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UAW Settles in Ford For Minimum Gains

Criminal Silence In China Crisis

An Editorial

Opponents of war all over the world are grateful to the British workers for insisting that the Labor Party use its strength to restrain the U.S. government in its war gamble in Asia.

By the same token, opponents of war everywhere are outraged that the American labor leaders have not combatted Dulles' brinkmanship near the Chinese mainland, but have maintained a shameful silence.

Meany, Reuther, McDonald and the rest of the top union bureaucrats show their utter bankruptcy by this silence. They cannot claim that it is prompted by indifference on the part of American workers.

The New York Post correspondent in Washington, Robert G. Spivak, reported on Sept. 23 that because of the war crisis mail is pouring in to Congressmen and in running five to one against any use of GIs in defense of Chiang's claim to Quemoy and Matsu.

But is it necessary to cite evidence of the anti-war feelings of the American workers before the labor officialdom speaks out against the big business gamble with war at Quemoy? What possible interest could the American working people have in backing China's former dictator and his hopes of returning to rule the Chinese mainland?

Only recently, George Meany, AFL-CIO president, in describing the position of American labor today, said, "The scene of battle is no longer the company plant and the picket line. It has moved into the legislative halls of Congress and the State legislatures."

Very true. But what kind of political battle will be fought by labor with a program that goes along with the present program of the big business rulers. To work for defeat of anti-union legislation is not enough.

It is time that the labor movement became the spokesman for the American working people's desire for peace.

British Labor Will Not Fight in Quemoy War

SEPT. 24 — "It would be criminal folly to risk a third world war" over Quemoy and Matsu, off-shore Chinese islands, Hugh Gaitskell, right-wing leader of the British Labor Party said last week.

The Sept. 22 N.Y. Post reported that Gaitskell "warned that the Labor Party could not support, still less participate, in any way to maintain and defend Quemoy for Chiang Kai-shek."

Gaitskell apparently expressed the majority sentiment of the British people. A Reuters' dispatch from London said his "stiff criticism of America's stand . . . has received the backing of London newspapers, including some who generally are lined up against the labor chief."

British diplomats openly express their fears that the United States might bomb the Chinese mainland with atomic weapons. Drew Middleton reports from London in today's New York Times that "the serenity with which British officials have viewed the foreign policy of the United States has cracked to the extent that anxieties about nuclear bombing have been discussed openly."

The Tammany machine has also moved to deprive the Socialist Labor Party and Communist party leader Ben Davis, People's Rights nominee for the State Senate, of their respective ballot rights.

The hearing on the Davis petition was held Sept. 22 and the Board of Elections promptly disqualified him although he had filed nearly double the 3,000 petitions required. The ruling was vigorously denounced to

Settles at Ford



Walter Reuther, President of the United Auto Workers Union, is seeking a settlement with the GM and Chrysler Corporations. Auto workers are exerting pressure by strike action against the two companies.

Electrical Union Adopts Shorter Hours Demand

By Gordon Bailey

The independent United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union made a shorter work week with no reduction in pay its major immediate goal at its 23rd annual convention held in New York over the Labor Day weekend.

The program for the shorter week with no loss in pay was embodied both in a resolution on legislation passed by the convention and in demands presented to the three biggest employers of UE members.

In negotiations with General Electric, Westinghouse and Sylva Corporation the UE proposed that the work day be reduced by a half hour beginning September 1958 with no reduction in weekly pay, and that the workday be reduced another half hour starting September 1959, again with no loss in weekly pay.

HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT Because of heavy unemployment in the electrical industry — GE and Westinghouse alone

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Reuther Makes Many Hidden Concessions To Forestall Fight

DETROIT — The agreement arrived at Sept. 17 between Walter Reuther and the Ford Motor Company covering 100,000 United Auto Workers members involves the least gains in the entire history of contracts negotiated between the union and any of the "big three" auto corporations.

The agreement was signed on the basis of an understanding arrived at in advance by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, and is expected to set a pattern for the industry. When the improvements over the previous contract are balanced against the negative aspects of the agreement, hardly any over-all gain for the auto workers appears.

The Ford agreement will cost the company about five cents an hour more than the previous contract.

The modest positive features of the settlement which are a far cry from the imposing — but characteristically vague — program outlined by Reuther at the April UAW convention, are as follows:

(1) Pension benefits will be increased. (2) There will be minor improvements in shift-differential, Saturday and jury-duty pay. (3) Most skilled workers will receive an eight-cent hourly increase.

That, believe it or not, is the package of gains — as far as can be determined from what has been made public about the agreement. The remainder of the small, but well advertised, improvements come from funds already allocated to Ford workers from previous negotiations.

Thus the severance-pay provision, through which a worker with 30 years' seniority will draw about 1,200 hours' pay and a two-year-seniority worker will get 40 hours' pay upon being permanently laid off, does not cost the company an additional penny, since the money will come from the Supplementary Unemployment Benefit trust fund.

SUB PAYMENTS This is also true of the improvement in SUB payments, now raised to a straight 65% of take-home pay in conjunction with unemployment compensation.

Falling in the same category are the extensions from 26 to 39 weeks of SUB payments in those states which have the 39 weeks of unemployment compensation, and the provision for paying workers on short weeks 65% of 40 hours' take-home pay.

Little attention has been paid in the daily press, or in the glowing comments of Reuther, to the significance of the length of the agreement — three years, which is a violation of a UAW convention mandate to

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45,000 Strike GM, Chrysler

SEPT. 24 — Workers at Chrysler and General Motors plants began walking off the job today as the two corporations still refused to meet union demands. Workers who walked out in local actions totaled 30,435 in GM plants across the country and 15,000 at Chrysler, according to a United Press dispatch.

Anticipating a Sept. 30 strike deadline by several days, workers struck GM plants at Linden, New Jersey, Kansas City and Detroit. Although UAW officials had set no strike date for them, Chrysler workers walked off the job in three Detroit plants and at another in Kansas City.

hold contracts to two years. If there were to be a boom in auto in the next period, auto workers would have lost an opportunity to make significant advances. If — as is more likely — the auto industry remains "recessed" or outstrips its market again in the course of another year or two, the problems of auto workers will not be answered by the terms of this contract.

The contract doesn't meet the needs of the present either. For example, Carl Stellato, president of Ford Local 600, stated that he doubted that laid-off workers with five and six years of seniority would ever be called back to work at the River Rouge plant. There is no provision in the new contract for such workers.

In addition, the bases for calculating both the cost-of-living and "annual improvement factor" increases remain the same for the next three years. Under these provisions, the workers will now receive a ten-cent per hour increase. But it would have taken at least a 25-cent per hour increase just to make up for the loss in purchasing power suffered by the average employed auto worker since February, 1957, due to loss of overtime and inflation. (See May 26 Militant.) Inflation, of course, is getting worse all the time and productivity is in-

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McManus Opens Radio Campaign For Socialism

(The following is the text of a radio speech by John T. McManus, giving his views on the 1958 election campaign in New York. McManus is Independent-Socialist Party candidate for New York governor. The speech was delivered Sept. 24 over Station WNYC, New York City. — Ed.)

Good afternoon, New York neighbors. First, I want to thank WNYC for this opportunity to talk to you. I am the candidate for governor on the ticket of the Independent-Socialist Party, nominated by the petitions of nearly 27,000 voters throughout our state.

The Independent-Socialist Party is a brand-new political party. It has no connection with any other political party, on or off the ballot. New parties must obtain their place on the voting machine by obtaining the signatures of at least 50 voters in each of the 62 counties of our state, with a grand total of at least 12,000 in the state as a whole. So you see, my running mates and I have been nominated by many more than twice the necessary total required by the law.

I am a newspaperman. I have worked at the newspaper trade since I was 16, starting as a copy boy on the New York Times some 37 years ago. I worked my way through college as a reporter. Since those days I have chased fire engines, covered crime stories, strikes, and the evictions and hardships people suffered in the Great Depression of the 30's. I have been a political reporter, a movie and drama critic, a radio and television editor, and now I am one of the publishers of a weekly newsmagazine called the National Guardian.

But this is enough for now about myself, except that I was born in our city of New York, in what we used to call Manhattanville, up around 119th Street and Morningside Park, 54 years ago. And except for four years at college in Marietta, Ohio, I have lived in our city and state all my life, and now am a resident of Montrose, up the Hudson near Peekskill.

Why We Are Running

As a newspaperman, I learned years ago that a good reporter tells you the who, what, when, where, how and why of the story. I want to tell you, then, who the candidates of the Independent-Socialist Party are, what they stand for, when and where the new party was formed, and why we are running for public office in the 1958 election. I have already told you how we won our nominations — by nearly 27,000 petition signatures gathered all over the state during the summer and filed with the Secretary of State in Albany on Sept. 9.

Let me begin with the why of our story — why are we running for public office — for governor, lieutenant-governor, attorney-general, comptroller and United States senator — in the 1958 elections.

There are three principal reasons why we are running for these offices: The first reason is that we all stand for peace. We challenge the brink-of-war policies of John Foster Dulles and the Pentagon; and we well recall that the Cold War of the last twelve years, and the grim hot war in Korea in 1950, occurred under a Democratic administration in Washington with the participation of John Foster Dulles.

Today the two old parties, the Republicans and the Democrats, have war programs which are almost identically alike, and the Liberal Party leadership has endorsed the Democrats' program in our state.

These parties offer the voter no way to cast a vote for peace. We of the Independent-Socialist Party offer you that opportunity.

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N.Y. Socialists Enter Suit for Ballot Rights

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 — Vigorously combatting an all-out Tammany effort to deprive it of its ballot place, the United Independent-Socialist ticket has shifted its campaign into high gear. The first city-wide rally of the ticket will be held Tuesday night, Oct. 7, at the Fraternal Clubhouse, 110 West 48th Street. In addition to the candidates, the rally will feature James Aronson, editor of the National Guardian, and Myra Tanner Weiss, 1956 Vice-Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party.

The ticket's socialist platform received its first major radio presentation yesterday with a speech by gubernatorial candidate John T. McManus over station WNYC. (See text this page.) Earlier in the day McManus appeared on the widely viewed Dave Garroway show.

Meanwhile, the Independent-Socialists have thrown their maximum resources into the battle to defend their ballot status against the Democratic Party attack. On Sept. 9, they had filed nearly 27,000 nominating petitions, almost 15,000 more than legally required, and containing well over the minimum of 50 signatures required from each county. Despite this, the petition was promptly met by three challenges that will be ruled on by Tammany boss Carmine De Sapio in his function of Secretary of State.

COURT ACTION

A hearing on the challenges will be held Monday, Sept. 29. On Sept. 22, attorneys for the Independent-Socialist Party won an order in the State Supreme Court that will automatically assure court review should De Sapio rule against the party.

The Tammany machine has also moved to deprive the Socialist Labor Party and Communist party leader Ben Davis, People's Rights nominee for the State Senate, of their respective ballot rights.

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