

Kadar Death Penalty For Strikers

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Negroes Demand Eisenhower Act Now

CP Convention Paves Way For Discussion of Program

By Harry Ring

The most significant feature of the recently concluded convention of the Communist Party is the fact that the delegates, by a majority of two to one, blocked the efforts of party Chairman William Z. Foster to force the organization back into its pre-20th Congress bureaucratic straightjacket. In taking this stand the delegates rejected the declared views of the bureaucrats in the Kremlin. With this act of defiance a 30-year period of political subservience to the Soviet bureaucracy is now drawing to a close.

This action of the convention was not sufficient to resolve the

political crisis which has wracked the party since the 20th Congress, but it greatly facilitates the possibility for the party membership to come to grips with the political issues causing the crisis.

DENNIS IN BETWEEN

The convention revealed a strong desire on the part of the delegates to avert a split in the party. But within that framework a majority wanted to end the political domination of the Moscow hierarchy and to prevent re-establishment of a regime of bureaucratic "monolithic unity" within the party. The convention

further demonstrated that no part of the top leadership enjoys the full confidence of the ranks.

For almost a year a fierce factional struggle for control of the party has gone on between the Foster and Gates wings of the leadership, with Dennis attempting to play a balance-of-power role between them. In the election of the national committee, the Foster group won the smallest number of places on the committee. The Gates forces won a larger number but did not get a majority.

Almost half of those elected have not publicly committed themselves to definitive support of either group but can be best described as more "anti-Foster" than "pro-Gates." While the failure of either wing to capture control permits Dennis to continue playing the middle of the road, there is no visible evidence of a crystallized Dennis "tendency" in either the leadership or the ranks.

DIDN'T WORK THIS TIME

The Stalinist-type efforts to influence the convention's outcome from abroad undoubtedly helped tip the scales against Foster. In 1945 a Moscow-inspired letter from French CP leader Duclos was sufficient to bring about the dumping of party leader Earl Browder and an abrupt shift in party line. But the Duclos letter to this convention, branding the views of the Gates group as a "dangerous departure" from Marxism-Leninism failed to accomplish the same result. Instead, the convention voted two to one in favor of the Gates stand on the issue as presented by Max Weiss, reporting for 14 of the 26-man resolutions committee.

Hitting at the Duclos letter, Weiss declared: "We cannot agree with any position which implies that some other party will interpret for us what the principles of Marxism-Leninism are while all that we are called upon to do is apply as creatively as we can their interpretation."

It is necessary, Weiss continued, "to declare clearly, unmistakably and publicly that it is our party which must interpret these principles as best we can, that no other party in the international Communist movement, no matter in what esteem we hold it, should be assumed to have any authoritative, ex cathedra right to interpret these principles for us."

MEMBERSHIP'S DESIRE

In adopting the report, the convention rejected Foster's view that it should welcome the "sage" (Continued on page 2)

Key Steel Districts Vote Against McDonald's Rule

By Fred Halstead

FEB. 19—The bureaucracy in the powerful United Steelworkers of America headed by David J. McDonald received a crushing blow from the rank and file steelworkers in the union election, Feb. 12. Well over one-third of the votes for the office of international president of the union went to the candidate of the Dues Protest Committee, Donald Rarick. A majority of the votes were cast for Rarick in several major steel centers including two Pittsburgh districts.

The vote for McDonald's opponent, a 37-year-old grievance committeeman at the United States Steel Irvin Works near Pittsburgh who was unknown outside his own Local 2227 until the dues-protest began last year, was greater than had been expected by even the staunchest supporters of the protest movement.

OFFICIALS BACK M'DONALD.

Total unofficial returns reported in Pittsburgh as of Feb. 18 gave McDonald 163,000 votes to Rarick's 84,000. The official victor will be McDonald who will retain his post, but the real victors are the rank-and-file who turned out a huge ground-swell vote in opposition to the McDonald machine in the first election for president in the history of the steelworkers union.

The large vote for the Dues Protest candidates in the major steel centers is even more impressive considering the fact that practically all the bureaucrats in the local unions and all the incumbent district directors lined up solidly behind McDonald. This gave the machine complete con-

ontrol of the election machinery itself as well as the local and international press and treasuries. The Big Business press, which has long hailed McDonald as a

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Members of two Pittsburgh Steelworkers Locals last fall turned thumbs down on David J. McDonald's demand for a dues increase. McDonald, the steel union's President has to scrape by on an income of only \$50,000 a year.

Southern Bomb Victims



Mrs. Otis Flowers of Birmingham, Ala., holds up injured hand of her 12-year-old son Arthur for photographers. The Flowers' home in a primarily white section of the city was bombed New Year's Eve by racists. All three were at home when the bomb struck.

A New Witch-Hunt Attack on the CP

An Editorial

Senator James Eastland (D. — Miss.), head of the Internal Security Subcommittee, announced through counsel, Robert Morris, the launching of a public hearing Feb. 20 on the proceedings of the Communist Party Convention. Eastland says he wants to know if the Communist Party is "independent" from Moscow.

If a political party, a labor organization, a fraternal group or any other association doesn't have the right to hold a closed convention without the prying nose of Eastland butting into the proceedings, what democratic rights are left in this country?

Eastland's committee has subpoenaed Communist Party leader Eugene Dennis to testify on convention proceedings and announced in addition that one of the impartial civil liberty observers who had been invited to sit in on the Convention, Carl Rachlin of the New York American Civil Liberties Union, would be the first witness.

Any political party or any other organization has a right to confine its proceedings to members without the surveillance of self-appointed thought-control cops or anyone else. This right becomes a mockery if witch-hunting legislative "investigators" are going to be allowed to grill the participants of a private meeting.

We protest this outrage against civil liberties, Senator Eastland! Keep your hands off!

ILA Nears Settlement In NY Strike

By James O'Hara

NEW YORK, FEB. 18—Leaders of the Independent International Longshoremen's Association have reached a tentative agreement with the New York Shippers' Association for settlement of the dockers' strike on the eastern seaboard.

The proposed settlement has to be first ratified by the membership of the ILA. Then it would be used as a basis for contract settlements by other longshore locals up and down the eastern seaboard. It would further set the pattern for the contracts of allied waterfront crafts such as the checkers, dock carpenters, etc. Then the ILA's strike would be officially over.

In the proposed settlement the longshoremen have won a 32-cent an hour increase to be split into three installments. They would receive an immediate 18-cent an hour raise, seven cents an hour more next year and another seven cents the following year. For the first time they have won paid holidays. They have secured two paid holidays for this year, one more for the second year and an additional one for the third year of the contract.

STRIKE RENEWED

The property contract also provides additional welfare contributions and increased vacation allowance. For dockers on steady gangs, who have worked fairly regularly during the past five years, it can mean a three-weeks vacation. Others would get proportionally less.

This contract was offered after a five-day walkout of all longshoremen from Maine to Virginia. The old contract had expired Sept. 30, and after fruitless negotiations the union had resorted to strike only to be slapped down by a Taft-Hartley injunction. Government intervention did not bring settlement of the dispute but merely postponed the strike until five days ago.

It became obvious then that the shippers had to make some real concessions. Despite all the moral and material help that they could rely on in a battle against a union that stood alone—an outlaw from the official labor movement—they faced an impressive and unbroken solidarity. The ILA has many enemies and its every soft spot was probed. But to the frustration of the shippers and the ILA's other enemies, the loyalty of the rank and file dockers to his organization constitutes a formidable obstacle. The union's strength is not so much in any illusions that the dockers have about the ILA leadership, but

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March on Washington Promised if Southern Terror Is Not Halted

By Henry Gitano

FEB. 18—Ninety-seven Southern Negro leaders wired President Eisenhower, Feb. 14, that they would organize a mass march on Washington if he maintains his silence

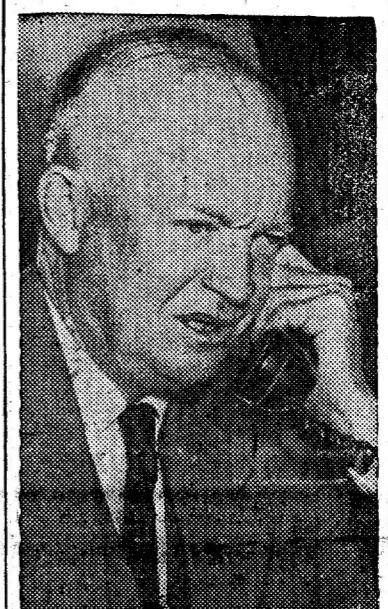
about the white-supremacist reign of terror in the South. The 97, who are spokesmen of Negro communities in 10 Southern states met in New Orleans last week in a two-day Southern Negro Leaders Conference. Referring to the telegram to Eisenhower, Rev. Martin Luther King of Montgomery, Ala., told the press that thousands of Negroes, joined by thousands of whites in both the North and South would go to Washington.

Lashing out at the President's silence the Negro spokesmen de-

capitalists are silent, Dixie terrorists are on the rampage. The president at his last press conference said he could not go South for a statement against racist violence because of his crowded daily agenda. He is currently in Thomasville, Georgia, on a two week golfing-hunting vacation. Washington's indifference to the heroic Southern Negroes whose very lives are in danger throughout the Dixie Terror Belt is being interpreted by racist mobsters as consent.

A massive March on Washington is the answer of the embattled fighters for racial equality. "If you, our President, cannot come South to relieve our harassed people, we shall have to lead our people to you in the capital, to call the nation's attention to the violence and organized terror directed toward men, women and children," said the Feb. 14 telegram sent by the Southern Negro Leaders Conference.

The wires drafted at the conclusion of a two-day session also urged Eisenhower to call a White House conference on the maintenance of law and order. In addition telegrams were sent to US Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, asking him to meet with Negro leaders and U.S. district attorneys to discuss "continued violence in the South." Vice-President Nixon was asked to make a report on the South similar to the one he made on Hungary.



EISENHOWER

clared that "our people though resolute and courageous, cannot be expected to be targets for rifles, shotguns and bombs, particularly when our women and children are brought within range of these deadly weapons."

As the Negro leaders wired Eisenhower that they are faced with what appears to be an organized campaign of terror and violence, a dynamite explosion in the heart of the Negro section of Clinton, Tenn., injured a woman and baby and damaged 30 homes. It wrecked a restaurant, caving in its ceiling and walls. Police, who said the blast shook most of the town's 4,000 population, also said they have made no arrests.

KASPER IN CLINTON

This is the eighth bombing since Clinton's school integration last fall. Last week, John Kasper, rabid White Citizens Council agitator broke ground for a new \$20,000 headquarters in Clinton, Tennessee, and addressed 188 racist followers in the county courthouse with official permission.

A 14 year old interracial, religious communal farm, Koinonia in Americus, Georgia, has been dynamited, burned and shot at, destroying \$13,000 worth of property. Now attempts are being made on the lives of these Negro and white farmers. On Jan. 29, a bullet was fired at the car in which their watchman was sitting, narrowly missing his head. An overnight visitor was awakened with a shot through his hat beside his bed. On Feb. 1, twelve blasts were fired into the main cluster of residences by shotguns from two cars; some of the children were sprinkled with shot. On Feb. 9, just before midnight, a wooden cross was burned in front of a Negro worker's home.

In Georgia, the State Senate adopted a resolution declaring the 14th and 15th Amendments null and void. Copies of the resolution were sent to Eisenhower, the Chief Justice and Congressmen. The amendments under racist attack, forbid states to "deprive any person of life, liberty or property except by due process of law" and assert that no person shall be deprived of "the right to vote because of race, color or previous condition of servitude." The Georgia legislature has a resolution requesting the impeachment of six U.S. Supreme Court justices.

While Eisenhower and other

Labor Must Build Own Party, Says Ford Local 600

DETROIT, FEB. 16—Two important actions were voted almost unanimously last Sunday by the General Council of Ford Local 600, United Auto Workers. One was the call for the formation of a new political party based on the labor movement; the other was the unequivocal backing of a prominent witch-hunt victim.

The actions were proposed in a report on behalf of the local's officers presented to the General Council by President Carl Stellato. The resolution on political action, after tracing the results of past support of the Democratic Party, called upon the coming international convention of the UAW to start the ball rolling toward formation of a farmer-labor party in the United States.

The resolution further urged "that in the interim the UAW take the leadership in undertaking, wherever feasible, in the various state, county and municipal elections to sponsor labor candidates, who will run independently of either the Republican or Democratic Parties."

In another part of his report, Stellato called the union's attention to the case of Arthur McPhaul, former state secretary of the now defunct Civil Rights Congress, who was recently convicted of "contempt of Congress" and is now awaiting a prison term because he courageously refused to furnish CRC membership lists to a Congressional witch-hunt committee.

Defending McPhaul's right to refuse membership lists under such circumstances, Stellato declared it to be labor's duty to give support to all who are victimized for upholding the American people's democratic rights. He urged Local 600's unit chairmen to cooperate with McPhaul in the efforts to win a reversal of the conviction in the courts.

The witch-hunt victim was given the floor to address the meeting. McPhaul explained how the issues and principles at stake in this fight coincide with the interests of the labor movement as a whole.

The resolution for a Farmer- (Continued on page 4)

Oil Cartels Cut Supply to Europe for Profit Grab

By Vincent Copeland

It used to be said that Warren G. Harding's administration in the 1920's was "soaked in oil." But the modern oil lobby, the oil banks and their friends, have drowned the present administration in the stench of oil profits even more effectively (although so far without a Teapot Dome scandal), than they did the "Harding gang."

In those ancient days of 1920-21, it was merely a matter of stealing lush oil lands from the American people. Today, the stealing of oil reserves goes on, to be sure. But that is only petty larceny. For now a few giant oil companies own so much, and they are so brazen, that they arbitrarily close or open the oil valves of nearly the whole world—depending upon what's in it for them.

"FREE ENTERPRISE"

Only a few months ago, during the Suez crisis, but before the actual blockade of the canal, we were told by sober and scientific authorities that U.S. oil produc-

tion could very easily take care of the needs of Europe for a few months in case the canal should be closed. References were made to the great resources of Texas and to the controlled and drastically reduced flow of oil in Texas wells that could be stepped up considerably, merely by turning the valves.

But this has not happened. The U.S. Departments of State, Defense and Interior, all immediately concerned in the matter, refuse to put any pressure on the oil companies to supply more oil. Eisenhower says that this "is not the American way of doing things."

In the meantime, Oil production in Texas was actually reduced instead of increased. What did go up was prices. Europe is crying for crude oil. It is receiving only 65% of its needs. And besides paying the higher American price, it is forced to buy huge quantities of much higher-priced gasoline from American suppliers in order to get any crude at all. (Europe has its own refineries which are now partially closed with consequent unemployment.) The American consumer is high-jacked for a gaso-

line and fuel oil price increases on grounds of the "Mideast crisis" and the artificial but highly propagandized "shortage."

Supposedly to meet the crisis, the Eisenhower Administration set up a Middle East Emergency Committee. This committee is not composed of any government representatives, and is in reality a barrier to any real government committee being set up. The committee consists solely of the representatives of the 15 major oil companies. The committee's

chairman is Stewart Coleman, vice-president of Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey (largest of American oil companies, and probably the biggest and wealthiest corporation in the world).

TEXAS RAILROAD CO.

The government has of course, politely asked the oil companies to increase production. But the companies have not even bothered to reply. (Were the oil workers to go on strike in the present crisis, they could legally be

forced to produce on the grounds of the "emergency.")

The oil companies have an additional legal personality to aid their stand besides the "committee" so obligingly set up by the government. This is the Texas Railroad Company. This company has the full power to regulate the flow of oil in Texas wells. It has refused to allow an increase of oil production. The Eisenhower Administration isn't doing anything about this, either. To challenge the Texas Railroad

Company's action is to challenge "states' rights," is the government's contention.

The conduct of the oil monopolies has led Senator Matthew M. Nealy (D-W. Va.), a member of the anti-trust and public lands Committee to charge that "The oil lobby appears to be more powerful than the President, the Congress, and the People." He strongly implied that the major oil companies were a "super government."

What worries Nealy and a number of his colleagues is how the oil companies' hold-up will affect "national defense"—that is, U.S. Big Business' preparations for World War III. Higher gasoline prices for working people here or unemployment and strict gas rationing for working people in Europe is not his concern.

Just the same Nealy's indictment of the oil monopolies should be heeded. The labor movement's program to smash the "super government" of the oil corporations should be a demand for nationalization of the oil industry under control of the oil workers' union.

Zacharias Chafee - Civil Liberties Defender

Zacharias Chafee Jr., veteran champion of civil liberties, died in Boston on Feb. 8 at the age of 71. Chafee joined the faculty of the Harvard Law School in 1916 and was an active professor until last year. Throughout his long career he was known to the public as an unwavering defender of the Bill of Rights. For his participation in cases involving civil liberties he never accepted any

payment. Moreover, his tongue and pen were at the disposal of those fighting civil liberties cases or opposing the passage of legislation limiting the political freedom of the American people.

Not unaturally, he was long a target for the House Un-American Activities Committee and for Senator McCarthy who in 1952 called him "dangerous" to the United States.

Since the last decade of his life coincided with the witch hunt, much of his writing consists of devastating analyses of the loyalty purge, the McCarran Act, and similar repressive laws. Of these he wrote: "To punish men drastically who have done nothing wrong merely for fear they might do something wrong. Such a practice is wholly alien to the traditions of English-speaking freedom."

