

# WORKERS AGE

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

Vol. IV, No. 31.

New York, Saturday, August 3, 1935.

Five Cents

## At First GLANCE

By JAY LOVESTONE

CONSIDERING the gravity of the economic situation in Germany as it really is, we would be very much surprised if some big financial aid were not soon rushed to the Hitler regime. We take a prophet's risk to suggest that the Bank of England would be the first Good Samaritan to the afflicted Nazis. In fact there are strong reasons to suspect that heavy assistance has already been sent to Germany via Lombard Street.

Here are some indicators of the storm brewing in Germany. The Nazi press has been warning investors of a probable stock market collapse. Disbelief in the mark has been rising; the distrust of money values is rampant. The government persistently falsifies and conceals its actual economic position. Hitler has not yet dared announce his budget for 1935-6. Monthly reports on current expenses and the cash status of the Reich treasury have been suspended. The fiscal year ended March 31st but no financial accounts have as yet been issued. Reliable authorities declare that by the end of 1933 there was a secret debt of 5 billion marks; today, this debt, necessarily unfunded, is about seventeen billions. The total German debt, on this basis, would be over thirty billion marks—certainly a terrific strain on Germany's narrow capital base.

It may not be so long before Schacht asks Alfred Rosenberg to call upon Wall Street for aid to insure "the safeguarding of European civilization" and to rush financial help to Hitler "in the interests of all civilized nations in the world." Such appeals will be a feature syndicated in the Hearst press.

A VERY puzzled economist is Colonel A. Ayres. This expert of experts has discovered a phenomenon that's got him standing on his head. He's confounded by what he calls "the most interesting and important of the problems involved in the relatively static condition of business." The little colonel just can't understand "the failure of the combination of great accumulated surpluses of goods and great accumulated surpluses of capital to stimulate new business activity."

Well, it's just too bad for this highest-priced economist. The poor fellow doesn't see the problem at all, though he formulates it in a rather interesting and sharp manner. Mr. Ayres obviously thinks this is a sort of accidental occurrence. He does not comprehend the organic nature of the capitalist system and its inherent contradictions. The recent changes in the very composition of capital have in them the secret mystifying the Colonel. Herein is to be found the widening gap between productive capacity and the possibilities for consumption. And here lies the source of the "paradox" torturing this rather renowned economic expert who does occasionally see things beneath the surface.

Given the private ownership of the means of production and exchange socially used, given the private appropriation of the products socially produced, it is impossible to avoid "an accumulated shortage of goods," "an accumulated surplus of capital" and a superabundance of misery.

ONE of the remedies prescribed by the Chief "Medicine Man" of the New Deal for the crisis is the Home Owners Loan Corporation. So far it is supposed to have had a rather rosy career. We are of the opinion that the HOLC will soon face a real storm. Our opinion is based on the report recently issued by this Corporation. Despite its very short life, there is every reason to believe that a wave of foreclosures has already begun. Up to July 15 over 700 such foreclosure proceedings against home owners have been launched by this Government landlord. Such actions are now being filed at the rate of over 50 a week.

The fact that these foreclosures to date amount to only a small fraction of the total amount invested by the HOLC is not decisive. However, 20% of the borrowers are already over 90 days in arrears on their payments. What does count is the direction of this new development—a trend definitely for the worse. The private real estate shark finds it rather difficult to continue amazing fabulous incomes these days because of the general economic crisis. The stepping-in of the Government to help him, at best, brings momentary relief and now and then may do the same for some small home owner. However, the roots of the problem lie deeply embedded in the very nature of the whole economic system. These roots are not even touched by such measures as the HOLC. More foreclosures are in sight. The Government as landlord, operating under capitalism as a capitalist, can not escape the consequences of the contradictions inherent in the capitalist system.

## Doll Progressives Score Smash Win

### "Rank-and-File" Clique Uses Red Scare In Attempt To Capture Union

Progressives in the Doll and Toy Workers Union came through with a smashing victory over an unscrupulous "Rank and File" in the elections held on July 26.

The "Rank and File" included in its ranks an unholy alliance of so-called Left-wingers and Fascists. In attacking the Progressive administration this clique dragged in the Red scare, saying in an election bulletin (printed by non-union labor): "In the advisory committee is Ravitch, Esposito and another five which do not belong to the union, which have no knowledge of what are our necessities in the industry. These five are members of the Lovestone-group 'Communist Party', so you see our Progressive group is under the directions of Communist leaders."

The workers in the union turned out en masse to refute the scurrilous tactics of this "Left-wing." Almost 90% of those eligible voted the Progressives into office by a margin of three to one.

The votes of the victorious candidates were as follows. President, E. Diana, 657 to 227 for S. Giardino. Vice President, C. Ambash, 638 to 217 for J. Speigal. Recording Secretary, G. Caschetta 660. For Secretary-Treasurer, A. Ravitch, against whom a vicious campaign of personal vituperation had been levelled, defeated D. Musachio by a vote of 642-219. A. Esposito was elected manager with 755 votes. For Sergeant-at-Arms, C. Celeste, 573. Trustees, S. Lieberman 700, J. Priola, 656, H. Ungar, 521.

Eleven Progressives comprise the new Executive Board. They are: T. Mobila, 642; A. Andacht, 608; A. Pallone, 643; M. Feinstein, 616; R. Damino, 657; J. Bloom, 605; T. Blatti, 628; J. Herskowitz, 651; S. Tummino, 614; A. Rosenthal, 595; T. Billelo, 686.

The Rank and File received approximately 180 votes for these offices. In the last administration the Rank and File had three members of the Executive Board and a vice-president. Their tactics in this election have succeeded in wiping out even this representation.

An article in a succeeding issue of the Age will present an analysis of the elections and the problems facing the new administration in the union.

## SIXTY DIE WHILE THE LEAGUE DELIBERATES



## New Terror Thins Ranks of German CPO; Get Long Terms

### Rhineland Member Of International Relief Association Murdered In Oranienburg Concentration Camp After Deportation From France

In the last few months and weeks there have been a number of trials in Thuringia of workers accused of activity in the Communist Party of Germany (Opposition). Heavy jail sentences were given in all cases.

Hans Becker was condemned to 10 years under the charge of being the leader of the C.P.G.-O. of Weimar. Comrade W. Kopp in Greiz received a sentence of 8 years in jail because he was one of the leaders of the C.P.G.-O. Another worker received a 3 year sentence. Hilde Fischer, a teacher 6½ years, Ide Fischer, her sister, 3 years.

15 workers were placed on trial in Jena charged with high treason thru their activity in the C.P.G.-O. After a trial of a day and a half 11 of them received heavy sentences. Most of them are young workers from the world famous Zeiss works in Jena. Brundig, accused of being the leader of the C.P.G.-O. there, was sentenced to 12 years, 18 year old Johanna Lorber to 5 years. Altogether the sentences total 44 years.

The court statement points to the "treacherous" activity of the C.P.G.-O. as aiming to overthrow the Nazi government and to establish a proletarian state. The extraordinary high sentences are justified by the argument that the accused stubbornly cling to their views. The prisoners had been brutally maltreated.

A superficial estimate reveals that within the last few months in one district of Germany alone 20 workers were sentenced to 71 years in jail because of alleged activities in the C.P.G.-O.

## MURDER OF AN I.R.A. MEMBER

Wuppertal-Elberfeld in the Rhineland had a very good section of the International Relief Association before the victory of the Nazis. One of its most active members was Comrade Steinhage, the owner of a restaurant, catering exclusively to revolutionary organizations. The Nazis hated and persecuted Steinhage. On March 5, 1933 he was arrested and taken into a concentration camp. Here he was brutally mistreated. He succeeded later on in fleeing to the Saar, his face bearing the traces of his horrible experiences in the prison. After (Continued on Page 4)

## Second National Training School Of CPO Will Open On August 5

### 30 Students From All Sections, Representing Nation's Basic Industries Will Attend Sessions; Labor Leaders To Give Lectures

On August 5th, thirty-odd working men and women from all sections of the country, will gather in New York for three and a half weeks of intensive study and training to supplement their practical labor activities and aid them in their future organizational work. They will come from Boston, St. Louis, Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Toronto, Montreal, and other cities in United States and Canada. Included will be miners, auto workers, shoe workers, teachers, needle trades workers, textile workers, and men and women from other industries.

The New Workers School has arranged a curriculum which will give the students an extraordinary opportunity for a well-balanced, all-around education within the possibilities of the time limit. The subjects will include Trade Unionism, Marxism-Leninism, Marxian Economics, History of American Communism, Methods of Teaching Fundamentals of Communism, Critique of Radical Tendencies in the Labor Movement, Revolutionary Traditions in American History, and International Matters. Besides this, labor leaders from various fields will give lectures on the problems of their organizations. Among the teachers will be Jay Lovestone, Bert Wolfe, Will Herberg, D. Benjamin, Eve Dorf, George F.

Miles, Charles Zimmerman, and others. Special lectures will be given on the Negro Question, the Student Movement, the unemployed movement, Workers Correspondence, etc.

From all over the country the School has received requests from workers to attend the school. Unfortunately, it is able to accommodate only a limited number of the most qualified applicants, because of the shortage of funds. The student body will consist of trade unionists, all of whom have shown their devotion, their interest and their capabilities in the labor movement, and many of whom are leading functionaries in their union or other organization. They will leave the school, after three and a half weeks, to return to their respective shops, organizations and communities, better fitted to participate in and to lead the struggle of the workers there. The school is undertaking to house the workers while here, provide food and books, and in some cases, even aid in transportation. The cost of the Summer National Training School to the New Workers School is about \$1000. Friends of workers education are urged to write in providing lodging for one or more students (specify sex) or contributing funds of any amount towards maintenance and books for the students.

## MOON LITE DANCE

at the LIDO ROOF GARDENS 146th Street, bet. Lenox and 7th Avenues Friday, August 9th, at 8 P. M.

To Welcome THE STUDENTS OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL Auspices: COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A. (OPPOSITION) NEW YORK DISTRICT

ADMISSION, 45c.

## THE WORKERS WE I

### DRESS LOCAL WARNS AGAINST CHISELLING BOSSES

With the opening of a new season in the industry the Executive Board of Local 22 of the International Ladies Garment Workers has issued a stirring call to the dressmakers to guard against the price-cutting efforts of the bosses.

It reads in part: "Dressmakers! Remember that price settlements now will affect you for the rest of the season . . . don't believe in lying propaganda of the bosses! Under no circumstances settle for less than you are entitled to.

"This is the last season before the general strike. The employers will try every scheme to reduce standards. We on our part must do everything possible to maintain our conditions and to prepare for a victorious 1936 general strike.

"On guard in settling prices. Don't let your conditions be undermined. Let us all stand together united in the fight to maintain Union standards!"

### UNITED FUR UNION TO ELECT OFFICIALS

The Joint Council of the International Fur Workers which recently absorbed the "Red" Industrial Union, holds its elections next week.

Indications at the time of writing are that there will be two and possibly more slates in the field. Ben Gold, ex-chief of the Industrial Union is a candidate for manager against Goldstein, present manager of the Joint Council.

### 53 CHICAGO UNIONISTS CALL FOR LABOR PARTY

Of the bevy of Labor Party movements sprouting hither and yon the most promising lies in the conference called for August 25 by a group of 53 Chicago trade unionists.

Independent political action in Chicago has been spurred on by the recent declaration of John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, in resigning from the Labor Advisory Council, a state body. Fitzpatrick wrote: "I . . . refuse to be used as a catspaw in making it appear that labor can get any kind of a square deal while any of the old party politicians are in power."

The 53 Chicago workers, members of the largest and most powerful unions in the city, have issued their call to trade unions only for the present, under the slogan "Let Us Organize a Labor Party Supported by the Unions!"

### GREEN AIDE STOPS TERRE HAUTE TRIKE

The leadership of the A. F. of L. kept its chastity intact last week when T. N. Taylor, representative of William F. Green, proclaimed the end of the 48 hour general strike in Terre Haute, Ind.

Terre Haute, chiefly famous as the birthplace of Gene Debs, is 90% organized. The general strike was called to force the Columbian Enamelling Co. to withdraw imported armed thugs from its premises.

The general strike tied up the Terre Haute area completely for two days. After its conclusion the four months old strike at the Columbian plant continued.

## DRIVE FOR AGE FUND ENTERS FINAL STAGE WITH \$400 TO BE RAISED

### Out-of-Town Units Surpass New York This Week For First Time Since Drive Opened. Philadelphia Leads With \$25 Donation

The Drive for a Summer Sustaining Fund for the Workers Age is in its closing stages. Less than a week remains before the closing date and four hundred dollars must be collected in that time if the quota is to be filled. This must be done!

All group members and sympathizers are called upon to rush their contributions and all who have made pledges are urged to pay them immediately. The drive must not drag.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (As of July 27)	
Previously Listed	\$971.70
Lawrence Davis	5.00
Anon	1.00
Moe Stone	1.00
Gertrude Lifshitz	2.00
S. Zeldin	5.00
Jack Smith	3.00

Anne Spilka	1.00
Lee Hall	1.00
Branden	5.00
Bert Wolfe	5.00
Anne Larkin	3.00
Mary Lawrence	10.00
Esta Greene	2.00
S. Richman	2.00
B. Herman	5.00
Harry Fels	1.00
M. B.	5.00
Baltimore Unit	1.00
Chicago	9.00
Lansing	10.00
E. Katzman	3.50
R. Stock	3.00
E. M.	10.00
Philadelphia	25.00
Boston	4:50
Montreal	5.00
Grand Total	\$1099.70
Still to go	\$ 400.30



# WORKERS • AGE •

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## EUROPE TODAY

By August Thalheimer

### A TURN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR ETHIOPIA

We pointed out in our last report that England, despite its momentary strong opposition to Italy's imperialist crusade in Ethiopia, would in all probability grant Italy a free hand. After all it does not wish to wage a war with Italy because of Ethiopia.

In recent days there has been a very sudden change of attitude in this direction on England's part. This change was caused by France. Laval made it very clear to the English envoy that France would not support England against Italy in Geneva. Since England would thus have suffered a defeat in Geneva and since she certainly does not want to antagonize both France and Italy, she has changed her mind. She no longer insists on any action being taken by the League of Nations or on economic sanctions being enforced against Italy in case of war. England gives up the plan of closing the Suez Canal to Italian ships in case of war and of searching them for ammunition. All of which means that England is now giving Italy a free hand in waging a war.

However, this by no means signifies that England has once and for all consented to the war against Ethiopia; she is merely waiting for a more opportune moment to interfere. The conflict with Italy has been postponed but has not been given up. England will play its traditional game and wait until Italy is sufficiently weakened in order to rob it of its booty. For the time being, however, England is jointly responsible for the war. The refusal of the United States to interfere as was requested by Ethiopia facilitated England's decision.

The aggressive tone assumed by France towards England is the result first of all of the Anglo-German naval agreement and even more of the military agreements reached by the French and Italian general staffs last week. These agreements approach a military alliance. The arrangements in reference to the Franco-Italian border are such that Italy will be able to withdraw troops from the French border and send them to the Austrian and Ethiopian fronts while France will send its troops from the Italian to the Eastern border.

Ethiopia is, therefore, paying the price for the increased attack of Italy and France against Hitler Germany. At some future date, however, both France and Italy will have to pay for their present actions.

The French press is again talking about a "local war" in which Ethiopia is involved. We wish to stress again that this is an illusion, for the following reasons: First of all, all of Africa is full of dynamite as a result of the economic crisis and, secondly, so is Europe. This war will put forces into motion which are undreamt of in the heads of European diplomacy who live from hand to mouth.

The French press further maintains that the procedure of France saved the League of Nations which was threatened by dissolution if Italy resigned. But what does this "saving" of the League mean? The price paid by it is the non-fulfillment of its elementary function of securing peace. The operation was successful—but the patient died.

### A NEW MANEUVER AGAINST THE EASTERN PACT

The Berlin negotiations between Hitler and the Polish Foreign Minister Beck were not as successful as the obedient Nazi press reports. The Nazis proposed to Poland for the second time that Lithuania should be occupied and divided amongst them. Poland again rejected this reckless adventure. They also raised objections to the increased German propaganda in Polish territory.

The new maneuver, hatched by Hitler and Beck against the Eastern pact is of significance to European politics. Germany, according to this latest plan, acknowledged the Eastern pact only if the Soviet Union is directly attacked by the Reich. It excludes cases in which Germany attacks one of the Baltic states. This reservation indicates the intentions of Hitler Germany. Furthermore, Rumania and Czechoslovakia are to be excluded in the mutual aid pacts with the Soviet Union. The reason is obvious. The Red Army can cross to the German border thru Rumania and Czechoslovakia. This maneuver makes clear the intentions of Hitler Germany and Poland to emasculate the Eastern pact, as far as it



## Books of the Age

by Bertram D. Wolfe

THE BLACK CONSUL, By Anatoli Vinogradov. Viking. 439pp. \$2.75.

This is a novel by a Soviet author dealing with Haiti's struggle for freedom during the French Revolution. It portrays alternately the actions and experiences of the Haitian delegation in Paris and the struggles of Toussaint l'Ouverture and his associates in Haiti. Thru its pages march Robespierre, Marat, Christophe, Dessalines, Dr. Guillotin, Napoleon. Big events are portrayed and there are echoes of other events that the author could not quite compress into the structure of his novel. With such heroes, such villains, such a stage and such scenes, it should be a stirring, moving work, but somehow it fails to be.

It is an attempt to fuse the technique of the novel and the material of history more closely together than has been the case in the works of Scott, Sue, Zola and other masters of the historical novel. It is determined to be honest and truthful history, to use fiction technique but not to fictionalize its material. When Robespierre or Marat makes a speech or writes an article on Haiti, the actual words of the parliamentary record or newspaper editorial are worked into the text. There are no invented characters and almost no invention even in the minor details of the events.

The difficulties involved in this attempt are many. The novel requires selection from the standpoint of fictional and dramatic interest, and plot structure. History requires the selection from the standpoint of interpretive and explanatory significance. The two criteria of selection do not fully coincide. The problems involved were too much for Vinogradov's skill as novelist and penetration as historian. Where for moments he succeeds in being interesting as a novelist he is trivial as historian. Where he is recording important historical events he is boring as a novelist, and not particularly penetrating as a historian. Documents are not history but merely one of its raw materials. There is nothing inherently impossible in the attempt Vinogradov has made, but he cannot be said to have succeeded. The book just falls short of being interesting as a novel or illuminating as history. It is interesting only as an attempt which shows the difficulties involved in the writing of fictionalized history.

THE ATLANTIC AND SLAVERY, by H. A. Wyndham. Oxford University Press. 310 pp., \$4.50.

This volume is second in a series entitled "Problems of Imperial Trusteeship," published by Oxford University and issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Only British imperialism with its calm assumption of imperial right to the seven seas and the lands washed by them could give such a title to a series includ-

ing such a work as this. It is a factual, comprehensive and richly detailed and documented account of the "relations between Europeans, Indians, and Negroes on the eastern and western shores of the Atlantic" from the earliest days of the trading settlements down to the end of the eighteenth century. The author never loses his imperturbable calm for an instant, but the sensitive reader who hates racial oppression and slavery will do so repeatedly. Wyndham never feels called upon to "justify", never thinks of condemning. He just digs, finds and reports. Gradually there grows a frightful picture of the slave trade, of the kidnapping of Africans with the active connivance of native African rulers (something that should give the Garveyites and the separate-Negro-economy-ites pause), and the blessings of both Catholic and Protestant churches. This is supplemented by an equally detailed account of the despoiling and subjection of the Indians in the New World, and the varied fate of the Negroes after their arrival in North and South America. The book is the most complete and accurate treatment existing in its field and indispensable to all students of race relations.

MAKING OUR MINDS BEHAVE, by Wm. S. Walsh, M.D. E. P. Dutton & Co. 277 pp., \$2.50.

PSYCHOLOGY OF THE AUDIENCE, by H. L. Hollingworth. American Book Co. 232 pp.

The vogue of popular psychology books serves perpetually to remind us that psychology is far from a science. Most of them consist of commonplace and platitudes, or mystical hocus pocus. These two books belong to the former category.

Dr. Walsh writes on "Mental Engineering"; "The Art of Concentration"; "Making Good on the Job"; "On Being an Executive"; "If We Want to be Popular"; "Can We Take It"—the chapter headings tell the story. There is much sound common sense, the exposure of many popular prejudices, and the dressing up of some of the doctor's own pet prejudices as "psychology." Reading it is supposed to make you popular, a fluent, convincing talker, a thinker and a man who "can take it." We couldn't take it and didn't finish the book.

Hollingworth's book is more imposing. He is Professor of Psychology in Barnard. He limits himself to advice to the speaker and an analysis of the "psychology of the audience." He carefully reviews and summarizes all the literature on the subjects he discusses and thus forces us quite unintentionally on his part, to the conclusion that "psychology" has little, aside from the stupidities and prejudices of a Le Bon, to say about audiences that is not known to every experienced public speaker.

## American Youth Congress

(Continued from Page 3)

Clarence Hathaway as witness: "I am sent here as the representative of the Communist Party of the U. S. to express views for which the Communist Party as a party is responsible." Later in his speech he said: "In behalf of the Communist Party, I want to inform the delegates here and the people of Detroit that the Communist Party stands unqualifiedly behind the American Youth Congress movement and behind the program which you have adopted." That is an unequivocal declaration. Will Hathaway be made the scapegoat for the Congress of Errors?

The confusion was worse confounded by the political illiteracy of the Y.C.L., the Y.P.S.L. and their parent organizations. Completely untrained in Marxism, they repeat phrases without knowing their meaning. Marxists have taken great pains to explain that phrases like "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" have meaning only if given a class content. We can readily understand why "a number of delegates could not understand how slogans and declarations which marked the dawn of the capitalist order in the U. S. could spur the fight of the struggling masses today." (Daily Worker, July 9). In claiming our revolutionary heritage, we must not allow ourselves to be drowned in an uncritical patriotic fervor; nor can we claim our heritage if we refuse to advance beyond it. At the very birth of the republic Shay's rebellion took place, let us remember. Among the revolutionists of 1776 themselves there were the conservatives—the Hamiltons and the Washingtons—and the radicals—the Jeffersons and Sam Adamases. But not a word about this in the July Fourth oratory of the A.Y.C. That this was not an oversight, we call your attention to the following lines: "In song and legend America has been exalted as a land of the free, a haven for the oppressed. Yet on every hand we see this freedom limited or destroyed. . . ." The writer proposed to add a sentence to the section reading "We affirm these to be acts of tyranny which have filled the whole course of American history since 1776." This amendment was defeated at the N. Y. delegation meeting and

would have met the same fate at the full session.

A permanent united front as expressed in the A.Y.C. is impossible. Only a political organization could fulfill the requirements of such a congress at its best. The only type of a new political organization the working class should favor at the present time is a Labor party based upon the trade unions. But not even the A.Y.C. would have the nerve to claim that for itself. The only type of youth conference that would be worth-while is one based primarily on trade unions and on labor and student organizations. Such a conference would be concerned primarily with discussing the position of the working class youth in the factory, on the farm and in school and with framing a program expressing the needs and interests of the young workers and students. It would understand that this program could be realized only if it were embodied in the aims and objectives of the labor movement and it would therefore strive primarily to popularize its program and win adherence for it in the ranks of labor. But the American Youth Congress was miles away from any such conception. And for that reason, fundamentally, is the American Youth Congress doomed to failure which no amount of ballyhoo can avert.

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## TRADE UNION NOTES

By GEORGE F. MILES

### THE LABOR COURT PROPOSAL

The struggle for clean and militant unionism has its difficulties and obstacles and the proposed solution for these is sometimes painful, often merely ineffectual.

A certain Mr. Louis Kirschbaum, writing in the New York Evening Post, develops one of these thoroely illusive plans. He has "been kicked around for over ten years" by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and, in desperation, sets out to destroy the trade union bureaucracy by means of a "labor court" whose aim it shall be "to eliminate the evil influences exerted by the machines which control unions for their own interest too often disregarding the interest of the rank and file." Having thus defined the purpose of the Court Mr. Kirschbaum promptly proceeds to nominate the following the constitute it: Norman Thomas, David Dubinsky, Roger Baldwin, Dr. Harry Ward, Prof. Paul Brisenenden, A. J. Muste, J. B. Matthews, Mary Van Kleeck and Louis Boudin.

As far as we know not one of the nominees has accepted this labor of love, nor have we heard of any enthusiastic endorsements of the proposal as a whole. Why? Is it because the trade unions do not present any cases of bureaucratic excesses? Hardly. Were there such a court the racketeering and gangster-ridden Amalgamated could keep it in session for months to come. And the Amalgamated is by no means the only one of its kind. There are two reasons for the luke-warmness with which the proposal has been met even tho Mr. Kirschbaum has provided that his estate be used to establish such a court.

### WHY BALDWIN SWORE OFF COMMITTEES

We must remember that such committees have acted from time to time with very meager results. Roger Baldwin, the most committee-ridden man we know, could tell many a sad story. The last we heard, Baldwin had sworn off intervention in inner union problems.

These committees lack the power to make their investigations binding or even to secure evidence. In other words these "labor courts" have been tried and found wanting.

An even more serious objection is the possibility of creating the illusion that the fight for democratic unions and progressive policies can be won, not thru struggle inside the unions, but by means of an appeal to some body standing over and above the trade union movement. Such an illusion would sacrifice a real weapon—organized opposition—for an illusory one—a labor court.

We do not maintain that the "labor court" is without any value for it serves as a forum to broadcast grievances. But cannot this be done thru leaflets, press publicity and meetings of workers in the trade? It certainly can. This method is superior in the sense that it avoids placing the right of decision in the hands of non-trade union people. Just glance thru the list of nominees and you will see what we mean.

We can understand and sympathize with the impatience of a Louis Kirschbaum who has been "out" for a decade but after all can the bureaucracy be licked by waving a wooden sword while charging on a broomstick? The revolutionizing of the trade-unions depends upon continued, systematic, organized struggle in the trade unions. As long as the mass of trade unionists are not won the "labor court" is ineffective. When the mass is won the "labor court" is not needed.

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