, an unfortunate typographical error crept in. Speaking of the national reformist tendencies of the German Right wing, the author is made to say: "They don't give a fig for the Russian revolution, or the Chinese revolution, or the rest of humanity." It should, of course, read: "They don't give a fig for..." etc., etc.

and principle correctness of this slogan. In 1923 it was officially adopted by the Comintern. Later, under the Stalin leadership, the deductions from the basic conditions from which it derived its contents were artificially made into a series of false, slanderous accusations against the Bolshevik Opposition. It was naturally conceived of as one to find its practical application on the eve of the revolution and by no means to infer that the workers of one country must wait for the others before beginning the revolution.

The Tenth Plenum of the Comintern, meeting under the conditions of rapidly growing American imperialist penetration of Europe and growing control of exploitation of the European workers could find time only for prognostications of second rate importance. But it failed entirely to give any consideration whatever to this important slogan which today retains its validity as much as ever.

In the words of Comrade Trotsky: "... it is precisely the international strength of the United States and its unbridled expansion resulting from it, that compels it to include powder magazines throughout the world among the foundations of its structure..."

The slogan of a Soviet United States of Europe is a correct slogan, not only as counter to that of Briand and the other European imperialist diplomats but as concrete direction for unified revolutionary action of the proletarian towards the only possible working class solution.

ing series of functionaries of his newly-discovered ally, Brandler, who are joining—the German Social Democratic Party.

Lovestone seizes upon an insignificant item in the Berlin *Volksstimme*, organ of the Leninbund, which mentions the fact that the Party had adopted correct slogans in the Ruhr struggle, distorts and misrepresents the quotation and presents it triumphantly of more proof that the Party and the Opposition are approaching each other. One has only to read *Volksstimme* and its sharp strictures upon the Party line in general and the trade union line in particular to realize what value to attribute to this discovery, borrowed from the Brandlerist organ, *Gegen den Strom*.

The same holds for his quotation from *L'Unité Leniniste*, which says that the C. P. of France is coming near its line. *L'Unité Leniniste* has not been published for more than a year! It was not a "Trotskyist organ" but the organ of the Zinovievist adventures, Suzanne Girault, who capitulated two years ago to Stalinism and was never readmitted into the Party. The organ of comrade Treint was *Le Redressement Communiste*, which is no longer published now.

Lovestone is unduly flattering Stalin, who is as incapable of understanding the revolutionary content of the Opposition's Platform as he is of applying it, who recognizes bureaucratic machinations behind the scenes as the epitome of political wisdom. The regime of Stalin has not changed its attitude towards any of the fundamental aspects of the Opposition's Platform. He is still the champion of national reformism, i. e., of "socialism in one country" and of "two-class Parties". He is still the hero of the Menshevik policy pursued in the Chinese revolution and the British strikes of 1926. He continues his brutal assaults upon the Opposition; 23 Y. C. L. members, Oppositionists, have been expelled in Odessa alone a few weeks ago; comrade Rakovsky and other Oppositionists have been sent further into the Siberian wilderness and Trotsky still sits in Constantinople.

That Stalin has nevertheless executed a "Left" zig-zag in the last year is quite true. Cut off from the Right wing, from whom all his political steps were borrowed, he moved under the pressure of the Opposition. Stalin has no program of his own, and borrows alternately from the Right and from the Left. His loans from the Right are heavy and are paid for heavily. His loans from the Left, made under its whip-lash and the demands of the proletariat, are light and lightly repaid. Stalin's "Leftism" consists of picking up the splinters and dust around the unshakable pillars of the Opposition Platform, and of using even this debris so that it appears only in caricature. In their fight against Bucharin, the Centrist bankrupts are obliged to use the phrases of the Opposition without being able to understand or knowing how to apply their content. Even the Five Year Plan, another result of persistent Opposition pressure, is taken by Stalin from the chapter-headings of Opposition textbooks, misapplied and deprived of correct socialist, class content.

Stalin's "Trotskyism" has a certain amount of "revolutionary" polish, lots of noise, and little content, like the brightly-painted empty barrels which acrobats manipulate with their feet.

BEG PARODY! In the article by comrade Trotsky on Brandler and Thalheimer published in our last issue, an unfortunate typographical error crept in. Speaking of the national reformist tendencies of the German Right wing, the author is made to say: "They don't give a fig for the Russian revolution, or the Chinese revolution, or the rest of humanity." It should, of course, read: "They don't give a fig for..." etc., etc.



LETTERS FROM THE MILITANTS



THE T. U. U. L. CONFERENCE

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:

I attended fully two days of the Cleveland conference of the T.U.U.L. Being a visitor I was obliged to sit in the balcony so I could not actually count the number of delegates on the first floor. However, I doubt if they had 700 delegates, as they claimed, during the convention as there were many Party officials, etc., sitting downstairs. However, granting they had 700 delegates present, I don't see why they stopped at 700 as they could just as easily have assembled 1,000 delegates—there must be 300 more members of the Party they could have mobilized in order to make it a nice-sounding, round number of 1000 delegates. That would have impressed the R.I.L.U. delegate so much more favorably.

For instance, in talking to R. G. she told me that she was one of a delegation of 25 who represented the N. Y. local of the T.U.E.L.: a simple duplication of delegates in order to bring the total attendance up to a big number. I suppose the different trade or industrial groups making up the N. Y. T.U.E.L. sent delegates representing their respective groups; then whom did the 25 delegates represent?

There were also delegates representing the workers at N. Y. camps such as Wocolona and Nitgedaiget. You can draw your own conclusions as to these delegates. As for the new unions, you know their strength as well as I and can judge their representation yourself. I was told the miners' union had a delegation of 235 and the Auto Workers' Union a delegation of 70. If I remember correctly, Stachel's article in the *Daily Worker* gave the miners 181 and the auto workers 57. Why this change in figures?

Oh, yes, there was a delegate from Los Angeles, representing cooks, a Party member. He told me that among the delegation from the Coast was one from Hollywood, representing those men and women who make up the mob scenes in the movies. What do you think of that?

Of course, there were non-Party delegates present. But I think the majority were Party members. In fact, it looked like a Party convention. As far as I could see all the District Organizers were present. All the dignitaries on the stage were Party members. I met and talked to Party members from all over the country. In short, the Party was well represented—too well to make one believe that there is really a basis at present for a new trade union center.

The main theme of all speeches was rationalization of industry and the resulting low wages, speed-up, etc., for the workers. This was especially true of the 15 minute reports made by representatives of the various industrial conferences held one evening. No serious (or otherwise) consideration of the A. F. of L. and work within it was made. The only time the A. F. of L. was mentioned was to call them labor fakers and denounce them generally. One delegate from the new miners' union took the floor and stated: "At our convention April 1st, there was present an A. F. of L. faker who tried to make trouble and disrupt the convention. But at this convention today there is no A. F. of L. faker present. That shows the A. F. of L. is no more. It does not exist." No one offered to enlighten him on this subject.

When Biedenka reported for the shoe workers, he said: "There is a union of the boot and shoe workers, but it is an A. F. of L. union. I will say no more about it than that it is an A. F. of L. union."

While I attended the conference, I heard no opposition from the floor except when a delegate protested against the way the various convention committees were organized by appointment instead of by general election. He said they had followed an A. F. of L. procedure. I guess he was not a Party delegate.

I took some notes on Dunne's speech. He spoke on the accomplishments of the T.U.E.L. in the various industries and said as follows: "In the needle trades there has been a slight series of errors. The principal error, I think, has been the failure to see that the needle trades industry is not an exception from the general scheme of concentration of capital and control by finance capital in this imperialist period. In other words, although the productive process in the needle trades industry is extremely decentralized, the decisive control of the industry is in the hands of the big banks. And so, in place of carrying out maneuvers designed to play one group of small capitalists against another, which might have been good in pre-war conditions we have to substitute the building of a powerful industrial union based on the shop delegate system. This has not been done." Of all the mistakes made in the needle trades by the Party and Left wing leaders this was the only one mentioned.

On the automobile industry, Dunne said: "In the auto industry so far, our basis is chiefly in the workers in

the lighter section of the industry—the body industry. This is not a correct basis for an automobile industrial union. Means must be found to establish a broad basis in the metal section of the industry, which is the decisive section.

"In the textile industry, although no one, I think, regrets that the N.T.W.U. was organized when it was, the instructions of the R.I.L.U. were not carried out. The instructions for a preliminary organization was to give the union a broad mass basis. The union was formed in too careless a manner. As a result of this it went into struggles greatly handicapped."

Fraternally,

REBECCA SACHAROW.

ACTIVITIES IN MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Comrades:

Bill Simons was here last night, gave a most miserable speech to about 60 people and the meeting was closed at 10:30 without discussion. Through questions we forced him to say that any organization of workers fighting imperialism would be allowed to join the A.A.A. I.L.L. We will affiliate to the League, although we know what will be tried in spite of Bill's statement.

We have a new strike in the linseed oil industry—a big industry here—which is taking up a lot of our time. Only a few workers involved at present, but we are trying to weld into shape, out of those striking, a group which can be used for organization work in other plants. Slow work, lots of patience required, raw workers, but real fellows who will, under proper guidance, help to move mountains.

The Party here, with Clem Forsen as political leader, could hardly be more pitiful. This fellow who has never understood where he was going, or in fact why he was in the Party. Forsen—who two years ago came to us and said that he was disillusioned and discouraged and offered as the solution that "he leave the Party". We spoke with him then as a young comrade, and finally prevailed upon him to stay in the Y.W.L. It is now plain to us that he never stopped upon the downward path. It should be recorded that he was the "Party representative" in the I.L.D. Gastonia conference, who led the attack upon us, made a 50 minute speech against us and then opposed the motion to grant me 5 minutes to state our position. He was chairman at last night's anti-imperialist meeting—positively shameful. Bill S. avoided us when the meeting was over; he only pulled down his hat over his eyes and rushed out past us into the night!

The *Militant* continues to be a joy and inspiration. Tremendous obstacle to the betrayers of Lenin's Party—their work is tough under the glare of our exposure. VINCENT R. DUNNE.

COMMUNIST LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

The drive for the WEEKLY MILITANT constitutes a major activity for the Communist League of America (Opposition). All the branches understand the importance of a Weekly publication and are active in raising money to start the paper, securing subscriptions and increasing the sales of THE MILITANT on the newsstands and bookstores. However, activities in other fields are occupying the efforts of the Communist League members. These are indicated below.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Work among the striking linseed oil workers is being carried on by the Minneapolis comrades, as the latest development of their numerous activities in the class struggle. It is the banner city also now in securing subscriptions for *The Militant*. Its quota for the Weekly Militant has been filled.

BOSTON, MASS. The Boston comrades, enthused at the prospects of a Weekly Opposition paper, have pledged a regular amount each month to maintain *The Militant*. A mass meeting is scheduled for Friday November 1st. The Boston branch is working for the wide distribution of the Russian paper, *Bulletin of the Opposition*.

TORONTO, CANADA. Development of educational work, new members, drive to complete the Weekly Militant quota, arrangements to secure broad distribution of the *Bulletin of the Opposition* (Russian) throughout Canada, and discussion of trade union activities were among the points taken up at the recent meeting of the Toronto branch.

PITTSBURGH, PA. A branch of the Communist League is being formed in Pittsburgh, reports comrade James Sifakis.

CHICAGO, ILL. An entertainment for the benefit of *The Militant* will be held by the Chicago branch on October 26th. Chicago reports that its quota for the Weekly Militant will be completed within a few days.

New members have recently been recruited into the Chicago branch, and comrade Arne Swaback writes that a broad program of activities is outlined for immediate work by the Branch.

NEW YORK, N. Y. Preparations for the mass meeting on October 22nd and the entertainment and dance on October 26th, activity to fill the Weekly Militant quota, street meetings each Saturday night, keep the New York branch busy. *Militant* sales on the newsstands increase appreciably with each new issue of the paper.

ST. LOUIS, MO. The St. Louis comrades recently held a successful meeting on behalf of the Gastonia frame-up victims.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. The Philly comrades, though few in number, are distributing *The Militant* well and

THE STRIKE IN K. C.

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Comrades:

Before leaving St. Louis, the comrades there were arranging an affair for the *Militant*. They are sure on the job there and few as they are, they are many more times as active as the Party under Delbert Early's guidance. They are making valuable connections in the labor movement and with the correct policy they will soon be an important factor in St. Louis. I just received a letter stating that their Gastonia meeting was successful.

In K. C. we have an interesting situation. The local Loose Wiles Biscuit Co. tried to introduce a speed-up and there was a spontaneous walkout. The workers are mostly young girls and their spirit is splendid. After walking out they turned their minds to organizing and the local A. F. of L. boys organized them. The first day of the strike, Stephens, the Party D. O. issued a leaflet in the name of the T.U.U.L. It had the whole bible in it, nothing omitted—rationalization, speed-up, war danger, betrayers of labor, an attack on the A. F. of L. and telling them: "Our organization is representative of the masses of workers in the United States who are organizing into fighting unions and shop committees in every industry!" He appeared at the first organization meeting of the union where he changed his mind about whom he represented, and it became instead the I.L.D. I spoke after him and tried to point out the next step—organization—and I sounded a militant note by urging the spreading of the strike to the other plants of the National, etc., and other cities and completely shutting down the plant. The remarks were well received by the workers.

We are arranging an affair in K. C. for the Militant in two weeks.

Comradely,

CHARLES CURTIS.

THE PARTY IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Comrade Abern:

I received your letter with stamps, which I am going to keep to organize a branch. The Lovestone group here is not more than five, circulating their secret statements without results. The movement here in Pittsburgh was wrecked by Jakira. The Party membership is very small. Since the new organizer came here some street meetings were organized with a very poor attendance, which the *Daily Worker* reported as a success.

You will find enclosed a money order to pay for my bill and for a donation to the *Weekly Militant*.

Yours for the revolution,

JAMES SIFAKIS.

completing their Weekly Militant quota.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. An affair for the benefit of *The Militant* is being arranged here. Comrade "Shorty" Buehler, a live-wire comrade for many years is ill. We hope soon to note his recovery and to see him active again.

RICHMOND, CALIF. Aid for *The Militant* comes regularly from this point.

The month of September witnessed an increased activity among the branches of the Communist League. Subscription to *The Militant* also came in in substantial numbers from various parts of the country.

WORKING FOR GASTONIA

We print the following self-explanatory letter sent by our Chicago comrades to the local office of the International Labor Defense. The "lists" referred to are the I. L. D. signature lists being circulated among workers to protest against the Gastonia frame-up.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 8, 1929.

Secretary I. L. D.

Local Chicago

Dear Comrade:

Please find enclosed herewith 3 Gastonia Protest lists with check for \$5.85 for the signatures collected.

It is today deplorable to recollect that the conference organized by you for the defense of the Gastonia frame up victims, through mechanical measures applied by the Party, refused to seat the delegates from the Communist League (Opposition). Similar incidents have happened elsewhere and done injury to the movement. The answer of our comrades has been to continue their activities for the Gastonia case and for the I. L. D. in general, the only correct answer for Communists to give. You know that several of our members are doing good, active work in the I. L. D.

The only effective way to fight the Gastonia frame-up and establish the right to organize and strike is by the broadest possible united front actions. Not only a united front of all forces of the Communist and left wing movement, but also drawing in such workers for participation who may not be in sympathy with Communism but would be willing to help fight against the Gastonia frame-ups. Such should by all means be the policy of the I. L. D.

With best wishes for success in this fight, I remain,

Fraternally yours

Communist League of America (Opposition)

Chicago Branch,

Per, Arne Swaback.

Come to the Chicago
JAMBOREE

GIVEN BY
THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF
AMERICA (Opposition)

At STISKA'S HALL
4021 N. Drake Avenue

Saturday, October 26, 1929

Dancing — Refreshments — Hungarian Goulash
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