

# The Renegade Cliques at the Unemployment Conference

By I. AMTER

National Secretary of the Unemployed Councils

The conference last Saturday called by the Provisional United Front Committee to mobilize against the recent attacks of the city administration on the workers had some interesting and important sidelights.

### 3 United as 1

Representatives of three opponent unemployed organizations were there. They were: the Workers Committee on Unemployment (led by Thomas and the so-called militants); Workers Unemployed League (the official Socialist Party) and the Association of the Unemployed (led by Lovestonites—renegades of the Communist Party). They proposed a united front under Socialist leadership and control.

They proposed that there be a **definite separation of the struggle of the unemployed and employed workers**, that unions and fraternal organizations be not allowed to carry their own banners, and that political parties be banned.

These three gentlemen spoke one language—in this they were **united**.

They forgot one thing though they pretend they are against workers' political parties participating, the main spokesman of their delegation to go to City Hall, is not one who is connected with the unemployed movement, but one whom all three groups

consider their political spokesman: Norman Thomas.

### So They Are Building Socialism

#### In the Soviet Union!

In the resolution committee of the conference was one Trotzkyite. A resolution was introduced calling for recognition of and long term credits to the Soviet Union. The resolution committee added "where they are building Socialism and have already abolished unemployment." The young Trotzkyite objected to this, stating that he is opposed to the idea that Socialism can be built in one country, and that he would vote against it. However, after consulting his caucus in the conference, he returned and stated that he would vote for it! The resolution was adopted unanimously.

#### Weisbord Was Also There

How could it be avoided! To prove that he is "still earnest" about the class struggle, he proposed a general strike. No, the conference did not go into a paroxysm of enthusiasm. It listened to him and then he departed.

A few Trotzkyites supported the Trotzkyite proposal for a "six hour day, five day week, with no reduction in pay"—just like the proposal of Green and Francis Perkins. But the rank and file in the conference properly exposed it as coming from people who have nothing to do with the labor movement, and who wish

to be very "revolutionary."

The conference was unanimous for the resolution of support to the workers in the shops in the struggle for the shorter work-week with no reduction in weekly or monthly pay; support to gain wage increases.

#### United Front Below?

Impossible!

And finally in good Leon Trotzky style, the Trotzkyites declared that "the united front locally cannot be built. We must explore the whole national field and find out where we can build it nationally."

The resolution committee recommended that "the Unemployed Councils, together with representatives of the other unemployed organizations, should take energetic steps, on the basis of the decisions of the convention that formed the National Federation of Unemployed Organizations, to build local federations on the basis of representatives from the basic units of all unemployed organizations in proportion to their organizational strength."

This is impossible, in the mind of the Trotzkyites—you must get permission from above—you must form the united front first at the top!

#### Confidence Only

#### In Themselves

In the elections that took place, the Trotzkyites and Weisbordites—eight strong—voted for nobody but themselves. As usual, they were ready with nominations of their group. Why not? If they have no organization—at least they can make noise. When members of the A. F. of L. were nominated, all their hands remained down. When Weisbord was to be voted on—the united caucus voted—yes, sir, eight strong.