

Woll Clique Rewards Dubinsky

By ROSE WORTIS

LAST week the New York press announced with much fanfare that David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, who as the Times puts it heads "one of the most progressive and democratic unions" of the country, was elevated to the Executive Council of the AFL. (Of course, the Times failed to state that members of Dubinsky's own local were removed as candidates for office in the last election because they dared to express disagreement with Dubinsky's policies. Seven of them were later suspended for a period of three to five years for the same crime and have now brought suit against Dubinsky).

At the 1936 AFL convention Dubinsky, in a spurt of progressivism, jumped on the band wagon associating himself with the industrial union forces. When he later deserted the CIO to return to the AFL (of course, without consulting the membership) he loudly proclaimed that he was going back to fight against racketeers and for progressive reforms in the AFL. To cover up his desertion of the militant labor movement and to mislead his own membership, he introduced the anti-racketeer resolution in the 1940 AFL Convention. But this crusading spirit of Dubinsky was short-lived. The Barroom fracas with Joe Fay, the notorious racketeer of the Operating Engineers, at that convention quickly convinced Dubinsky that it may be OK to play around with progressive phrases before the membership of the ILGWU but this stuff doesn't go over at an AFL convention.

NOW ONE OF THE BOYS

David was quick to learn his lesson. Since 1940 he has won the complete confidence of the most reactionary racketeering elements of the AFL. He has become the close collaborator of the Woll-Hutcheson clique, acting as their trigger man in the struggle against world labor unity, against the unity of the United Nations, as a witch-hunt agent against the progressive forces in the AFL and the chief center of intrigue against the CIO.

He bought this good will of the reactionaries at a price—contributing from ILG funds to finance the Matthew Woll Committee for Free Trade Unions.

After cringing at the feet of reactionaries for five years Dubinsky has finally been rewarded with the seat on the Executive Council. His elevation to this post was a very conscious and deliberate act on the part of the reactionary

clique in control of the Executive Council. Dubinsky's political fortunes have not been going so well of late. The drive to prevent the organization of a World Federation of Trade Unions fell through despite all the strings that Dubinsky pulled in the British Trade Union movement. The venture of the Liberal-Republican alliance around mayoralty candidate Jonah Goldstein in New York is not going too well. The Jewish progressive voters, including the membership of the ILGWU on whom Dubinsky counted so much, are not fooled by the demagogic appeals of Dubinsky and Dewey's candidate Goldstein. Their deeds speak louder than words.

It was Goldstein who bitterly denounced the striking longshoremen when they revolted against King Ryan. Instead of fighting racketeers, as Dubinsky had pledged, the ILGWU delegates of the Central Trades defended the Joe Ryan gang against the rank and file longshoremen. The house organ of Dubinsky, the Jewish Forward, denounced the proposals of Mayor LaGuardia for a democratic election in the ILA (so that the longshoremen could free themselves from the racketeers) as a demagogic trick.

DUBINSKY RESCUED

Dubinsky's prestige was falling, and needed bolstering. His pals, Hutcheson, Woll and Company came to his rescue. Until now Dubinsky had been working behind the curtain for the red-baiters and Soviet-baiters in the executive council. Now he has been given official approval. His special role as the Gestapo man of the AFL was well described in the Baltimore Sun a few months ago. William Green had written to AFL unions, warning them not to support the National Committee to Combat Anti-Semitism amongst whose sponsors are such men as Professor Millard Barush, Johannes Steel, Louis B.

Boudin, Albert A. Kahn, Dr. Emanuel Chapman, A. Clayton Powell and Vito Marcantonio. In the eyes of Mr. Green any committee fighting racial discrimination must be a Communist plot.

The letter as quoted in the Sun read:

"In the event you receive claims from such agencies or committees, I suggest that you communicate with the officers of the Jewish Labor Committee, 175 East Broadway, New York for information and advice."

He was telling them, in effect, to "clear it with David," for David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, is the key figure and treasurer of the Jewish Labor Committee.

"That committee recently withdrew from the American Jewish Conference when the conference admitted to membership the Jewish section of the International Workers Order, which the committee labeled Communist."

Since this letter was written, the chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee has become an employee of the ILGWU, operating directly from its national office as a collaborator of the notorious disrupter and Soviet-baiter, Jay Lovestone.

Not only are matters relating to domestic problems, but also of the international labor movement, anti-Soviet intrigues, disruption of progressive CIO and AFL unions, "cleared with David." Dubinsky's agents are now touring European countries in an effort to sow dissension in their labor movements. The latest of these emissaries is Charles Zimmerman, manager of the Dressmakers Local 22.

The members of the ILGWU will not celebrate the election of their president to his new post, but it will serve to expose him and his role more openly and to stimulate their struggle to free their union from his clutches.

— Worth Repeating —

SIDESTEPPING the issue, says The Nation (Oct. 20 issue) of the Johnson-May bill for control of the atom bomb. We will be only paying lip-service to world organization while holding in our hands this power over the nations. It goes on to say: The discussion of atomic power has come down to earth. It is centered in the Johnson-May bill, which intrusts to the care of a nine-man commission the absolute control of the development of nuclear energy and related research activities. Just now the bill is being pushed with indecent haste through Senate and House. In the House Military Affairs Committee the hearings lasted only one day. With the exception of top administrators, not one of the important scientists who worked on the development of the bomb was called to testify. The more firmly we insist upon unilateral control of the atomic bomb the more difficult it will be to persuade others that our faith in a world organization is genuine.