

SEAMEN DEFEAT MARITIME COMMISSION

Why Churchill Doesn't Open A Western Front

An Editorial

By FELIX MORROW

After three months of the Soviet-Nazi war, the British Stalinists are compelled to admit that their support of the Churchill government has failed to secure from the "democracies" adequate aid for the Soviet Union.

At one of the open air mass meetings being conducted by the British Communist Party, demanding that Britain open up a western front, Harry Pollitt summed up the Churchill government policy

"Churchill's policy announced on September 9, completely failed to satisfy public disquiet... Taken in conjunction with statements by Lords Moyne and Clement Attlee in behalf of the government, we have a declaration of definite policy which can be summed up as limited assistance to Russia, rejection of military action and 'ceaseless study of the whole problem.'

"It is in this connection that Col Moore-Brabazon's statement takes on the greatest importance," he continued. "It becomes not an isolated episode or 'indiscretion' but a test of government policy. The fact that his statement was not repudiated emphasizes that what Moore-Brabazon said and what the government explained as its policy may have been differently phrased, but from a viewpoint of practical effect were not very far removed." (Daily Worker, Sept. 22, 1941.)

It will be recalled that at the British Trade Union Congress, Aircraft Production Minister Moore-Brabazon was accused of having said that the Russians and Germans should be left to kill each other off, leaving Britain master of the Continent.

Pollitt, in short, is now implicitly charging that the Churchill government has no desire to see the Soviet Union victorious.

Why doesn't the Churchill government want to see its Soviet ally emerge victorious? Pollitt dare not ask, much less answer, that question. The Stalinists must avoid that question at all costs. For the answer to that question would condemn the Stalinist policy of supporting Churchill and Roosevelt.

Instead, the Stalinist call for continued support of the Churchill and Roosevelt governments' war and for "public pressure" as a means of securing adequate aid from Churchill and Roosevelt for the Soviet Union. That is, the sole explanation offered by the Stalinists for the failure of the "democracies" to aid the Soviet Union is that as yet there has been insufficient "public pressure" on the rulers of the "democracies."

We can see the problem a little more clearly, perhaps, if we examine the demand raised by the Stalinists for the opening of a western front.

Is it militarily possible for the British to open a western front—that is, land a major expeditionary force on the European continent? The Stalinists insist that it is not only possible, but the best move now open to the British in the war against Hitler. Some Stalinist commentators refer particularly to Spain as the best place for a British landing. With Gibraltar already in British hands, and with the Spanish people utterly opposed to Franco and his collaboration with Hitler, a British landing could easily be effected, say the Stalinists. It is undoubtedly with reference to opening up a western front that Litvinov, in a telegraphed article to a British paper, pointedly warns that humanity is following with deep interest "not only the military events on the eastern front but also the relations between the Allies."

The Stalinist insistence on opening up a western front is supported by certain obvious facts. The main forces of the Nazis, both on the land and in the air, have been for three months involved on the eastern front. The weakness of the Nazi air resistance to British raids on Germany and occupied territory indicate that the Nazis for the present do not have a major air arm in the west. Under these conditions it is certainly plausible to argue that a western front could be opened by Britain.

Under infinitely less favorable conditions the British landed an expeditionary force in Greece. Why, then, couldn't they land an expeditionary force now which will, at the very least, draw off a considerable section of the Nazi forces from the eastern front and thus ease the situation of the hard-pressed Red Army?

Why? Is it merely a difference of military opinion? If that were all, then the British military authorities might be convinced by the arguments of the Red Army staff. But the form of argument in which the Stalinists put their main hope is not the opinions of military experts but mass demonstrations in Britain. That means that the difference of opinion is not one between military experts but of political outlook.

Why, if it is militarily possible, don't Churchill and Roosevelt

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NY Banquet To Honor Indicted SWP Leaders

A solidarity banquet to honor the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party who are under federal indictment for "seditious conspiracy" will be held at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd Street, New York City, on Friday, October 3, starting 7 P. M.

This banquet, which is being sponsored by the New York Local of the SWP, will be the last opportunity for the New York party members and sympathizers to express their solidarity directly with the indicted leaders before they leave the city for their trial in Minneapolis beginning October 20.

Among the speakers at the banquet will be James P. Cannon, SWP National Secretary and Trotskyist Anti-War candidate for mayor of New York, and Felix Morrow, editor of the *MILITANT*, two of the 29 defendants whom the Roosevelt Administration is seeking to frame up for their militant anti-war

Subscriptions for the banquet are \$1 per plate, the proceeds to help finance the defense.

Cannon Petition Drive Nearing Successful End

NEW YORK, September 23—

The campaign to place the name of James P. Cannon, Trotskyist Anti-War candidate for Mayor, on the ballot in the coming New York City elections is rapidly nearing a successful conclusion as the collection of signatures on the nominating petitions approaches the full quota.

We have now collected 14,500 signatures from the workers of New York, Robert H. Chester, Cannon campaign manager, announced today. "Only 7,500 signatures are required to place our candidate in nomination, but we intend to file twice that number."

Comment on the elections this week in the capitalist press featured the "Apathy" of the voters towards the campaign. Only 14 percent of the eligible Republican registrants came to the polls to vote in the primary contest between LaGuardia and Davies.

Another article on the New York election campaign will be found on page 2 of this issue.

Comrade Chester pointed out that, although this "apathy" may have created concern among the Republican politicians, it never hindered the work of the canvassers for the Trotskyist Anti-War ticket, who found that the workers everywhere in the city respond with enthusiasm to the labor anti-war program of our party.

Referring to the scandals over the collection of signatures for the bosses candidates in the election by paid canvassers, Chester said: "Our comrades' loyalty is not for sale or for hire. They go out and hit the ball with everything they have and their only incentive is their loyalty to the workers of this city. And now they intend to wind up our campaign by getting out a strong workers' vote for Cannon."

Another article on the New York election campaign will be found on page 2 of this issue.

Picketing Aluminum Trust



Striking members of the Seafarers International Union (SIU) picket the Alcoa Steamship Company docks in New York City, after tying up three Alcoa boats, to enforce demands for war risk compensation and bonuses. The strike was spread after the government intervened and "seized" the struck ships, rounded up scab crews, and pulled port with two ships manned

Minneapolis Drivers Are Refused Elections

Right to Vote to Determine Which Union They Want Is Brazenly Denied to Minneapolis Motor Transport Workers by State and National Administrations Violating Their Own Laws

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 22.—The motor transport workers of Minneapolis were denied their right to elections to determine which union they want to represent them, in an unprecedented decision handed down Friday by reactionary Republican Governor Harold Stassen's State Labor Conciliator, certifying without elections Daniel J. Tobin's AFL Teamsters Local 544-CIO, Motor Transport and Allied Workers Union, said of the brazen decision of the State Administration:

"Democracy is all right to talk about, and to send abroad on the tips of bayonets. But democracy is beyond the reach of the Minneapolis drivers." This is what Governor Stassen's Labor Conciliator is saying to the public through his decision to deny the drivers petitions for elections.

More than three and a half months ago, on June 9, a Local 544 membership meeting of nearly 4,000 motor transport workers voted almost unanimously to disaffiliate from Daniel J. Tobin's AFL Teamsters' International and accepted a charter sent hundreds of thugs in here

aligned himself with the Democratic National Administration and Democratic National Com-

mittee Tobin to prevent the drivers from having elections.

It was Stassen's luck that the (state conciliator) Blair's ruling went AFL instead of CIO, because there always has been bad blood between him and that organization (the CIO), and even a decision in their favor wouldn't have reconciled them."

In other words Stassen, who is now on good terms with the AFL, backed the AFL because they would help him get re-elected. The Minneapolis Star Journal goes on: "With the drivers' organization the heart of the whole union setup in this city, the decision is bound to give the AFL unions right down the line a tremendous lift here, assuming the ruling is sustained in the courts."

ROOSEVELT HELPED

TOBIN

The state conciliator's decision

is but the latest move of the State and National Administrations to aid Tobin in driving the motor transport workers back into the AFL. On June 13, in answer to a telegram from Tobin appealing for aid, President Roosevelt condemned as "union-raiding" the granting of a CIO charter to the Minneapolis truck drivers, and sent Department of Justice officials into Minneapolis to aid Tobin. On June 27 FBI agents raided the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in St. Paul and Minneapolis—a move

boost in war-risk insurance rates of \$5,000 per man. The seamen contend that if they risk their lives, they should get paid for it. Bonuses are now paid on African runs, but the shipowners have refused to extend the bonus system to the Caribbean and South American runs.

On July 15, 29 defendants, including 16 leaders of Local 544-CIO, were indicted for "sedition conspiracy" and go on trial on October 20. After an investigation of this case, the American Civil Liberties Union declared it "reasonable to conclude that the government injected itself into the inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of

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Warren K. Billings Joins Committee Defending 29

Joins Other Labor and Liberal Figures in Organization Formed to Defend Indicted Leaders of SWP and Local 544-CIO

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—Warren K. Billings, famed labor martyr, who, with Tom Mooney spent 22 years in prison as a result of the frame up engineered by the bosses during the first World War, has joined the San Francisco branch of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, which is conducting a nation-wide campaign in labor and liberal circles to rally support for the 29 defendants who go on trial Oct. 20 in Minneapolis in the federal government's "seditious conspiracy" case against the Socialist Workers Party and Local 544-CIO.

National Chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee

is James T. Farrell, well-known author of "Studs Lonigan" and other novels.

Carlo Tresca, editor of "Il Martello" and for many decades an outstanding figure in the labor movement, is Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Another Vice-Chairman is John Dos Passos, noted liberal author.

Among other prominent figures who have joined the National Committee of the Civil Rights Defense Committee are: Kenneth Crawford, former president of the American Newspaper Guild

Branches of the Civil Rights Defense Committee are being set up and are already at work in many cities extending from Boston to Los Angeles. Trade unions and other labor and liberal organizations are being canvassed by local members of the Committee for contributions and support. In Newark, five local unions have demonstrated their solidarity with the 29 defendants by making sizable contributions to their defense.

Extensive plans are being developed to broaden the activity of the Committee and constitute it on a firm foundations in the next few weeks.

The Committee announces that it requires \$7,500 immediately to pay expenses for the forthcoming trial of the 29 defendants. Make all checks payable to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Last July the union struck the

War Bonus Issue To Be Negotiated With Employers

Successful Strike Smashes Government's Attempt to Force Seafarers Union Into Compulsory Arbitration of War Bonus

BULLETIN

NEW YORK, September 24.—The Seafarers International Union (AFL), striking 25 ships in Atlantic and Gulf ports, won an important victory yesterday when the U. S. Maritime Commission, which had tried to smash the strike by seizing the first three tied-up vessels and operating them with scab crews, was forced to withdraw completely from the dispute and permit settlement of the war risk bonus issue through direct negotiations between the union and shipowners.

The strike was precipitated by the Maritime Commission, when it prevented the union from settling the bonus question by direct negotiations with the shipowners. Instead, the Commission instructed the owners not to negotiate and insisted that the union submit to compulsory arbitration.

The SIU today voted to return to work pending the outcome of the direct negotiations with the National Defense Mediation Board participating. The negotiations are scheduled to start Monday.

The government was forced to retreat and withdraw the strike-breaking Maritime Commission

from the situation when the Commission proved unable to properly man the three vessels seized

not to mention the other 22 ships already tied up.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The Seafarers International Union, AFL, has struck 23 American-flag ships with which it has contracts on foreign runs. Twenty of the vessels are now tied up in major Atlantic and Gulf ports and are surrounded by strong picket lines. The number of struck ships is mounting daily as the SIU continues to call off the crews of every contracted foreign run boat as it hits an American port.

Strike action was taken by the union on September 12 to enforce its demands for war bonus payments in Caribbean runs and a boost in war-risk insurance rates of \$5,000 per man. The seamen contend that if they risk their lives, they should get paid for it. Bonuses are now paid on African runs, but the shipowners have refused to extend the bonus system to the Caribbean and South American waters.

Colmar and Robin lines in an effort to force the shipowners to negotiate the issue. At that time the bosses maintained that the Caribbean was not a "war zone" and that the men were not entitled to bonus payments on such runs. Since then Roosevelt has launched an undeclared naval war upon the Nazis and the danger to the merchant fleet in all Atlantic waters has multiplied a dozen fold.

The July strike on the Colmar and Robin lines was called off by the SIU after the White House

promised to convene a conference of shipowners and all maritime unions for the purpose of settling the bonus and insurance questions.

BOSSSES SABOTAGE

The Washington Conference, held the first of this month, failed because it was sabotaged by the bosses with the encouragement of the Maritime Commission. The bosses refused to settle the issue, calculating that the Stalinist-controlled National Maritime Union, rival to the SIU, would not strike no matter what the bosses did.

GOVT. STRIKEBREAKING

The Maritime Commission has assumed open strike breaking tactics. The moment the tie-up was called, the Commission served an ultimatum on the union, demanding that the strike be called off within 24 hours and that the seamen submit their dispute to a lengthy and involved system of arbitration while sailing the ships.

When the union ignored the ultimatum, the Commission requisitioned three Alcoa ships, manned them with scabs, and sent them loaded with supplies to the new U. S. military bases in the Caribbean.

Due to the fine union solidarity shown by rank and file members of the National Maritime Union, CIO, the government experienced great difficulty in recruiting crews for the Alcoa ships. One vessel had to delay its sailing because it was short-handed. Moreover, these strike-breaking moves have not intimidated the SIU, which has continued to strike one ship after another.

Ever since the sinking last spring of the S.S. Robin Moor, manned by a full SIU crew, the union has been trying to obtain protection for its members.

The bosses had given the line,

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Minneapolis Drivers Are Refused Elections

Right to Pick Union They Want Denied by Government Agencies

(Continued from page 1)
the one side (Tobin) which supported the administration's foreign and domestic policies."

STASSEN'S RED-BAITING EXCUSE

The state conciliator's decision makes no attempt to justify the refusal to submit the controversy to balloting by the motor transport workers. Instead, the conciliator asserts that the issue "does not present a dispute of the ordinary type between the AFL and the CIO, but rather presents a dispute between the AFL union of long standing and a comparatively small group of men under a leadership actively affiliated with the Socialist Workers Party, who withdrew from the AFL to avoid being expelled from this organization and who have sought to create a union for their own purposes under a charter from the CIO... the dispute over representation arose on June 9, 1941, by reason of an attempt of certain officers of said union to secede and create a new union under charter by the CIO."

Thus the state conciliator's red-baiting reference to the Socialist Workers Party is designed to cover up his complete distortion of the real facts. He dare not admit that the "certain officers" of Local 544 are the entire leadership of the union, the same leadership that has been re-elected each year in the union since it built the union in the great strike victories of 1934. He dare not admit that the decision to secede from the AFL was taken, not merely by this leadership, but by the almost unanimous decision of 4,000 members at a membership meeting on June 9.

POLITICAL ARITHMETIC

The state conciliator then blandly goes on to credit the AFL with 4,251 members out of the 5,473 drivers and helpers in the Minneapolis area. How did he arrive at that figure? A public accountant added up for him the number of names inscribed in the AFL ledgers!

But the real issue was that these ledgers were stigmatized as fakes by the CIO and the CIO offered to prove that they were taken in a government-supervised election.

Then, to cap this outrage, the state conciliator concedes to the CIO as members only the 172 workers who testified during the AFL petition hearings concerning the activities of Tobin's thugs.

In short, the state conciliator proceeded to arbitrarily establish that which could only be established by the elections

New York Opens Cannon For Mayor Drive

Dear friends and sympathizers:

On October 1st we are filing our petitions. At that time we will start what we expect to be the most intensive propaganda campaign in our history. Right now, we've undertaken to build a campaign fund that will allow us to carry through this campaign as part of the great fight against the imperialist war. Are you ready to help us collect this fund? Do you want to see this fight carried on in a manner worthy of the party of Lenin and Trotsky?

Do your part as other friends and comrades are doing! Contribute a day's wage to the Trotskyist Anti-War Party's campaign fund!

From various parts of the country, friends such as J. of Rockville, Conn., and C. of Akron, Ohio, have sent us donations and expressions of support. Let New Yorkers follow their encouraging example.

Send in your donation today! Address it to Robert Chester, Chairman, Cannon Campaign Committee, 116 University Place, New York.

which Local 544-CIO is demanding.

Typical of the way in which this kangaroo decision against Local 544-CIO was engineered, the text of the state conciliator's decision was in the hands of the daily papers and the press services hours before Local 544-CIO received a copy. Tobin's yellow sheet here, the Minnesota Teamster, was out on the street with the text of the decision and comments on it from Judge Parway and other Tobin lawyers, hours before Local 544-CIO received the decision.

CIO WILL FIGHT

The CIO had, in the light of the other anti-CIO moves of the State and National Administrations in this situation, anticipated such a decision. Meeting Friday night, a few hours after the decision, the Local 544-CIO Stewards meeting was well attended, the men took the decision in their stride, and grimly pledged to continue the struggle for the right of the workers to designate a union of their own choosing.

The rank and file gave the Stassen-Blair ruling a cold reception indeed, as was indicated when the Tobin hooligans tried to hold a mock funeral Saturday noon to bury Local 544-CIO. Tobin's representatives had notified all drivers in the city to attend a special meeting Saturday noon. When a few hundred men showed up and found they were expected to march in a parade celebrating the fact that Stassen had refused them an election, they walked away in disgust and came over to the 544-CIO headquarters. The hooligans, by handing out money for beer, finally induced about 40 drivers to accompany the casket. An American Legion band came out to help the Tobin machine try to make the mock funeral look like something, but it

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Newark Defense Committee to Hold Banquet for 29 This Saturday

NEWARK, N. J.—The Newark Branch of the Civil Rights Defense Committee this week announced the holding of a banquet and reception on behalf of the 29 defendants facing trial in Minneapolis on October 20. Speakers at the banquet will discuss the reasons for the prosecution and the circumstances leading up to it. All proceeds from the affair will be used for the defense of the 29.

The banquet will be held Saturday evening, Sept. 27, at 9:00 o'clock at Ambassador Hall, 13 Belmont Ave., Newark. Subscription is \$1.00 and the program includes entertainment and dancing.

The speakers of the evening will include James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Felix Morrow, editor of THE MILITANT. In addition, there

was a sick affair indeed, with the hooligans and the deacons weaving down the street, wearing sickly grins.

Dissatisfaction with Tobin's dictatorship continues to flare up throughout the Middle West, with more and more unions preparing to break away from the AFL and join the progressive ranks of the CIO industrial union movement.

Latest drivers' group to leave Tobin is the Dubuque, Iowa, union, where the men wired 544-CIO Thursday that "LARGE GROUP OF DRIVERS HERE PROTESTING RECEIVERSHIP HAVE APPLIED FOR UCWOC CHARTER."

Dubuque is the third Iowa city where the drivers have joined the CIO. Ottumwa and Mason City already have their CIO charters.

Trotsky's Last Work
MANIFESTO OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
on the
IMPERIALIST WAR
and the
PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

Joseph Ryan, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, sent a telegram to the Maritime Commission requesting that it continue efforts to settle the strike.

SEAFARERS DEFEAT MARITIME COMMISSION

"... I strongly contend that you (Admiral Land) as chairman of the Maritime Commission," however, and Curran picked it up. He requested that the full insurance rates be made available to the conference. When it was revealed that several weeks would be required to collect this information, Curran announced that in his opinion there was nothing the conference could accomplish in the meantime, and he withdrew.

The bosses had insisted all along that the bonus and insurance questions be settled on an "industry wide basis." With the NMU out of the conference, this was not possible said the bosses, and so they, along with the Maritime Commission, dissolved the negotiations. The NMU was left to course but to either submit entirely to the bosses and sail the ships without any bonus, or to strike. Without hesitation they struck.

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DO YOU HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION? LOOK FOR OUR SPECIAL OFFER

Text Of Local 554's Statement

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 20.—The following is the text of the statement of Local 544-CIO's Executive Board on the Stassen-Blair decision to deny Minneapolis Motor Transport workers their right to elections to determine which union represents the workers:

"Democracy is all right to talk about, and to send abroad on the tips of bayonets. But democracy is beyond the reach of the Minneapolis drivers." This is what Governor Stassen's labor conciliator is saying to the public, through his decision to deny the drivers' petition for elections.

Blair's ruling is based from beginning to end on deceitful logic and brazen lies. It goes without saying that Local 544-CIO will challenge Blair's decision. Attorneys for the union are moving as a first step to obtain a possible review of the conciliator's ruling at the earliest possible moment.

Through this dispute between the Minneapolis drivers and Tobin, the only consistent exponent of democracy and a democratic solution has been Local 544-CIO. Not a single politician, not a single metropolitan newspaper, has lifted a finger to aid the drivers to win their democratic and legal rights to an election.

Blair's ruling is based from beginning to end on deceitful logic and brazen lies. It goes without saying that Local 544-CIO will challenge Blair's decision. Attorneys for the union are moving as a first step to obtain a possible review of the conciliator's ruling at the earliest possible moment.

Local 544-CIO is a bona fide union chartered by the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO, approved by CIO President Philip Murray, and enthusiastically supported by the largest unions in the CIO.

Blair does more than misrepresent and lie about the origin of this dispute. He seeks to set himself up as judge as to what is a good union and a bad union, what are good union officials and bad officials. If Blair's decision were to survive a legal test, which we are confident it will not, we would have in Minnesota a situation where a corrupt state labor conciliator would henceforth rule on the politics, morals and actions of union members and union leaders. In effect, through his ruling Blair attempts to usurp the legal right of the workers to designate unions of their own choosing, to select officers of their own liking, to themselves decide on union policies.

Blair has had to lie about the membership figures of Local 544-CIO, pretending that the only members of Local 544-CIO are those 172 witnesses who came to testify at the last of a series of hearings, to testify not to their union membership but to the methods of intimidation and coercion used by the Tobin machine in collecting dues and signing up workers.

As proof for Tobin's claim to a majority of the drivers, Blair accepts the report of a firm of public accountants, who, after all, confined themselves to the simple task of adding up the names the AFL had written on its ledgers, making no attempt to verify the authenticity of the information nor to determine by what methods dues were extracted from the workers.

If one were to accept as logical Blair's excuses to justify his certification of the AFL, one would have to deny the very existence of the CIO, with its six million members. Blair, like Tobin, argues that the drivers of Minneapolis — and of Minnesota and the nation — must belong to AFL Teamster Dictator Tobin now and forever, and that it is unthinkable that the drivers should ever assert their independence from Tobin, or should ever stand up for their democratic right to select their own union and run that union only in the interests of the membership. If life unfolded according to Blair's rigid formula, there would never be a CIO — nor, for that matter, an American Federation of Labor which itself arose as a competing movement to the earlier Knights of Labor.

Not the least interesting aspect of the Blair decision is the arbitrary ruling that henceforth there shall be citywide employer-union relations in the motor transport industry. This decree sharply reverses the history and the logic of contractual relations in this industry, where hitherto the union has dealt with individual employers or at most small groups of employers. At no time did Blair hear any testimony from employees to show consent of the workers involved to this arbitrary decision.

Unjust as the state labor law is, Blair's decision in this dispute makes the law even more oppressive and dangerous for the union movement, and jeopardizes union rights to an unprecedented degree.

Blair, with the aid of Governor Stassen and Blair, has signed contracts without the consent or approval of the employees involved. The Blair decision to certify the AFL is an attempt to make those sellout contracts good, and to again force them upon the workers against their will. Local 544-CIO will continue to defend democracy in the union movement, will continue to defend the rights of the drivers, and will challenge the Blair decision in the courts.

They Distort the History of 544

When Blair states that to recognize the rights of Local 544-CIO would "defeat the purposes of the Minnesota Labor Relations Act," he really means that for him to recognize the democratic right of the drivers to their election would defeat the

Packinghouse Strikers Defy Injunction

Chicago CIO Unions Rally in Defense of Picketing Rights

CHICAGO, September 21.—The militant two-week old strike of packinghouse workers at the Illinois Meat, Agar and Brennan packinghouses here is entering its third week with the strikers, Negro and White, fighting back at the all-embracing injunction issued against them by the labor-hating Judge Rusch.

The company had locked out all the leading stewards and officers of Locals 23, 24 and 56 of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee (CIO) following a previous three-day walk-out early this month. The union responded with a strike that shut the plants down solid.

Several other groups have promised to take favorable action on the request for support, and rank and file unionists have expressed their interest in hearing more about the issues and the development of the government's prosecution of the anti-war defendants.

The strike has been militantly conducted. Mass picket lines have been maintained in defiance of Judge Rusch's injunction, one of the most sweeping ever issued here. Thus injunction not only prohibits all mass picketing or any other strike action by workers wearing PWOC buttons, but forbids the strikers to discuss the strike or have any contact with scabs or non-strikers.

Parties don't usually refer to their opponents in this fashion when they intend to carry through a serious fight against them. And so it is clear that, whether Amter is formally withdrawn from the campaign or not, the Stalinists are out to toe the mark for the mayorality representative of Wall Street LaGuardia.

This development will surprise no one but the rank and file Stalinists, to whom the policy of

the local CIO unions have decided to smash the injunction with a huge picket line this coming Monday morning. Packinghouse workers from the heart of the stockyards, Armour's, Wilson's and Swift's, are expected to join the strikers on the picket lines. Workers from the huge Carnegie-Illinois Steel plant and other South Chicago steel plants and from the International Harvester Company will also march.

The principal demand of the strikers is the preservation of their union by the reinstatement of the locked-out union leaders. This lock-out was an attempt by the companies to compel the striking unions to select leaders amenable to company dictates. The slandorous excuse for the lock-out was that the union leaders were "subversive saboteurs" who had put ground glass in the meat.

LaGuardia Gets Stalinist Boost For Reelection

CP Mayoral Candidate Praises Union-Busting Mayor in Own "Campaign Speech"

By HARRY FRANKEL

Israel Amter, Communist Party Candidate for Mayor of New York City, indicated this week that his party has no intention of conducting an independent campaign in the municipal elections. In a speech made before a Young Communist League rally on September 19, the Stalinist "mayoralty candidate" finally gave up the ghost.

The decisive portion of Amter's talk came after a reference to the Jewish New Year:

"In the election campaign, the Jews, as a very important section of the New York population, will have to close down to economize. Not a word to recall how LaGuardia's 'economy' included rejection of the demand of the subway workers for a decent wage.

Following Amter's revealing speech at the Young Communist League rally, the Daily Worker, fearing to break the news too quickly to the CP rank and file, did not report Amter's crucial reference to LaGuardia. It wasn't until Amter repeated the remark in his Sunday evening radio talk, that the Daily Worker mustered brass enough to break the news to its baffled readers.

O'Dwyer has expressed the same views as LaGuardia on the war issue. If elected, each would support the same foreign policy. Why then are the Stalinists so vociferous about the matter? The answer is easy. LaGuardia is Roosevelt's man, and the Stalinists are out to curry favor with the Big Boss. They've got to show that they can break the back of the movement which they lead and deliver it into the hands of the war government. That is their object in this election as part of their entire policy in this country today.

"Unity," cries the Daily Worker, "We must have unity of the workers in New York." But what kind of unity? Unity with the bosses on their own war program?

The Socialist Workers Party has always opposed such "unity." We have a program and a candidate which we don't intend to withdraw for anyone. James P. Cannon, running on the Trotskyist anti-war ticket, along with all the candidates expresses the hatred of the majority of the workers of this city for the capitalists and their imperialist war. Alone of all the candidates, James P. Cannon will expose the political racketeers who run this city with sales taxes out of the workers pockets, while the bankers and capitalists continue to collect their millions in profits.

To vote for James P. Cannon will mean to reject the false unity of the Stalinists, to cast a vote against the boss war abroad and capitalist exploitation at home. To vote for Cannon will mean to vote for a Workers Government. The Daily Worker will testify. The Daily Worker



The work of constantly widening the sphere of influence of the MILITANT is being carried on seriously in every part of the country. New Haven, for instance, has the following interesting story to tell:

"During the rush of shoppers Saturday, we experimented with street-selling of the MILITANT. Our standover stood before a large five-and-dime on a busy street during the rush hours from 12 to 2 and sold a total of 17 MILITANTS!"

"Some of the slogans used were: 'Buy the MILITANT — the only workers' anti-war paper sold on the streets of New Haven!' Read how Roosevelt leads us to war!"

"Our comrade reports that she found a great deal of friendly feeling toward the MILITANT — workers approached with 'Anti-war? Well, that's the paper for me!'"

"From this experience, the New Haven branch can heartily recommend this way of getting our message across to workers. Be-

'INSURGENT' MINERS OPPOSE CIO POLICIES

By ANTHONY MASSINI

The capitalist press has given much publicity during the past two weeks to a walkout by a group of miners in the anthracite region in Pennsylvania.

If this publicity is different from that usually given to strikers by the boss press, if there have been none of the usual denunciations and attacks on the people involved, then it is for a very good reason. Because the "strike" is directed not at the mine owners but at the union which has a closed shop contract in these mines, the United Miners.

The stoppage began in District 7 of the union, ostensibly over the question of an increase in union dues and assessments after the mine owners in the area had refused to dispense with the check-off on dues and assessments, provided for in the union contract.

At the last convention of District 7 in September, 1940, the union had voted to increase its dues from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a month, to become effective July 1 of this year. Also involved is a \$4.00 a year increase in the international union assessment, voted by the international executive board and approved by a referendum of the members.

Thus the total dues increase against which the walkout has supposedly been called amounts to only \$10 a year. As a result of the latest contract negotiated by the union last May, the miners received a 7½ per cent wage increase from last May to October 1, with the increase then rising to 10% plus a \$20 Xmas bonus.

A walkout under such conditions is certainly unusual. When, to these circumstances, is added such things as an attempt to extend the work stoppage to other districts, the announcement of the election of a set of officers dual to the regular officers of the union, and the flat refusal of the leaders of the walkout to even meet with three members of the international executive board sent by John L. Lewis from Washington to try to settle the controversy, then the whole situation seems stranger yet.

One need not be surprised, therefore, to be told by the New

Leader, organ of the Social Democratic Federation, which wholeheartedly defends the so-called insurgents, that the dues argument is a cover for issues far more fundamental and important.

The September 20 issue of the New Leader approvingly quotes the statements of Garrett Miller, leader of the walkout, in which he attacks Lewis and his policies.

"Specifically," the New Leader says, "the miners' charges against Lewis, as expressed by Miller, cover an impressive bill of particulars. . . . They take cognizance of the fact that Lewis and his rubber-stamp executive board have spent \$2,000,000 or more in the past five years in helping subsidize the civil war in American labor by means of 'loans' to CIO and its affiliates. 'Loans' which, will never be repaid.

"The miners see no reason why

Lewis has twice torpedoed reasonable and acceptable plans for peace between the AFL and CIO.

"They no longer intend to stand idly by while he uses the United Mine Workers and its treasury as if they were his own. They want to remove Lewis as the chief obstacle to labor peace. . . . etc.

If the New Leader correctly

reports the views of the "insurgents," then it is obvious that the dues issue is only being used as a means of winning support among scissorbill and anti-union elements for an attack against progressive policies of the CIO.

When Lewis is attacked for helping to build and extend the CIO, when it is proposed that he be removed to facilitate the hegemony of the craft union policies of the AFL Executive Council in

a "unified" labor movement, then it is clear that this work stoppage is the result of a reactionary anti-CIO movement and that its victory would be a blow at all the progressive policies and forces within the CIO.

Progressive trade unionists can, therefore, have nothing in common with such a movement.

Meaning of the Moves For CIO-AFL Unification

By GEORGE BREITMAN

The coming annual conventions of the AFL (Seattle, October 6) and the CIO (Detroit, November 17) will again bring to the forefront the question of trade union unity.

Militant trade unionists, who want to work out an answer to the problem of unity not on the basis of an abstract formula or ideal but on the basis of the concrete interests of the working class, will profit from a study of the positions taken by the different groups today advocating CIO-AFL unity.

Such an analysis will demonstrate that the slogan of unity as such is not progressive, and that it is being used as the cover for extremely reactionary and conservative forces operating against the best interests of the labor movement.

ROOSEVELT'S AIMS

Why, for example, is the Roosevelt administration so concerned about unification of the two union groups? Certainly not to enable the unions to better fight for improvement of labor's conditions and protection of labor's rights, because more than ever that fight in these days has to be directed against the efforts of the government as well as the bosses.

Roosevelt's main interest in the unions, both craft and industrial, is to tie them to the war program, to get them in the interests of "national defense" to "make sacrifices," to persuade them to give up many of their hard-won rights for the sake of "national unity." A divided labor movement, entailing competition and a struggle for hegemony that leads to increased organizational activity, makes Roosevelt's task more difficult. Roosevelt wants "peace" between the two labor federations as a prelude to "peace" between labor and the capitalists.

It is not hard to see that unity on the basis of Roosevelt's program will reduce, not increase, labor's strength.

AFL CONDITIONS

By and large, the bureaucrats of the AFL Council hold the same position today as they held a year ago when they expressed their willingness for "unity." But the unity they want is the kind that will give craft unionism the domination of the unified movement and leave the industrial

unions at the mercy of those who opposed their creation.

Such a unification as the AFL Council wants would be a blow to all of labor, for it would not only weaken the strongest unions in the labor movement, but it would encourage the bosses to go after the remainder, craft or industrial. One of the progressive consequences of the AFL-CIO split was that, in the wake of the pro-union spirit engendered by the organizational gains of the CIO unions, the AFL was also able to add many new members. The dismemberment of the unions in the mass industries by the craft union leaders of the AFL might easily lead to the destruction by the bosses of the craft unions built near and around them.

WHAT THE HILLMANITES WANT

The Hillmanites in the CIO also support moves toward unification. They are not interested in seeing that the craft unionists become the dominant force — for they would prefer themselves in the dominant role, of course — but they are not worried about the prospect either. They feel that they could easily come to terms with the Greens and Wolls. Like Roosevelt, their main concern is in tying the unions in with the government.

At last year's CIO convention the Hillmanites were the chief advocates of "resuming unity negotiations." Although Hillman's proposal was decisively rejected by the Lewis forces at the convention, and although Hillman himself was the object of an invitation to get out of the CIO and go back to the AFL by himself, he has chosen to keep his followers in the CIO. The reason for this was two-fold. First of all, his use to the administration and the war machine rests on the idea that he "represents" the dynamic section of the union movement,

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UAW Board Reaffirms Union's Support For CIO Organization Of Teamsters

Votes to Uphold Convention Decision Which Reuther-Hillmanites Attempt to Violate

By JOHN ADAMSON

CHICAGO, Sept. 22. — The International Executive Board of the UAW made a resolution public late Saturday pledging its support to the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, in its drive to organize the Motor Transport Workers. Officials of the UCWOC hailed this resolution as a complete endorsement of the drive.

Passage of this resolution was an important victory for the pro-John L. Lewis forces in the UAW.

Although the International Executive Board was under instructions by a resolution of the recent Buffalo convention to support the CIO drive to organize the motor transport workers, the Reuther-Hillman group on the board had attempted to prevent the carrying out of the convention resolution.

This was the Board's first meeting in Chicago since the important Buffalo Convention. And as was to be expected, the first important problem confronting the UAW again split the Board wide open into two widely divergent factions.

The militancy displayed at the Buffalo Convention, and the distinct unpopularity of Hillman and the OPM among the Auto Workers, served to break Frankensteen and R. J. Thomas from the Reuther-Hillman group. Afraid of being compromised by identification with Hillman and his associates in the CIO, Frankensteen and Thomas have left the Reuther group and are attempting to stand, as it were, above the two warring factions in the UAW and to duplicate inside the union the role of Murray in the CIO.

SUPPORT FOR UCWOC ASKED

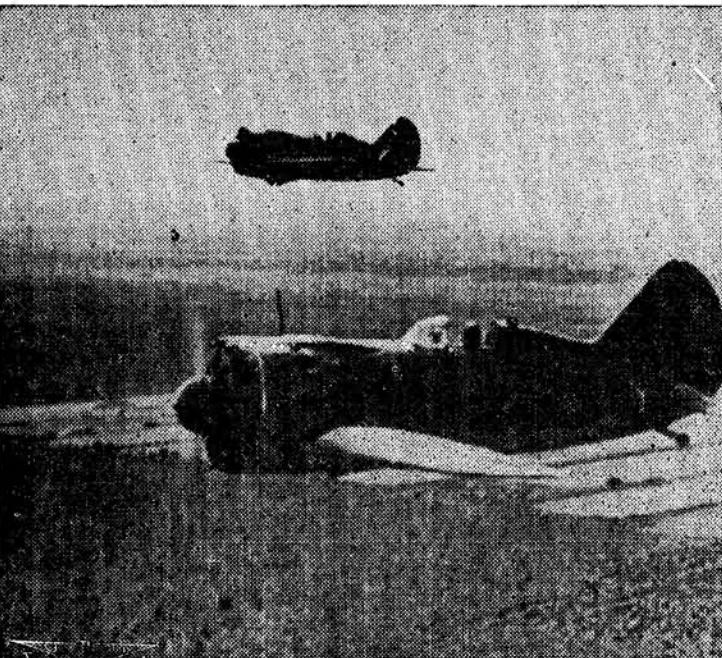
As soon as the Board meeting was called into session, Russell Turner, in charge of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, drive among the Motor Transport Workers, requested that the UAW give full aid to the UCWOC organizing campaign. This drive has already formally been launched in Detroit, Flint, Lansing, and other Michigan centers.

The whole previous week Detroit had been seething with the announcement of the Motor Transport Workers drive. Hundreds of teamsters have been coming up to CIO headquarters, and Flying Squadron men gathered from different auto locals are pledging to aid in the drive and to ward off any goon tactics on the part of the AFL.

There should have been no question at all on the stand of the UAW Executive Board. The Buffalo Convention had issued clear and explicit instructions on this matter. The resolution unanimously adopted by the Convention stated "That this, the Sixth Annual Convention of the UAW-CIO go on record welcoming the Motor Transport Workers in the CIO, and pledge its full support to the organizing drive of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee in this field." It is further a matter of record that neither Reuther nor any of the caucus leaders of his group took the floor at the Convention.

This "compromise" violated the

Soviet Air Fighters



Soviet war planes winging their way to the Eastern Front give the lie to the Nazi boast of three months ago that the Soviet Union's air fleet had been wiped out in the first week of the Nazi invasion.

instructions of the Buffalo Convention and at the same time did not answer the question of UAW support of the teamsters' drive, leaving the whole problem in essentially the same position as before the Board meeting.

Fortunately, this "compromise" lasted only until Saturday, when it was replaced by a resolution explicitly backing the CIO truckers drive.

The Transport Workers drive will unquestionably be pushed with full vigor and militancy and there is no question but that the auto workers in this vicinity will give all adequate and necessary assistance to this drive to insure that the Motor Transport workers will be allowed to build the democratic industrial union that they want.

While the Board was in session, ominous warnings came from the auto industry that soon thousands of auto workers would be walking the streets and, true to form and to its past history, the Executive Board merely reaffirmed its program of protecting the seniority of all auto workers who are transferred to "defense" industry, and then declared the problem closed. As everybody in the Auto Union knows the safeguarding of seniority rights does not even begin to solve the problem of priorities unemployment.

Seniority alone does not provide jobs to those thousands of auto workers who cannot find work in war-orders plants. Seniority does not take care of those workers who may have to wait from one to six months before they are placed in war production. Seniority does not protect the worker who is asked to leave his home town for a job in a different city hundreds of miles distant. Seniority likewise says nothing about those workers who are offered war-orders jobs at 80c an hour in contrast to the \$1.15 or \$1.25 that they are now earning in the automobile shops.

uled to be held in Detroit on November 17. The delegates were more or less evenly divided between the Addes and Reuther groups plus Frankensteen and Thomas. The Buffalo Convention instructed its delegates to vote for the reelection of Philip Murray to the presidency of the CIO, but apparently this will not be a contested point as Lewis' representative, Allen Heywood, publicly announced at Indianapolis to the Rubber Workers' Convention that all good men in the CIO were rallying around Philip Murray, who would run for reelection.

The Flint Program

The plan of the Flint UAW locals to halt priorities unemployment in the auto industry, to which the foregoing article refers, includes: the establishment of rank-and-file committees in every plant to head the fight; preferential consideration on a seniority basis for workers covered by UAW contracts in transference to jobs in war production; maintenance of the same rate of pay on new war production jobs as in the auto plants; reorganization of the auto industry and plants to provide jobs within existing plants for the auto workers, so that they do not have to leave their present communities; equal participation of the union with the management in determining the allocation of war orders, where they shall be produced, and where new plants shall be located; adequate cash relief of no less than \$25 weekly for auto workers unable to get jobs because of priorities unemployment; and, finally, an all-out national union campaign of economic and political action to put this program over.

The Board also selected its ten delegates to the coming National CIO Convention which is scheduled to open on November 17.

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To defend the USSR as the main
fortress of the world proletariat,
against all assaults of world imperialism
and of internal counter-revolution,
is the most important duty of every
class conscious worker.

—LEON TROTSKY

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
3. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries—Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
4. A peoples' referendum on any and all wars.
5. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
6. For rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
7. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
8. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
9. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

The 'Impartial' State

The ganging up of the national and state governments against Local 544-CIO of Minneapolis is perhaps the crudest instance in our generation of open governmental aid to the employers' and reactionary labor officials. For seven years the bosses have tried in vain to smash Local 544. Three times in those seven years AFL Teamsters Chief Daniel J. Tobin has tried to help the bosses: he branded the union as "red" and "outlaw" during its great strikes of 1934, he lifted the charter of the union in 1935, and in June of this year he tried to appoint a dictator-receiver over it. Neither the bosses nor Tobin got very far in all their attempts. What they could not do, the state and national governments have attempted to do for Tobin and the bosses in a blitzkrieg during the last three and a half months.

Week by week we have recorded the horrible story of these governmental moves against a union which, despite all the terror directed against it, has retained the allegiance of the motor transport workers of Minneapolis. Nor are we, and the national CIO, the only ones who have stigmatized the blitzkrieg against Local 544-CIO as a cynical and deliberate use of governmental power against a militant union. The ultra-cautious American Civil Liberties Union, after a long and careful investigation of one of the governmental moves against Local 544-CIO—the "seditious conspiracy" case against the Socialist Workers Party which is to be tried in federal court in Minneapolis on October 20, in which 16 of the 29 defendants are leaders of Local 544-CIO— informed Attorney General Biddle that it is "reasonable to conclude that the government injected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side (Tobin) which supported the administration's foreign and domestic policies."

Many of the liberals who are protesting against the Department of Justice's "seditious conspiracy" prosecution would, nevertheless, like to believe that the government's onslaught against Local 544-CIO is an exceptional occurrence and that ordinarily the government does not interfere with the progress of the trade union and labor movement.

The truth of the matter is that the only thing exceptional about the Minneapolis situation is that Local 544-CIO has fought so exceedingly well and so intelligently that the union-smashing moves of the Roosevelt administration have been completely exposed for all to see. In the usual union-employer battle the government's representatives, appearing in the guise of "impartial" umpires, are able to deceive the union into accepting less than the strikers have already won on the picket line. A private threat by an OPM official, or a National Defense Mediation Board official, has often in

these last months been sufficient to send union officers to keep their members from striking, without the members even ever hearing about the government threat.

What has been exceptional is the case in which a union firmly refuses to submit to governmental threats or deception and the government has to show its hand openly. Recent instances of this were the Knox-Knudsen threats against the Allis-Chalmers strikers, the use of troops to break the North American Aviation strike, the manning of three ships with scabs by the U. S. Maritime Commission last week.

By firmly resisting the bosses and Tobin, Local 544-CIO forced the Roosevelt administration to show its hand openly throughout this three and a half months of battle. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the CIO, who never before grasped the anti-labor role of the government, have had their eyes opened as they watched the heroic battle of the Minneapolis motor transport workers. Many more workers will learn the falsity of the "impartial" disguise donned by the Roosevelt administration when the trial of the 29 opens on October 20. This battle in Minneapolis is a major step in the political education of the American working class. No matter what its immediate outcome, this struggle will shatter forever the myth of the "impartial" state in the minds of millions of workers. What they learn from this struggle, will arm these workers for ever more effective action in the coming battles of American labor against the bosses and their government.

Second International Slogan and Politics

In 1918 the Finnish capitalists and landlords, headed by the butcher General Mannerheim, drowned the Finnish workers, revolution in blood, and conducted a war against the Soviet Union which, as part of the general imperialist intervention, almost destroyed the young workers' state.

At that time, Vaino A. Tanner, a leader of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, gave full support to Mannerheim's war and appealed to the workers to support it because the Finnish government was fighting a war "for national independence."

In 1941, at the order of the German fascists, the Finnish capitalist class is again waging a war for the destruction of the Soviet Union. One of the leading figures in the cabinet of the war government is this same Vaino A. Tanner, now holding the post of Trade Minister.

In Berlin last week Tanner told reporters that he is supporting the Nazi war against the Soviet Union because it will lead to an economic and political "United States of Europe." "Unfortunately," he added, "it does not seem possible to achieve such a United States without war."

There is really not much difference between the 1918 and 1941 of Tanner. To him "national independence" meant independence from revolution and full dependence on Finnish capitalism operating in the interests of world imperialism. By a "United States of Europe" he means the unification of the continent under German imperialist capitalism.

Tanner's party belongs to the Second International. The British section of that International is also supporting the war under a slogan calculated to win the support of the workers for the war. Their slogan is "for democracy," which to them means the right of British imperialism to dominate the world.

These are the politics bred by the Second International. Their slogans may change from time to time, but never their subservience to the interests of their "own" imperialist rulers.

War and Taxes

The war tax bill signed last Saturday by Roosevelt gives only a hint of the stupendous taxes which will be levied from the workers and lower-middle class in the coming war years.

Commenting on the new bill's inadequacy to meet the government's voracious war demands, the *New York Times*, September 20, reports:

"Another large tax bill, therefore, is likely to be introduced this Fall or early in 1942."

Just how deep the Roosevelt war budget will dig into the workers' pockets is indicated by the fact that Congress has already voted almost \$60 billion for war purposes. And conservative estimates place the minimum appropriations, including those yet to come, at the staggering total of \$150 billion.

A huge chunk of these billions, via government war contracts, will go into the coffers of the big monopoly corporations. Yet, it is these corporations which are most favored by the tax bill just passed. War profits will remain virtually untouched under the new measure. Persons raking in annual personal incomes of \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 will pay two per cent more in income taxes. Those in the lowest income brackets face increases of 400 to 500 per cent.

It is this iniquitous taxation system that results in OPM head Knudsen stating that "longer working hours and a lower standard of living were just ahead for America under the national rearmament program" (*New York Times*, Sept. 23).

How long this ever-increasing tax extortion will last, and how truly onerous it will become, the Roosevelt war administration dare not even intimate. For it dare not tell the masses the bitter truth that this war will drag on for years; that, in fact, the war rulers of America can see no end to this war.

The capitalist system is doomed to ceaseless warfare. And there will be no let-up in the tax onslaught until capitalism, breeder of imperialist war, is banished from the earth.

THE MILITANT

Arnold Attacks Labor For Production Curbs

Assistant Attorney General Tries to Hide Full Responsibility of Big Industrialists for Impeding Expansion of War Production

By DON DORE

Thurman Arnold, assistant attorney general, in a speech on September 19 about the factors impeding war production, was compelled to admit that the owners of every basic industry in the country were deliberately holding up expansion of production facilities in order to prevent potential post-war competition.

To kill the sour taste of this admission, Arnold then dragged organized labor into his speech, and by implication and emphasis accused labor of an "equal" responsibility for the present delays in essential production.

Arnold charged that a few strategically located labor unions were holding up production over issues "which have nothing to do with wages, hours or working conditions."

The chief of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice revealed the real point of his talk, however, when he asserted that the anti-trust laws enabled the government to deal with "sabotage" industrialists, but not with unions which "impede" production.

There has not been a single strike in the past year of any importance in which the responsibility was so clear that the employers did not have to concede to the workers' demands.

Even in such strikes as the North American Aviation and Allis-Chalmers, in which the government attempted to break the strike by every violent means, in the end the justice of the strikers' demands had to be acknowledged and their major terms met.

All we have to do is observe the situation with respect to priorities unemployment to know that it is the industrial monopolies—and they alone—which are responsible for the present restrictions on production.

The War Department and similar boss-dominated government agencies loudly clamor at regular intervals that strikes are costing 200,000 to 400,000 man-hours of production per month. Priorities unemployment—brought on directly by the refusal of the big industries, steel, aluminum, auto, etc., to expand production—has already resulted in the firing of several hundred thousand workers. That means, that several hundred thousand man-days of labor per day are being lost to production.

WHAT BOSSES HAVE COST
IN LOST LABOR TIME

Within the next few weeks, two to three million workers are threatened with lay-offs and

part-time employment. Compare this loss of hundreds of millions of man-hours of labor caused by the bosses, to the loss of a measly few hundred thousands of man-hours allegedly the "responsibility" of labor.

Let us examine this "responsibility" of labor for strikes. In every single major strike it has been clearly shown that the employers were directly responsible for precipitating the strike.

There has not been a single strike in the past year of any importance in which the responsibility was so clear that the employers did not have to concede to the workers' demands.

Every single one of these suits has been buried. But not the suits against labor unions and leaders. Scores of union officials have been indicted and convicted in "anti-trust" frameups during the past two years.

Arnold's talk makes amply clear that the Administration intends to take no fundamental action against the monopolies and trusts. At most, Arnold will indulge in some more "tough talk" against the industrialists, and institute anti-trust actions against some of the small-fry manufacturers.

TALK AIMED AT
LABOR'S RIGHTS

The heart of his program is aimed directly at organized labor and its rights. He—and it is the Roosevelt Administration for which he speaks—wants to do away with the "voluntary method" for dealing with labor.

The Department of Justice will invoke instead compulsory methods of destroying organized labor's right to strike and to conduct an independent policy free of government and employer interference.

That method already has received its sharpest expression, in the indictments against the leaders of Local 544-CIO Motor Transport Workers Union of Minneapolis for "seditionary conspiracy." Arnold's speech is a further warning that the attack on Local 544 is merely the beginning of a general attack on all militant unions.

Solidarity Banquet

In honor of the 29 defendants who will face trial in Minneapolis on October 20
on charges of "seditionary conspiracy."

Speakers:

JAMES P. CANNON

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

FELIX MORROW

Editor of The Militant

(The names of other speakers will be announced next week)

Friday, October 2, at 7 P. M.

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Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee Aids British Imperialists

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

What the Old Joint Committee Did

The Russian and British Trade Unions have agreed to form a joint committee to aid in the successful prosecution of the war against Hitler. This maneuver of the Kremlin recalls to mind Stalin's previous venture with a similar body, the Anglo-Russian Committee which was formed in May, 1925.

The purpose of the 1925 committee was declared to be to promote international trade union unity, to conduct a struggle against the march of reaction, and to prevent the outbreak of the second world war. The Stalinist bureaucracy hailed it as a bulwark in the defense of the USSR.

In July 1926, Stalin declared:

"The task of this bloc (the Anglo-Russian Committee) consists in organizing a broad movement of the working class against new imperialist wars and especially against an intervention in our country especially on the part of the mightiest of the imperialist powers of Europe, on the part of England in particular."

The Party Moscow District Committee boasted:

"The Anglo-Russian Committee can, must, and will undoubtedly play an enormous role in the struggle against all possible interventions directed against the USSR. It will become the organizing center of the international forces of the proletariat for the struggle against every attempt of the international bourgeoisie to provoke a new war."

This committee achieved none of its purported aims. Instead, it dealt a terrible blow to the English labor movement and weakened the international position of the Soviet Union at the time. Far from serving in the interests of the USSR, it promoted only the interests of the British imperialists. The reactionary leaders of the General Council of the British Trade Unions were able to utilize their cordial relations with the Red Trade Unions and the Kremlin in order to smash the British General Strike of May 1926. The Committee continued to exist for a year after this treachery to the English labor movement, and was dissolved not on Stalin's initiative but by the demonstrative withdrawal of the British labor leaders, after the committee had served all their purposes.

Treachery On A Grander Scale

The Anglo-Russian Committee was an important stage in the degeneration of the Stalinist bureaucracy. At that time, the bureaucrats undermined the defense of the USSR and betrayed the interests of the proletariat by conniving with and covering up the labor agents of British imperialism. The Kremlin now repeats its treachery on a grander scale in collaboration not only with the lackeys but the masters.

The basic lessons of the debacle of the Anglo-Russian Committee retain their full force today. In 1925 the Stalinist bureaucracy revealed the same contempt and distrust of the masses that characterizes its present conduct. It seeks allies only among the tops—in the war cabinets of the "democratic" imperialists and in the ranks of the labor bureaucracy. During the existence of the Anglo-Russian Committee, Stalin shunted the Communist International aside in favor of his bloc with Purcell and Hicks, which he then palmed off as an "organizing center of the international forces of the proletariat." Today the Communist International has been completely gagged. It has not issued even a formal statement in connection with the defense of the Soviet Union.

In the period of the first Anglo-Russian Committee, Stalin at least pretended that the bloc with the reactionary trade union leaders was directed "against the counter-revolutionary imperialists of their own country," i.e., against Churchill and Co. The reconstituted bloc is based on the open support of this same Churchill.

Bevin-Morrison and Co. are as faithful servants of the ruling class as were Purcell and Hicks. If the latter were able to cover themselves with the prestige of the Soviet Union in breaking the 1926 General Strike, then Bevin and Morrison are now supplied by Stalin with the same cover in their support of the imperialist war and the imperialist aims of their masters.

We have no objection to the Soviet Government asking and seeking to obtain material aid from either Roosevelt or Churchill. But Stalin is making the Soviet Union pay a political price for this aid which far outweighs any immediate advantages.

Let us grant for a moment that this trade union bloc will serve in the next period to increase the flow of material aid to the Red Army. What weight has this temporary advantage as against the terrible weapons Stalin's policy leaves in Hitler's hands? The chief hold of the Nazis upon the people of Germany consists in the latter's dread of a new Versailles for a defeated Germany. Stalin by his policies links the defense of the USSR with the program of a worse edition of Versailles for Germany. Stalin's bloc with Bevin commits both the Red Trade Union and English organized labor to this same program.

Such a policy can never disintegrate the morale of the German army, or shake Hitler's regime. On the contrary, it supplies Hitler with advantages that no superiority of tanks, planes and other armament could avail him.

Churchill and Co. will send only the amount of material aid that serves their purposes. They and they alone will determine the quantity of tanks, planes, etc., that will be shipped. Today, as yesterday, far from promoting the interests of the Soviet Union, the trade union bloc, the revival of the Anglo-Russian Committee under wartime conditions, can promote only the interests of British imperialism. Stalin is once again bartering the political interests of the Soviet Union and of the world working class in return for immediate and picayune advantages.

To give effective aid to the heroic workers and soldiers of the USSR, the English workers must break with their reactionary labor leaders. They must oppose the imperialist war and its program of a new Versailles, and must raise high the banner of international solidarity. The German masses will join them in the fight for the Socialist U. S. of Europe.

This program, and this program alone will overthrow Hitler, destroy fascism and preserve the Soviet Union.