

World Socialism

TRADE UNION UNITY IN FRANCE

By HERBERT ZAM

After considerable preliminary work which successfully surmounted the difficulties of many years' standing, a united trade union movement has finally emerged in France.

Unity was achieved at the Unity Congress, held in Toulous March 2-5. Actually, this Congress only ratified the unity which had already been largely achieved through the amalgamation of the national and local unions. According to the rules of the old CGT (General Confederation of Labor), which were used for organizing the Congress, representation was from local organizations rather than from national unions which had only fraternal delegates. Thus rank and file expression and a certain proportional representation was assured. There were present 1,709 voting delegates representing 3,689 branches. They had a total of 7,926 votes. The main questions which confronted the Unity Congress were:

Structure: By a vote of 5,700 (2,627 branches) to 2,609 (1,112 branches) and 141 abstentions (51 branches) the old structure of the CGT, which is federalist, giving considerable autonomy to the local and national unions, was adopted and the Communist-controlled CGTU's proposal for a centralized organization was rejected.

Political Relations: There was no disagreement on the principle of the complete independence of the trade unions from all political parties. But there was a long and heated discussion over the application of this principle. The old CGT elements proposed that no functionary of the trade unions may be a member of the leading body of any political party or a member of parliament, and this was finally carried by a vote of 5,508 (2,569 branches) to 2,411 (1,031 branches) and 132 abstentions (41 branches).

International Relations: The former CGTU elements proposed that the united organization be affiliated with neither trade union international, but maintain relations with both for the purpose of bringing about trade union unity on a international scale. The CGT group favored affiliation to the International Federation of the Trade Unions (Amsterdam) and this point of view carried by 5,463 votes (2,566 branches) to 2,513 (1,051 branches) and 243 (82 branches) abstentions.

People's Front and Labor Plan: There was a long discussion over the question of the need of the trade union movement for a program of its own. The CGTU elements placed their main emphasis on the endorsement of the People's Front program and adherence to that body. The majority of the delegates felt, however, that this program was only a sort of election program, embodying only the minimum demands of the supporters of democracy and of the republic. It was therefore important in the fight against fascism and for democracy, but could not replace labor's own program. Therefore, while the Congress reaffirmed the adherence of the trade unions to the People's Front, it also adopted the Labor Plan, submitted by the former CGT group.

In this connection, the Congress unanimously (including the communists) voted to continue participation in such bodies as the League of Nations and the International Labor Office. It declared that such participation did not constitute class collaboration "if it takes place on the basis of co-operation and under the constant supervision of the Trade

Unions in the defence of the general interests of the workers against the privileges of high finance."

Executive Elected

The National Council which met immediately after the close of the Congress, elected the following Executive: Jouhaux, Belin, Bothereau, Bouyer, Buisson, Frachon and Bacamond. The latter two are from the old CGTU and the rest from the old CGT. Jouhaux was unanimously elected General Secretary.

Commenting on the Congress, representatives of both sides agreed that in spite of some serious differences and debates, the general atmosphere at the Congress was one of great friendliness and an evident desire to work for unity. The unification of the trade unions will undoubtedly prove a great stimulus to the development of further labor unity, nationally and internationally.

Labor Activities In British Guiana

The Annual Report of the British Guiana Labor Union, presented to a recent meeting of the Union by Hubert Critchlow, General Secretary, outlines the work of the organization during 1935, and reveals some of the difficulties that have been encountered.

The British Guiana Labor Union is an organization of colored workers in this South American colony. It carries on both industrial and political activities, and though it only possesses a few hundred members it contrives to hold aloft the banner of labor and to secure improvements for the workers. In the face of the most disheartening difficulties the organization has held together throughout the years of the crisis, and it has just celebrated its 17th anniversary.

Ban Revoked

During 1935 action was taken to bring the conditions of the workers in the colony to the notice of the Government. A deputa-tion from the Union interviewed the Colonial Secretary on behalf of the unemployed women, and the

question of the ban placed by the Government on labor demonstrations in August, 1933 was brought to the attention of the Legislative Council. This ban was shortly afterwards revoked.

When the new Governor arrived in the colony the opportunity was taken to call on him and to ask him to introduce or support further legislation, including a Minimum Wage Bill, an unemployment insurance scheme, an old age pension scheme, raising of the school-leaving age, universal suffrage and National Health Insurance. A Workmen's Compensation Act came into force on October 1st. The demands put forward at the usual May Day demonstration were forwarded to the Governor and were subsequently discussed at a Conference between representatives of the Government and of the Union.

The question of Ethiopia occupied a good deal of the attention of the Union, and various demonstrations were held during the year to protest against the action of Fascist Italy.

Plowed Under Tin Raises Food Cost

WASHINGTON—Liberty Leaguers have joined Roosevelt in plowing under surplus products in order to raise prices, and as a result, the price of canned foods has been jacked up for the consumer.

Fifteen steel companies, including Weirton, Bethlehem and Jones & Loughlin have been charged by the Federal Trade Commission with engaging in a conspiracy to raise the price of tin cans by destroying huge quantities of tin plate.

Because of the difficulty of controlling production on specific orders, these corporations always have a certain amount of "over-run" which is perfectly good tin plate, but which is not needed to fill that particular order. So as to be able to boost their contract prices, the tin plate producers are charged with making an agreement to destroy all "over-run" or sell it at a loss in foreign countries.

In some cases, the excess tin plate is deliberately cut into small pieces and sold as waste to junk dealers.

Several officials of these steel companies are on record against Roosevelt because his "crop destruction program violates the laws of God and man."

Don't Miss "I Break Strikes" in the SOCIALIST CALL

Subscribe Now



ART YOUNG'S LEAGUE for MUTUAL AID on its 16th Anniversary

"Mutual Aid is the only kind that's any use to you may need aid tomorrow—you never know when you'll be on!"—Art Young.

Sixteen years ago the League was founded bringing together radicals of all opinions, for mutual helpfulness. The League's aim is to assist those in need to a degree contributed to human progress. From a baker's dozen it has grown to 700, with members from Maine to California. Every radical, liberal, or progressive is a member. If you are not active, assist those who are! Stand in a united front!

"From Each According to His Ability" . . . "To Each According to His Needs"

- Send a check for \$1 or more and you are a member!
- Deposit any sum large or small in our Loan Fund. Your money will draw no interest, but it will do splendid work. Your loan is returnable on demand. (When banks are closed, no one has a dollar deposited in the Loan Fund.)
- We maintain a library of books and pamphlets without fee.
- We lend to members of the League all the tools and equipment we can get.
- Every member of the League is entitled to a free copy of the League's publication, "The Mutual Aid Review."
- The League is a non-profit organization.

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.

Check for \$1.00 or more and you are a member!

For further information, write to: Art Young, Mutual Aid League, 100 West 11th Street, New York, N.Y.