

tion and propaganda, we have almost 1,000 members. There are 400,000 office workers in Greater New York, out of which 200,000 are women and girls. Their conditions are awful, long hours, at \$16 to \$18 per week and under the present cost of high living how can they exist and maintain American standards of living? We want to organize these people. Education is what they need. We have the backing of the American Federation of Labor and I hope also to receive the backing of this great International Union. You have 100 per cent union offices in Greater New York. If you will just cooperate with us in organizing those workers employed in the various offices you control, you will certainly perform a service to them, to us and to the movement in general.

Our object is not only to benefit the office workers but the whole American labor movement.

I hope that when your convention adjourns, it will have done great work for yourself and for the movement and I also hope that you will cooperate with us in organizing these poor office workers. I thank you for your attention. (Applause.)

At this point Vice-President Lefkovits temporarily took the chair.

Chairman Lefkovits: We have with us this morning a representative of an organization which is worthy of our support and I now take pleasure in introducing and extending the privilege of the floor to Dr. I. H. Levine, representing the Ex-Patients Tubercular Home of Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Levine, in addressing the convention, outlined the favorable conditions prevailing at the Ex-Patients Tubercular Home, organized to fight tuberculosis, pointing out that the institution was purely non-sectarian. But, he stated that in order to further carry on their work and to erect the new hospitals that are necessary, they need additional funds and he made an appeal to the Convention to do what it could for the unfortunates who are being cared for by the institution.

Chairman Lefkovits: The next speaker to address you is the representative of the Philadelphia Labor Institute. I take pleasure in introducing Brother S. Altman.

Brother Altman, after extending fraternal greetings to the Convention,

stated that he had only one purpose in coming here, saying, "I want to remind you of the pledge that you made in 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio, to us in the sum of \$5,000. We haven't needed it until now. We have bought a grand building that we are going to rebuild and make it a home for all the workers of Philadelphia, and all I am here for is to have you vote on a resolution to pay your pledge of 1922; and in return I promise you a grand reception when you come to Philadelphia in 1926."

Chairman Lefkovits: The Jewish Socialist Verband of Boston wishes to congratulate this Convention on this anniversary, and I have the pleasure to introduce its representative, Mr. Regensberg.

Brother Regensberg expressed great pleasure in having the honor to address the Convention, and congratulated the International on its achievements. He pointed out the aims and purposes of the Jewish Socialist Verband, stating, "It is organized for the spreading of the gospel of Socialism, for the purpose of uplifting the cause of labor. We are not here to tell you how to conduct yourselves or to outline your policies or programs, but we are here to tell you that your sorrows are our sorrows and that we deeply sympathize with you in all your struggles, and I hope that when your Convention adjourns you will bear us in mind and not forget us. I thank you."

At this point Vice-President Perlstein temporarily took the chair.

Vice-President Perlstein: The Credentials Committee will continue its report.

Chairman Breslaw of the Credentials Committee:

Your Committee received an objection against Rose Wortis, delegate of Local No. 25, from Vice-President Feinberg. He stated that Sister Wortis refused to comply with the decision of the General Executive Board, which became the law of the Union immediately after its acceptance, unless reversed by a Convention.

Sister Rose Wortis admitted, at the investigation, that she continued her membership in the Trade Union Educational League, thereby ignoring the instructions of our Union. She also claimed

having resigned from the League only two months ago, when she decided that it would be necessary to do so to be eligible as a delegate at this Convention.

Your Committee is of the opinion that since Sister Rose Wortis admitted that she has continued membership for several months after the ruling of the General Executive Board was issued, she is therefore ineligible as a delegate at this Convention, and we unanimously recommend that she should not be seated.

I move that the recommendation be adopted.

This motion was seconded.

Sister Wortis denied that she had resigned from the League in order to become eligible as a delegate to the convention. She cited her long record in the Union to prove her loyalty to it. She denied that the League was a dual organization and proceeded to give a lengthy explanation of the purposes of the League.

Delegate Heller: Point of order. We are not now discussing as to whether the League is a dual organization or not. The facts are that the General Executive Board has declared it to be a dual organization and the sister is charged with not carrying out the orders of the General Executive Board.

Vice-President Perlstein: Your point of order is well taken.

Delegate Sister Pauline Morgenstern appealed against the decision of the chair on the ground that the League had been discussed yesterday by those delegates who were opposed to the League and there had been no objection to the discussion and the same privilege should be granted to the proponents of the League.

Vice-President Perlstein in defending his rulings stated that later when the question of the League would be taken up would be the proper time to discuss that matter, that the question before the delegates was of a member who claimed to have withdrawn from the League two months previous and was now a delegate to the Convention, that the Credentials Committee claimed that her withdrawal was not proper and that she is not entitled to be seated as a delegate. He maintained that instead of discussing the purposes of the League it was up to Sister Wortis to explain whether or not she had withdrawn from the League.

Upon being put to a vote the decision of the chair was sustained.

Delegate Sister Sarah Shapiro spoke in defense of Sister Wortis. She claimed that both the advocates and the opponents of the League were to blame for instilling a spirit of disharmony and discord at the Convention. She cited the record of Union activity of Sister Wortis as an indication of her loyalty to the organization. She claimed that no charges had ever been brought against Sister Wortis and that she had never been tried. She said in part: "Our old slogan was the abolition of the present system. Our slogan never was a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. Because members have different opinions is no reason why we should take away their rights. You would be committing a crime against yourselves and against the International if you bar this sister. I think we are going too far."

Delegate Heller: Point of order. I think that the time of the Convention is very valuable. It was all right when you went into the various phases of the case yesterday. Now on the very same charge I think the discussion is out of order.

Delegate Sister Shapiro thereupon sat down without awaiting the ruling of the chair.

Delegate Sister Morgenstern spoke in behalf of Sister Wortis, maintaining that she was one of the most loyal and valuable members of the International. She maintained that at a time like this, when a strike was pending and when members of the calibre of Sister Wortis were invaluable it would be a crime to deny her the privilege of a seat at the Convention.

Delegate Sister Horowitz maintained that Sister Wortis had never been asked to withdraw from the League. She stated that difference of opinion was the life of organization and that it would be unjust to prevent Sister Wortis from becoming a delegate merely because she happened to differ in her opinions from some of the delegates.

Delegate Heller was next granted the privilege of the floor. He vigorously urged that the recommendation of the Credentials Committee with reference to Sister Wortis be upheld, stating, "I have no personal animosity against that sister. But regardless of any personal feeling involved and regardless of Sister Wortis' record, it is a plain case to be considered

by this Convention. An order was issued by the General Executive Board that no member should continue membership in the Trade Union Educational League and any delegate who desires to criticize the action of the Executive Board will have that opportunity at the proper time, but until then the General Executive Board is the legally constituted body of governors of this International, and until they are deposed every member will have to abide by their decision. No member can claim that he or she was not properly notified about the order of the Executive Board as to maintaining membership in the League, for that order was printed in newspapers that were within the reach of and available to every member of our Union, and consequently everyone must have been notified. Sister Wortis defied that order of the General Executive Board by continuing her membership in the League, and any member who thinks that allegiance to the Trade Union Educational League comes before allegiance to our International I say, without any personal animosity toward Sister Wortis, that she is not entitled to be seated at this Convention. (Applause.)

A motion, to have the previous question taken up, was duly made, seconded and carried:

Chairman Perlstein: The Chairman of the Credentials Committee has the floor.

At this point such a general commotion took place on the floor that President Sigman was obliged to resume the chair and admonish the delegates as follows:

President Sigman: Please keep quiet for a moment. Yesterday information was brought to me that some of the delegates seated here together with some visitors had a meeting, at which they agreed that during the course of this Convention they would make an effort to break up one or more sessions, if possible, in the hope that in this manner they might bring disgrace upon this great gathering of ours. I did not take this information very seriously, but from your present behavior it seems that there is some truth in that. I want to tell you frankly and openly that we will not give you the opportunity to do it. And I hope that we will not be obliged to resort to force to bring order at this Convention. But if the visitors continue to interfere in the manner as they have we will be compelled, against our wishes, to order

executive sessions held. I, therefore, give you fair warning that any recurrence of such a commotion will mean that we will hold you to account, and if there is any disgrace to be brought it will be on those who have not the best interests of the International at heart. We are trying to go out of our way to be fair, and in yesterday's discussions there were several occasions when I really ought to have acted and called some of the speakers to order. I did not do it, because at all our Conventions and throughout our entire organization we want democracy to prevail; but if you misuse or abuse the privileges granted to you we will be compelled to proceed with the convention observing the strictest rules and regulations.

Delegate Breslaw: Sister Wortis denied that she had resigned from the League in order to be eligible to become a delegate to the Convention. I want to prove that her statement is untrue and will call upon the members of the Credentials Committee to prove it. Sister Gorin, didn't Sister Wortis state before the Credentials Committee that she especially resigned from the League two months ago in order to be eligible as a delegate to this Convention?

Sister Gorin: Yes, she did.

Delegate Breslaw asked the same question of the Delegates Scher, Margolis, Schneider and Molissani, the other members of the Credentials Committee, and they all responded in the affirmative.

Delegate Breslaw: I have here a typewritten report of the questions asked by the Credentials Committee and the answers of Rose Wortis. On May 2d we received the following letter from Israel Feinberg:

May 2nd, 1934.

J. Breslaw, Chairman  
Credentials Committee.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I hereby wish to file an objection against Rose Wortis, a delegate of Local No. 28, on the following grounds.

At the time when the General Executive Board issued an order that no member of the International has a right to belong to any other organization which takes up, discusses and disposes of trade questions which belong to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; the above-named delegate refused to comply with that order.

The Local was then notified to expel Miss Rose Wortis from the Executive Board. She then withdrew from the Executive Board, but still remained a member of the so-called Trade Union Educational League.



I therefore feel that this delegate is not entitled to a seat at the Convention.

I hope that you will take this matter up and act accordingly,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) ISRAEL FEINBERG,  
General Manager.

I will quote from the stenographic report. The stenographer is here and she will testify herself if necessary.

"Breslaw: We received the following objection against you." (Brother Feinberg's letter was thereupon read to us.)

"Wortis: I think that the charges are incorrect. The Local never expelled me. I was working on dresses and the Local decided that I should be transferred to Local 22. But I was never expelled and I never withdrew from the Executive Board. Sheinholtz, Manager of Local 22, however, refused to accept my transfer. In the meantime I remained a member of Local 25.

"Breslaw: Did you comply with the order of the International?

"Wortis: "I was a member of the League. I withdrew from the League about two months ago because I wanted to be eligible as a delegate to this Convention:

"Miss Gorin: If not for this Convention, you would still continue your membership in the League. You want to go to the Convention, so you therefore resigned. Do you believe that such a League is proper?

"Wortis: I still believe that the Trade Union Educational League is not a dual union. I do not think that the decision of the General Executive Board was for the best interest of our industry."

That is her answer. The General Executive Board issued an order which is law unless this Convention nullifies it and she refused to obey that order. She especially resigned from the League in order to become a delegate to this Convention. If that pleases you it is your privilege to seat her but I am against this.

Sister Wortis: In answer to Sister Gorin and Brother Breslaw I stated that I realized that by continuing my membership in the League I could not be active in the Union. I said that since the Convention is coming and the Convention would finally decide the matter, I

thought that I ought to resign from the League. Brother Breslaw said in answer that the order was not only made against active members but against everybody. I realized that I could not be active in the Union in view of the order and I withdrew from the League. I believe this Convention should have all opinions represented. You have done me a great injustice. I have never besmirched the members of the Executive Board or the officers. I deny that the Trade Union Educational League is a dual organization. Your refusal to let me explain its purposes proves that you are afraid to hear the truth. Your refusal means that you are afraid of our arguments, and it means that your objection is not well founded.

Vice-President Perlstein: All in favor that the report of the Credentials Committee be accepted will signify it by raising their hand. Upon the vote being counted it was shown that 185 were for the report of the committee and 40 against.

Vice-President Perlstein: The report of the Committee is accepted.

At this point President Sigman resumed the chair, and Brother Breslaw continued with the report of the Credentials Committee as follows:

The Credentials Committee received an objection against Sister Pinhasick, of Local No. 59, from Brother H. Ruffer, member and delegate of the same local.

The objector stated that she was removed from the ballot when a candidate for the Executive Board, due to her sympathy towards the destructive elements in the Union.

Since it has been proven that she personally never belonged to the "leagues" and that at present she is demonstrating her loyalty through her activities in the Union, your Committee therefore unanimously recommends that she should be seated as a delegate at this Convention.

I move that the recommendation of the Committee be accepted.

This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Delegate Breslaw continued with his report as follows:

Your Committee received an objection against Delegate Metrick of Local No. 5