

Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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C. I. O. IGNORES A. F. L. THREAT

Int'l Unions Decide To Stay Away From The Council Meeting

Holding that the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. is without authority to suspend or expel international unions, the Committee for Industrial Organization, meeting in Washington this week, decided to take no action whatever on the threat of the Executive Council. The C.I.O. expressed the opinion that it was "inconceivable" that the Executive Council "would commit any act to split the labor forces of America in the midst of the campaign in the iron and steel industry and in the face of the arrogant ultimatum issued to the entire labor movement by the American Iron and Steel Institute."

The individual unions making up the C.I.O. have decided however, to ignore the "show cause" letters sent to them by the Executive Council and will not put in an appearance when the Council gets into session this week.

The C.I.O. welcomed into its ranks two new international organizations—the United Automobile Workers and the United Rubber Workers Union.

In a statement summarizing the work of this session of the C.I.O., John L. Lewis pointed out that in the steel industry it is the Institute that is trying to precipitate a strike, and that as the campaign progresses the Institute will be approached for a conference to discuss labor problems. The C.I.O. also decided, Lewis stated, to back the organization campaigns of the Auto workers who now have 60,000 out of 350,000 workers in the industry organized, and the Rubber workers who have organized 28,000 workers out of 108,000 in the industry.

R.C.A. STRIKERS BATTLE THUGS

CAMDEN, N. J.—Thousands of strikers around the RCA manufacturing plant here engaged in a pitched battle after being set upon by the scabs and armed thugs of the company at quitting time. It was several hours before calm was restored in Camden as well as in Philadelphia, to which the battle spread when many of the scabs crossed over by ferry.

A number of those arrested during the fight and found to be bearing arms claimed to have been deputized by the company.

Justice Frank T. Lloyd of the State Supreme Court rushed to the assistance of the RCA Manufacturing Company by ordering the Camden County grand jury to investigate the resort to violence. "We should soon have anarchy in a community," said the RCA judge, "if the right of persons to safety and the right of property to protection were not given."

The strike is being conducted by Local 103, United Electrical and Radio Workers of America.

Iron & Steel Institute Declares War on Unionism

WORDS and DEEDS

"There are many disturbing indications that the promoters of the campaign will employ coercion and intimidation of the employees in the industry and foment strikes.

* * *

"The steel industry will use its resources to the best of its ability to protect its employees and their families from intimidation, coercion and violence and to aid them in maintaining collective bargaining free from interference from any source."

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE
(from a full page advertisement printed in 375 daily papers thruout the nation.)

"But Mr. Weir was not alone in his determination to crush the threatened steel strike by gunfire. Published accounts show that among manufacturers supplied with ammunition, including tear gas, bombs, guns, bullets, and machine guns in May and June, 1934, were Carnegie Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh Steel Co., Jones & Laughlin, Illinois Steel Co., Republic Steel Corporation, and others, with total orders connected with the threatened strike amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars." WILLIAM GREEN, Pres. A. F. of L. (before a Senate Subcommittee on Interference With Rights of Labor. April 14, 1936.)

ILGWU TO CALL MOONEY MEETS

New York Unionists To Demonstrate For Tom Mooney and Billings

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union is planning to have Mooney and Billings mass meetings in many parts of the country on Sunday July 26 and Monday July 27, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the imprisonment of the two California labor martyrs.

In a letter addressed by President Dubinsky to all locals and Joint Boards of the International, they were instructed to get in touch with other trade unions in their localities to organize such protest meetings and demonstrations. In New York City such plans for a demonstration are under way now.

Such protest meetings the letter points out, are particularly important now because the Mooney-Billings case is reaching a climax as the appeal of the defense lawyers is soon to go back to the United States Supreme Court for final examination and decision.

The following are excerpts of President Dubinsky's letter sent out on behalf of the General Executive Board:

"On July 20, twenty years will have expired since Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings have been imprisoned in a California jail upon a dastardly frame-up concocted way back in 1916 by fiendish enemies of labor in an attempt to smash the labor movement of San Francisco and on the Pacific Coast.

"Since then the fight for the liberation of Mooney and Billings has become the concern and the cause of the entire organized labor movement in America. For twenty years this unbroken struggle to liberate Mooney and Billings from the Dungeon into which they had been sent by a prejudiced judge upon prejudiced evidence, a struggle during which the prisoners themselves have displayed indomitable courage, a marvelous will and determination to vindicate themselves and the labor movement, has thrilled the hearts and minds of every member of the great working class family in our

11,000,000 Unemployed Says A.F.L. Survey

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor estimates that unemployment in the United States now stands at 11,259,000. The New York Sun (Republican) making an independent study insists that, excluding agriculture, domestic and personal service, professional service, public service or fishing, the number of unemployed is now 3,500,000.

Secretary of Labor Perkins said the truth lies between the two figures and maintained that there is no exact or reliable method of estimating the number of unemployed.

BLUM EXPECTS NEW OFFENSIVE

No sooner did the strike wave begin to subside than the Nationalists, headed by the recently dissolved Croix de Feu, began to keep France in a state of great nervous tension. Demonstrations of thousands of the fascists take place daily, clashes between them and the police are frequent. In the course of huge fascist demonstrations fighting broke out in several cities during the week end with many deaths resulting.

It was clear from the beginning that the employers were giving ground in the first days of the tidal strike wave only because of the great fear of the aroused masses. That they would seek the first chance to strike back was self-evident. It appears now that the employers will utilize the fascist offensive to begin their own counter-attack against the workers. Minister of Interior Salengro made it known that he has information that the employers have accumulated a huge "war chest" to be used against the trade unions and the People's Front Government. He said the government was prepared to meet this offensive.

country and in every civilized country in the world."

The letter closes with a renewed pledge of help and cooperation.

S. P. OLD GUARD IN NEW MOVE

Organize Peoples Party As Step To Merger With Labor Party

The Old Guard of the Socialist Party of New York, ousted at the last Cleveland Convention, has now taken steps to place itself as an independent force in the coming parliamentary fighting. Meeting in New York the Social Democratic Federation organized itself as the Peoples Party. However, even this decision did not come unanimously for there was a strong tendency for merging into the Labor Non-Partisan League for Roosevelt.

The attitude to Roosevelt plagued the delegates. Altho those who opposed the endorsement of Roosevelt won out the victory is a hollow one. According to the decisions of the conference the People's Party stands ready to merge itself into a state Labor Party planned by the New York state supporters of the Labor Non-Partisan League. The admitted purpose of such a state party is to corral the maximum number of labor votes in support of Roosevelt for President and Lehman for Governor. The convention elected a delegation consisting of Waldman, Lee, Claessens, Gerber, Hendin, Levy, Goldberg, Cassidy and Karlin to open negotiations with Luigi Antonini the state head of the Labor Non-Partisan League, for the admission of the Old Guard.

From the debates on this question it became quite clear that the Peoples Party is a temporary makeshift to ease the passage of the Old Guard into a Labor Party in which they will feel much more at home than in any organization labeled socialist. In answer to his critics who claimed that Waldman was anxious to ditch the new organization, Waldman declared: "If Socialists must make a choice between going with the trade union movement or staying with a little sterile group, we will go with the trade union movement." Answering the charge that he was delivering the Socialists to the Democrats, Waldman declared "there is very little to deliver"

Strike Breakers, Arms And Munitions Ready Against Workers

The American Iron and Steel Institute has declared war upon the trade union movement and particularly upon the Committee for Industrial Organization which not only talked of organizing the steel workers, as the A. F. of L. Council had done so many times, but actually went out and began the job. In a full-page advertisement printed in 375 daily papers thruout the country the steel industry made it known that it "will oppose any attempt to compel its employees to join a union." However, the statement declares that the "Steel Industry believes in the principles of collective bargaining, and it is in effect thruout the Industry."

The latter remark is quite misleading, for what the Industry has in mind is the instrument of collective bargaining which it has itself created for that purpose—the company union. These are organizations created in the image of the steel trust, dominated by it thru handpicked leadership, boss influence, company espionage, the threat of the blacklist, and numerous other devious methods which its well paid staffs of personnel managers and industrial relations engineers have been able to perfect.

The degree of subservience of these company unions to the will of the masters of the industry can be fully grasped by the very figures released "from the office of the American Iron and Steel Institute." These relate to a secret ballot covering 275,000 employees in 30 steel plants who allegedly voted overwhelmingly for the candidates of the company unions to the extent of some 254,000, thus, according to the Industry, proving conclusively that they are opposed to "outside unions"—meaning legitimate, free unions. The Steel Institute is proud of its showing: 85% of all the votes in 1934, 90% in 1935 and 92% in 1936. We fail to see the reason for their pride. With similar electioneering methods Hitler secured 99% of the German electorate.

A Case of Nerves

But these figures create a false picture of security and none knows that better than the Steel Industry. The Industry knows well that the last year has seen any number of revolts in the ranks of the company unions resulting, because of the objectionable organization forms of the A. F. of L., in the creation of independent groups. It is because the steel barons are nervous and unsure of the outcome that they attempted to take the wind from the sails of the C.I.O. first by the announcement, some months ago, of holiday arrangements for many workers, and more recently of pay increases. In order to strengthen the company unions as a competing agency against the legitimate unions, these concessions to the workers are being credited to the account of the company unions.

Additional evidence in this direction are the frantic warnings against unionism by such giant subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation as the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation. Benjamin T. Fairless (an appropriate name for a steel company pres-

(Continued on Page 4)

MOON-LITE DANCE

Hotel Delano Roof Gardens
(108 West 43rd Street)

Friday Evening, July 10, 1936

AUSPICES: SUMMER LABOR INSTITUTE OF THE NEW WORKERS SCHOOL

C.P. CONVENTION JAMBOREE

(Continued from Page 3)

thousands of sympathizers yelled, guided, of course, by the rising and descending magical arms of Permanent Chairman Weinstone. In all the years of my contact with politicians of all parties, I have never witnessed anything so revolting to good taste.

A Major Tragedy

I left the Garden in a depressed mood. I had seen the Communist Party complete the circle in its evolution as the 1936 counterpart of the Populist Party. I had seen it succumb to every cheap trick of the American patrioteers, and then add some of its own. My one comforting thought was that many Communists and Communist-sympathizers have been appalled at the recent turn of events on the left. William Z. Foster, the Communist chairman, and one of the very few truly able men of integrity in the party, is probably among them. He sat on the platform in Madison Square Garden in his shirt sleeves—a pleasing contrast to the rapidly-got-up Sunday dress of Browder, Ford, Minor and the other jitney Lenins. He looked sad and lonely and obviously repelled by the cheapness and trickery of what was going on before him. Clarence Hathaway, to a lesser degree, seemed to be having the same grave doubts.

And well they might doubt. Fascism and reformism are about to overwhelm us all. In a sense we seem to be entering into another Middle Ages. One had hoped that in the ensuing darkness there would be at least one glorious minority, which would act as a beacon to men of political character, perspicacity, and courage. To tens of thousands the Communist Party for a while seemed to be such a beacon. Many of them are now disillusioned, and as time

goes on thousands more will join their ranks. The cheap-jack leadership of Browder and his one-legged lieutenants has defrauded American Communism of nearly every shred of its pristine magnificence. It is a major tragedy. Radicals of integrity have cause to weep.

PROGRESSIVE PAINTERS WIN

Once again the progressive forces among the New York and Brooklyn painters were victorious in the recent elections in which Sam Freeman was reelected as Secretary of District Council 18 and L. Weinstock was reelected to the same post in District Council 9.

In the New York poll the opposition to Weinstock was rather weak securing a measly 700 votes as against 3700 for the progressive candidate. In the Brooklyn elections, however, the gangster and racketeer elements, defeated in a previous elections, made desperate attempts to stage a comeback. They resorted to intimidation and trickery but to no avail. They were defeated, the racketeer candidates receiving 447 votes as against 541 for Sam Freeman.

Plan Union Drive

Immediately following the installation of the Brooklyn District Council, the union, according to Secretary Freeman, will be thrown into an energetic organization drive for the enforcement of the \$9 scale for the 7 hour day and for the organization of the open shops. Freeman was of the opinion that the union would have to overcome serious obstacles in the form of the underworld forces who returned to power in several locals thru shady methods.

The chief aim of the organization, said Freeman, is to prepare for a showdown in August when the agreements with the bosses expire.

STEEL INSTITUTE WARS ON UNIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

ident) warned the workers against being stampeded into joining the union. At the same time Earl Reed, counsel to the National Steel Company and a leading light in the Liberty League tried to scare the steel workers away from organization because, said he, it "may lead to a general strike of labor unions" and, as a horrible example, he pointed to England which "learned its lesson in its general strike."

M Day In Steel

These of course are attempts to create public hysteria and violent anti-union sentiment. But even at this early date sections of the steel industry have passed over to the use of force against the union organization drive. In Portsmouth, Ohio, armed thugs of the Wheeling Steel Company attacked the strikers; In Halliday's Cove, a suburb of Weirton, W. Va., Claude Kramer, organizer for the C.I.O. was kidnapped by 8 steel company strong-arm men and hustled out of town. The Mayor of the town, a messenger boy for the steel company, was involved in this act; Near Birmingham, Ala., gunplay has been resorted to since the beginning of the strike in the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company.

The sanctimonious promise "to protect its employees and their families from intimidation, coercion and violence" is in reality an arrogant advance notice that the steel barons intend to resort to "intimidation, coercion, and violence" against the steel workers who dare rise up and strike a blow for their liberation from their overlords in the industry. Not for north-

ing are private armies being mustered and armed for the steel industry by the strike-breaking agencies of this country; not for nothing have these steel companies been investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in providing themselves with tear gas and bombs, rifles and machine guns.

Help Is Needed

On July 4 the presidents of the various steel companies may make speeches about the common interests of capital and labor but when it comes to organization drives and strikes they know what to do for they are well advised. The Federal Laboratories thus advises its salesmen: "Be sure to advise each customer that when they use gas to use plenty of it. We have found from experience that if the police try to disperse a mob with too little gas their efforts will not be successful. To toss a couple of grenades and gas shells into a fighting mob could not be expected to control it. You have to give them gas and plenty of it."

These are the conditions that 500,000 steel workers will meet in the course of their struggle for organization. It will take the help of every local union and every trade unionist to bring victory in the steel industry.

G.F.M.

Send me more information about the C.P.O.

Name

Address

City State

EUROPE TODAY

(Continued from Page 2)

The French bourgeoisie and the Blum government are emitting a sigh of relief. The strike movement is approaching its close. The faith of the workers in their own strength has been greatly increased. The trade unions now number 2,600,000* compared with 500,000 before the strike. The prestige of the unions and of the working class has grown tremendously in comparison with that of the workers' parties. *The latter influenced the railroad workers and officials not to enter the strike.* As a result, these workers did not achieve satisfactory conditions. The statements of the representatives of the Blum government can be summarized by one slogan: Once—but never again!

The Communist Party has done its own share of attempting to terminate the strikes. Thus, Thorez made a statement in which he explained that the working class must know how to bring strikes to a close. Instead of issuing directives for the next steps in extra-parliamentary activity, the C.P. has issued warning after warning asking the workers not to isolate themselves from the petty bourgeois masses and to confine their actions strictly within the framework of the People's Front.

No action against the fascists has been taken. On the contrary, Salengro, Minister of the Interior, has suppressed the paper of the Trotskyites. This action evoked but feeble protests from the C.P. The bourgeoisie has already started its counter-attack by raising the price of foodstuffs, by establishing company unions and by increasing its efforts to devalue the franc.

Effects In Germany

There are various indications that the mighty strike wave in France and its significant results have had a tremendous influence on the German working class. Consequently, the Nazis are trying to kill the issue by ignoring it completely. It is understood that, in view of the conditions in Nazi Germany, the working class of Germany cannot be expected to rise in a similar manner. The impetus to some action, however, is there and will break out sooner or later.

Japan vs. China

The action of the Canton govern-

* Latest reports indicate a membership well over three million.

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"WHERE KNITGOODS WORKERS MEET"

Books of the Age

CREATIVE AMERICA, by Mary Van Kleeck. New York, Covici, Friede. 353 pages. \$3.00.

This book approximates the dimensions of a monstrosity. It is a stream-lined edition of the ideology of the People's Front combined with strangely confused imitations of Veblenism and Marxism. The author portrays the past, present and future through the distorted approach of the People's Front. In place of the class approach of Marx or even of the business-vs.-industry point of view of Veblen, Miss Van Kleeck speaks of the eternal fight between the forces of creation and the forces of destruction. Apparently she considers this the most tactful way of reaching the middle class and the conservative workers. Her method is to sugar-coat Marxism. The result, of course, is neither Marxism nor a comprehensible philosophy of progressivism. The book turns out to be a poor attempt to compete with fascist terminology while struggling, at the same time, to adhere to some form of Socialism or Communism.

ment demanding that the Nanking government declare war on Japan indicates not so much the willingness of the Canton government to conduct a war against Japan but rather the fact that it is trying "to save the face" of China in view of the growing anti-Japanese mood of the masses. The Canton government declared thru its minister of foreign affairs that it would not engage in a civil war against the Nanking regime, against Chiang-Kai-shek. The defeat of Chiang-Kai-shek and his clique, however, must be the prerequisite for a war against Japan. This statement proves that the demands of the Canton government are nothing but a gesture. Nevertheless, this gesture indicates the rapidly growing, intense anti-Japanese feeling of the masses in China.

London, June 10, 1936.

"THRU LIBERTY TO SOCIALISM"

"The New Masses" of July 7, 1936 features over half its front cover an article by Joseph Freeman entitled: "Thru Liberty to Socialism—Ninth Convention of the Communist Party". A little taken aback, we turn to the article itself and read:

"As Browder ended his keynote address with the slogans: Thru liberty to socialism . . . the delegates and visitors rose . . ." (Our emphasis).

What is the meaning of this new catch-phrase? Is it but a modified version of the old and discredited reformistic slogan: Thru democracy to socialism? If it is, we can but answer to the opportunists of the old and new school alike: Not "thru liberty (democracy) to socialism" but "thru socialism to liberty (democracy)"!

The present work does not leave one in doubt as to Miss Van Kleeck's belief in Socialism. She is obviously disgusted with capitalist economy, and has done an excellent piece of research on the coal industry and on the whole question of industrial planning. Her chapters on "Big Business Plans America" and "Production Shackled for Debt"—show that. Other chapters of the book repeat the familiar cliches of capitalist economy by radical critics; but the part of the book which she dedicates to a discussion of social work, politics and subjects related to the problem of democracy and class action are unbelievably bad. These pages are filled with nationalist bias; they betray a complete lack of understanding of American history and show no grasp whatever of the true nature of democracy.

To those who have followed the work of Mary Van Kleeck, this book must be a keen disappointment.

—Economist

Moon-Lite Dance

at the

HOTEL DELANO Roof Gardens

108 West 43rd St., New York

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at 8 P. M.

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