

FIGHTING NEEDLE WORKERS

SUPPORT THE RED ELECTION

PROGRAM AND CANDIDATES

By ROSE WORTIS

The needle trades workers will support the party of their class in the coming elections. The election campaign in 1931 is bound up with living issues involving the life and interests of the working-class as never before. As part of the advanced section of the working-class of this country the needle trades workers are showing a live interest in the present election campaign.

The direct experiences of the needle trades workers in the struggle during recent years has convinced even the most backward workers that in the present phase of the class struggle it is impossible for any workers to carry on a pure economic struggle. The mass arrests, the persecution of strike pickets, the attempt to convert the so-called drive against racketeering into a drive against militant workers, shows clearly to the workers that the state machinery is used by the bosses as a very effective weapon in the struggle against the workers.

Perhaps in the needle trades this has been more glaringly demonstrated than in many another industry. In the fake strike of the cloakmakers in 1929 conducted under the leadership of the Schlessinger company union, Mayor Walker, Governor Roosevelt and other Tammany politicians have played an important role in selling out the conditions of the workers. The cloakmakers who today are compelled to work under much lower standards, piece work, speed up, long hours for miserable wages, are learning to understand that this sellout was engineered and carried through by the holy trinity of the bosses, the yellow socialist Schlessinger gang, and Tammany Hall.

Similar were the experiences of the men's clothing workers in the recent fake stoppage in which the wage-cut agreement received the holy blessing of Tammany Mayor Walker, the Forward, and all other enemies of the workers. The tailors know that as a result of this agreement their wages today are lower than they were before the fake stoppage and in addition they are compelled to pay a 5 per cent weekly assessment to pay for the price of this sellout and to fill the pockets of the underworld which is supported and maintained with the help of the yellow Socialist Party.

The new offensive started by the needle trades workers through a united front of all the workers in the fur trade now spreading out to the dress, millinery, cloak and other branches of the needle industry, is

recognized by the workers as a struggle not only against the bosses but against the united front of all the enemies—the bosses, the yellow socialist agent in the ranks of the company unions and their Tammany and Republican politicians.

In this new offensive which has already brought concrete improvements in the conditions of the fur workers as well as in some of the other branches of the trade, the workers have seen that only the Communist Party, through its membership, its press and the revolutionary organization has enthusiastically supported their struggle.

The concrete facts of life have broken down the poisonous propaganda spread by the Forward and the yellow socialists against the Communist Party. The revolt of the needle trades workers against the bosses and the company union agents must and will find expression on the political field through support of the Communist Party, which today is the only political party in this country that is backing the struggle of the needle workers against wage-cuts and leading the struggle of the unemployed workers for unemployment insurance from the bosses and their government.

The outright betrayal of the MacDonald government of the workers has also served to turn the needle trades workers who for many years have supported the socialists, away from the Socialist Party.

The present election campaign finds the needle trades workers not only fighting in their shops for better conditions, under the leadership of the United Front and the Industrial Union, but finds them carrying on an active part in the election campaign. The huge mass demonstrations held this week in the fur and cloak and dress markets, the enthusiasm with which the candidates of the Communist Party are greeted by these workers, the eagerness with which the needle trades workers are reading the platform of the Communist Party, are indications of the fact that in this coming election the needle trades workers, just as all other militant workers, will line up in support of the Communist Party ticket, recognizing the Communist Party as the outstanding leader and champion of the workers' interests.

One way to help the Soviet Union is to spread among the workers "Soviet 'Forced Labor,'" by Max Bedacht, 10 cents per copy.