

Green, Reuther Hand Out Same Political Bunkum

**Offer No Positive Labor Program in Speeches
At Convention of Truman Doctrine Liberals**

By Art Preis

AFL President William Green and CIO United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther were the chief union spokesmen at the Americans for Democratic Action convention on Feb. 22 in Philadelphia. The ADA is the organization of Truman Doctrine liberals.

Green, an ancient mossback, represents the horse-and-buggy era of craft unionism. Reuther is a star graduate of the newer school of streamlined labor bureaucrats who pose as up-to-date and "progressive" in their thinking.

But they spoke the same language before the ADA convention. They expressed identical views on political action and the Marshall Plan—and all their views were reactionary.

IGNORED LABOR'S PROBLEMS

The problems of American labor before advancing Big Business reaction found place in their speeches only in a few brief complaints. They had another program to peddle—the Truman Doctrine, currently disguised as the European Recovery Program.

When it came to a political program for labor and progressives in 1948 they came forth with hollow negative—"Get Henry Wallace!"

Green ranted about Wallace's third-party venture as "ill-conceived and ill-timed," not to speak of "red-starred." Reuther proclaimed, "We've got the job of taking on Wallace and his Joe Stalin associates."

From their concentration on Wallace, you'd think that all evils stemmed from him rather than the Democratic and Republican freebooters who have mutually held a political monopoly for eight decades. But you will search in vain in

SWP Plenum Adopts Election Year Policy

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 — A full meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, with members assembled from all parts of the country, today concluded a three-day session devoted to discussion and action on the party's tasks in the light of the latest political developments at home and internationally.

After a thorough-going review and analysis of the crucial problems of the labor movement and the developing political trends, the National Committee plenum voted to run SWP candidates on a national ticket in the 1948 elections. The plenum nominated Farrell Dobbs as the party's presidential banner-bearer, and Grace Carlson for the vice presidential candidate. These nominations will be presented to the SWP national convention to be held around next June. (Text of adopted resolution appears on Page 4). Pre-convention discussion was immediately opened in the Party.

DISCUSSION ON WALLACE

Discussion in the plenum centered on the Wallace candidacy and third-party movement as the newest and most significant political development. The first two days of the plenum were devoted to this question and the party's attitude toward the Wallace movement.

The overwhelming majority of the plenum held the position that Wallace is a capitalist politician and that his movement can in no way be considered a labor party development. A contrary view was also presented which held that the Wallace movement might represent a step in the direction of a labor party and that labor should give him critical support.

After all points of view had been fully discussed, the committee adopted the majority resolution, rejecting any form of support to Wallace, by a vote of 22 to 1, with 4 abstentions. This resolution, printed in full on page 2, says in part:

"The Wallace party does not emerge as a political expression, however inadequate and perverted,

DOBBS AND CARLSON TO HEAD '48 NATIONAL TICKET OF SWP

Strikers Put Heat on Scabs



Members of the American Communications Association (CIO) and the Independent All America Cable Employees Association have been on strike against the cable companies since January 2. Here they are demanding that scabs hired by the boss accept messages. When the scabs refused, the strikers threatened to notify the Federal Communications Commission about the lack of service.

Federated Pictures

Judge Upholds Taft Act In ITU Injunction Case

Government strikebreaking by injunction has become a greater threat than ever as the result of a Federal Circuit Court decision handed down in Indianapolis on Feb. 25. The ruling was made in a hearing on the National Labor Relations Board petition for a sweeping injunction to restrain the AFL International Typographical Union from committing 23 alleged "unfair labor practices."

Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert, setting aside an ITU motion for dismissal of the NLRB petition, ruled that the Taft-Hartley Act provision under which the injunction is sought is constitutional. This not only clears the way for an injunction in the ITU case, but juridically strengthens the Taft-Hartley Act and its chief agency, the NLRB.

Specifically, Judge Swygert ruled that the NLRB, through its General Counsel Denham, has the legal right to seek an injunction against a union on disputed charges still being heard "impartially" by the NLRB itself. Thus, the NLRB can

invoke court action to break a strike or otherwise shackle any union even before evidence has been heard or employers' complaints have been upheld.

In the ITU case, the injunction proceedings were instituted by Denham as part of a conspiracy between the NLRB and the big newspaper publishers to impose an open shop contract on the ITU and thereby undermine the largest union in the printing trade. The ITU has been waging a determined fight for months, spearheaded by the strike of ITU Local 16 against the Chicago Big Business dailies to win justifiable wage increases and sustain its traditional contractual conditions of employment.

If Judge Swygert now grants the petition of the NLRB, the ITU will face one of the most vicious and all-embracing injunctions in the whole notorious history of government strikebreaking. It would literally prevent the ITU from even "advocating or counseling" strikes or "other disruptions" both before and after the NLRB decisions. Legally, it would place the ITU completely at the mercy of the publishers.

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SWP Resolution on Wallace Third-Party Movement

Resolution Adopted by the February Plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party

The Wallace third party movement emerges as a consummation of the postwar fight, primarily over foreign policy, waged within the Democratic Party, since Roosevelt's death. This has been and remains a purely tactical fight rigidly restricted within the framework of capitalist class politics. The class character of the Wallace movement, as a capitalist splinter party, is not altered either by its petty bourgeois composition or by the penetration of its apparatus by the Stalinists and their fellow-travelers.

The Wallace movement objectively expresses the interests and outlook of those elements among the U.S. ruling class who believe it expedient to conciliate the labor movement at home and the Kremlin abroad. Their stamp is placed upon the movement by Wallace, the millionaire publisher and self-proclaimed defender of capitalism and "Americanism." This ex-Secretary of Agriculture and Vice-President under Roosevelt and Secretary of Commerce under Truman holds the reins of the movement in his own hands.

Capitalists Could Turn

The capitalist character of the Wallace movement is not altered by the fact that the monopolists are at present united in opposing it. Big Business today, drunk with power and bent on world domination, is opposed to any policy of conciliation either in domestic or foreign affairs. Wallace cannot hope for any appreciable support from decisive capitalist circles at the present time. But under different circumstances, at a later stage of the development of the capitalist crisis, they could easily turn to him, as they turned to Roosevelt, in an attempt to head off an independent class movement of the workers.

Wallace's third party program and propaganda are cleverly designed to appear as an anti-war, pro-labor, liberal alternative to the Truman party of war, depression, and assaults on labor's rights and civil liberties. That is why it evokes a response among workers and Negroes who take its phrases and promises at face value and cherish illusions about the progressiveness of Wallace.

But this fairly wide mass sympathy for

Wallace is by no means a sufficient reason for class-conscious workers to participate in his party or to give it critical endorsement. Nor can such sympathies and illusions alter the capitalist character of the movement—or impart to it a Labor Party character. Roosevelt and other bourgeois demagogues had far greater allegiance from organized labor without merit or receiving the slightest endorsement from the revolutionary vanguard.

Who Controls Wallace?

What is the relationship of forces within the Wallace camp? The liberal bourgeois politician, Wallace, personally dominates and directs it, setting its tone and formulating its policy. He is subject to control by no one. The Stalinists, concerned solely with their pressure campaign for a compromise agreement between Washington and the Kremlin, obediently follow in his footsteps while the organized labor movement is conspicuously absent. Actually, the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois liberals are in command, the Stalinists serve as their lieutenants, and the rank and file trail along.

The unions have no way of exercising control over Wallace, his party or his program.

Under these circumstances millions of votes garnered by Wallace can enhance his personal influence and prestige, increase his bargaining power in negotiations with the Democratic leaders, and give him all the greater independence from the labor movement.

A genuine mass political party of labor cannot be built in this country without the participation and support of the unions. The established economic organs of the working class provide the only serious and solid foundations for the independent political activity and organization of American labor. Thus the indispensable minimum requirement for giving critical support to a third party movement is that it be based upon a significant section of organized labor and subject to its control and pressure.

The Wallace party does not emerge as a political expression, however inadequate and perverted of the unions. It arises out of the failure of the union bureaucrats to open up a new political path for the workers. It cannot be regarded as an aid to independent political labor organization but as a spurious "progressive" substitute for a Labor Party. Wallace has moved in to fill the vacuum that should be filled by a genuine Labor Party and to exploit the widespread revulsion against

the Democrats and Republicans and the desire for a new political road.

Some workers may feel that since the success of any third party depends upon labor support, the Wallace movement must inevitably gravitate in that direction; and that if they plunge vigorously into this movement, it might be possible to switch it from its present wrong course over to the Labor Party track.

The premise of this reasoning is false. In determining a correct attitude toward a political formation like the Wallace movement, it is false to proceed from purely or mainly tactical considerations, or guesses on the possibilities of using it to good advantage. That is the wrong end from which to begin. This new political current must first of all be approached from the standpoint of class principle.

The chief function of the Wallace party is to deceive the workers with demagogic against Big Business rule and to take command of the anti-war and anti-imperialist struggle of the masses in order to sell them out sooner or later.

Left the Door Open

Apart from its relations with the union movement, the Wallace formation has not even as yet completely detached itself from the Democratic Party. Wallace has announced plans to back liberal Democrats and progressive Republicans in 1948. He has left the door open to make peace with the Democratic high command after the 1948 campaign, and possibly before, and lead his "Gideon's army" back into that cesspool. The destiny of the movement hangs upon this single individual, his decisions and his ambitions.

Despite attempts to belittle the Wallace movement, it will undoubtedly attract considerable popular support and it seriously imperils Truman's election. Moreover, the Wallace candidate not only damages the presidential prospects of the Democrats but delivers a blow to the two-party system. That is the most favorable factor to its credit from the standpoint of political progress. This break with the Democratic Party helps to shatter the hold of the two-party system upon the workers and to unsettle the whole political situation, setting new political trends in motion, spreading new ideas and raising more sharply the question of labor's independent role in politics.

This heightening of political conflict

should be utilized to expose the servility of the labor bureaucrats to the Democratic machine, to advance the need for the Labor Party—and lay bare the Wallace-Stalinist adventure as a spurious substitute for a Labor Party and a false answer to labor's political problems.

But these objective consequences flowing from the emergence of the Wallace movement cannot provide justification for its support. A Marxist analysis of the Wallace third party movement at its present stage of development dictates the following attitude toward it:

Expose the Demagogue!

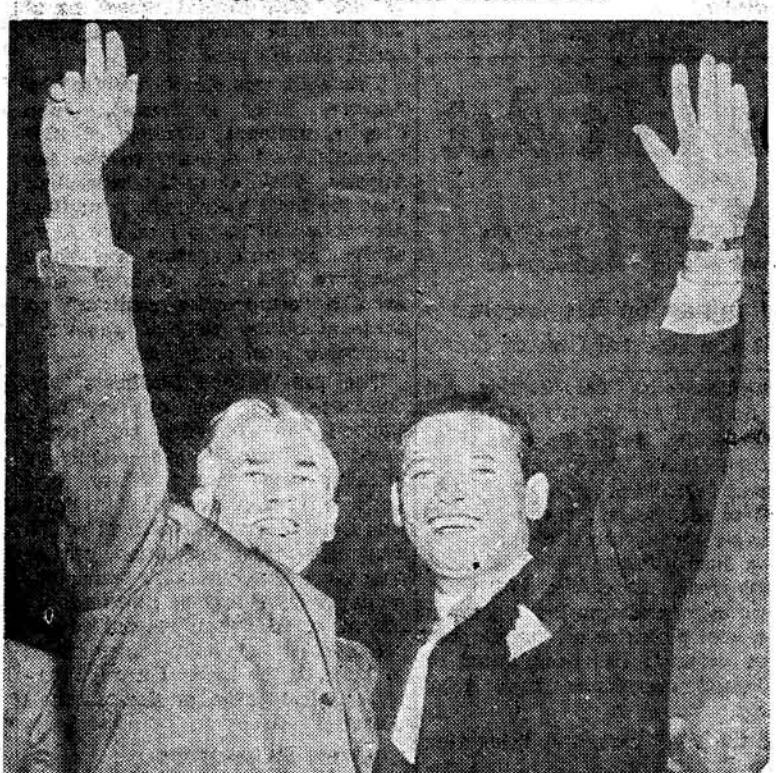
1. Principled opposition to this political adventure undertaken by an ambitious capitalist politician and backed by the Stalinists. This adventure aims at channeling anti-war sentiment, exploiting the discontent with the capitalist regime, and making a deal with Wallace's former Democratic associates at home and a deal with the Kremlin on the field of foreign affairs.

2. Sharp exposure of the fake "peace" program of Wallace and his associates, their subservience to imperialism, their reformist panaceas, and their false methods of struggle against war and capitalist domination. Instead of joining the Wallace phrasemongers and Stalinist sell-out artists or giving their candidates critical support, we, as Marxists, must counterpose to them our working class program and methods of struggle against the war danger and capitalist evils. At the same time, in opposing and criticizing the Wallace movement, it is important to acknowledge the validity of many of its arguments against the present bi-partisan government and its policies. These constitute a common bond between us and the rank and file supporters of this movement and differentiate our condemnation of Wallace from the utterly reactionary opposition of the labor bureaucrats.

3. The union militants must combat BOTH the Wallace-Stalinist third party, and the AFL and CIO bureaucrats who support the old-line capitalist parties and candidates. Union militants must continue to fight for the formation of a genuine party of labor, based on and controlled by the unions.

4. We call upon all workers and all supporters of the struggle for socialism to support and vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates, Farrell Dobbs for President and Grace Carlson for Vice-President in the 1948 national elections.

Wallace and Isaacson



Henry A. Wallace and Leo Isaacson acknowledge cheers at a rally. Isaacson won the special election in the 24th Congressional District in the Bronx, New York, by an almost 2 to 1 majority over his nearest opponent, Democrat Karl Propper.

Federated Pictures

symbolized, which spread far and wide among the slaves and gave a new impulse to the activities of their allies, the abolitionists. The slaves were finally emancipated, a little over 30 years later, after a bloody struggle in which they bore arms and conducted themselves after the fashion of Nat Turner.

And today, when our fight is against Jim Crow oppression and terror, the 20th century substitute

for chattel slavery, we still draw inspiration and courage from Nat Turner's militant example and tradition. Alone, the Negro people cannot win their second emancipation. But even by themselves they can strike mighty blows at the capitalist Jim Crow structure, and thereby arouse the support of the white workers, with whose assistance they can and will build a new world of freedom and equality.

We have no arms or ammunition, but we will find them in the homes of our oppressors... Remember that ours is not a war for robbery, nor to satisfy our passions; it is a struggle for freedom. Ours must be deeds, not words..."

For three days the insurgents struck at one point after another—burning homes, killing slaveholders and gathering support as they went along. Their numbers increased to more than 200. None of the slaves whom they reached refused to take up arms with them—an indication that they too were ready for action.

At first it was their intention to kill every white they met, but they made one interesting exception—a family of non-slaveholding whites. This signified that they realized their real struggle was not against the white race, but against the slave system.

In the end the rebels were overwhelmed by tremendous forces and hunted down in the woods until every last one was captured or killed.

Turner was tried and convicted and calmly went to his death, declaring that he felt no guilt, that he had only been trying to lead the slaves as Washington had led the American revolution—for freedom, peace and the right to live as human beings.

But this was not the end of it. Fear had struck into the heart of the slaveholding aristocracy, and everywhere they looked they saw the figure of Nat Turner arising to plague them. They murdered hundreds of slaves who had not been to do with the uprising, and they were so panicky that they decided to prevent Negroes from becoming preachers thereafter. There were even reports from far-off North Carolina that slaveholders had died from shock at the news of the Turner rebellion!

Turner was hanged, but they could not kill the spirit of revolt he

had created.

Editorials

Strikes-Struggles in France

1948 Presidential Elections

The Commodity Price Break

The Communist Manifesto: 1848-1948

The Jewish Question Today

Draft Theses of International Secretariat

Decline of the American Middle Class

By C. Curtis

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From the Arsenal of Marxism

Ninety Years of the Communist Manifesto

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C.R.P. of St. Paul renewed for

year a year although "I do not work

steadily and have so many doctor bills I never know if I will meet the expenses. However, I do enjoy the paper and since it is election year I certainly want to get it."

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THE MILITANT

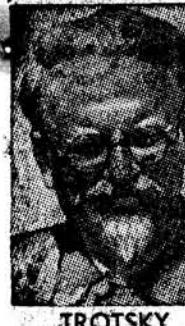
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sent the *Militant* policies.
These are expressed in its
editorials.

Monday, March 1, 1948



"Reactionary epochs like ours not only disintegrate and weaken the working class and its vanguard but also lower the general ideological level of the movement and throw political thinking back to stages long since passed through. In these conditions the task of the vanguard is above all not to let itself be carried along by the backward flow; it must swim against the current. If an unfavorable relation of forces prevents it from holding the positions that it has won, it must at least retain its ideological positions, because in them is expressed the dearly paid experience of the past."

—Leon Trotsky, Stalinism and Bolshevism, 1937.



A Milestone for American Labor

The decision of the Socialist Workers Party to run its own presidential ticket in the 1948 elections is a great milestone in the history of American labor. It marks the emergence of the revolutionary party, the party of struggle and hope, as a national factor in American politics.

This announcement may not arouse the fanfare and commotion which accompanied, say, the acceptance speech of Henry Wallace. Among many who acclaimed the Wallace nomination, there was undoubtedly a feeling of hope for the breakup of the vicious two-party system. So deep is the desire to break these chains of reaction, that Wallace's radical demagogic may unfortunately be mistaken for a genuine attack on monopoly capitalism at home and abroad.

In comparing his movement with the pre-Civil War Republican Party, Wallace is keen enough to exploit a wide and deep-going sentiment for fundamental change. This comparison is false. Wallace's party does not at all seek fundamental changes. It is, in fact, unalterably opposed to ridding America of its present-day slavemaster, the billionaire corporations, banks and monopolies. Its most extreme proposals represent nothing but attempts to salvage a system which threatens to shipwreck the human race.

The emergence of the Wallace Party lends still greater significance to the coming presidential campaign of the Socialist Work-

ers Party. In times such as these, when the old order begins to founder and when a new awakening is opening the eyes of the exploited and underprivileged millions, the clear, uncompromising voice of the party of the socialist revolution is most urgent.

What is needed in the United States today is not so much the breakup of the two-party system as the smashing of the capitalist system. What is needed are not a few reforms that will act as a lightning rod to divert the discontent of the masses, but a fundamental social reorganization that will permit the working people to enjoy the benefits of the great wealth, resources and technical achievements of American industry. What is needed is not another capitalist party that means all things to all men, but a fighting leadership of the workers movement against reaction, against the union-busters, against the Jim Crows, against the imperialist war-makers.

Such a party is the Socialist Workers Party. For twenty years the SWP has prepared for this occasion. Not for one day in these twenty years has the SWP faltered in the struggle for the great objectives of socialism.

The presidential campaign will place the Socialist Workers Party before the eyes and ears of the workers of the nation. That is a major step toward the establishment of the new leadership that will bring peace, abundance, and socialism to the American people.

Preserve the Unity of CIO and PAC!

The sharpening conflict between the Murray-Reuther camp and the Stalinists is seriously disrupting the CIO and its Political Action Committee. This struggle between two groups of bureaucrats is threatening the CIO and PAC with damaging splits.

CIO councils in Newark and Los Angeles have already been torn asunder in this factional war. The Murray-Reuther forces in both these councils, unable to impose their policies on the majority, have walked out and are attempting to set up dual bodies.

Split-offs from Stalinist-dominated international unions are being encouraged by the Murray-Reuther leadership. The shipyard workers union, controlled by the right-wing, recently accepted into membership a sizable group which had quit the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Neither the Murray-Reuther faction nor the Stalinists are acting in the interests of the membership. Both are pursuing irresponsible, anti-democratic policies.

The Murray-Reuther machine is acting in cahoots with the outside agency of the U. S. State Department to commit the CIO to support of the imperialistic Truman Doctrine, now embodied in the so-called European Recovery Program. It is attempting to impose on the CIO membership a reaction-

Stop the splitters! Preserve the unity of CIO and PAC!

put the heat on the highest war council. His subordinates have the job of driving combat units into battle. How far this goes can be seen from the interview given by U. S. Colonel A. J. Regnier to the United Press immediately after the recent battle near Saloniaka. Regnier told how the Greek officers showed insufficient aggressiveness and how he took command and led the troops in the storming of a vital hill.

Following the fight around Saloniaka, 121 partisans, many wounded, were marched through the city while royalists stoned and beat them. Can it be that the U. S. Army "advisers" also suggested this lynch mob technique in order to whip up more spirit for fighting the partisans?

In Washington Truman told Congress that more hundreds of millions of dollars will soon be needed to uphold the Greek Government. In Louisville, Loy Henderson, State Department master-mind of Wall Street's Greek policy, implied that if the Greek reactionaries can't get their army to fight, the U. S. Army will be sent to do the necessary killing.

American politicians and diplomats are running the Greek government while American Army officers and specialists are waging an undeclared war against the Greek partisans.

This is the Truman Doctrine in Greece. It foreshadows just how the Marshall Plan will ultimately unfold for all Western Europe.

Crisis of Italian Socialism Shown in Party's Convention

By Marcel Rogier

The Congress of the Italian Socialist Party (the party led by Nenni) concluded its sessions in Rome recently, at a time when working class agitation was assuming more and more violent forms. The general strike in Florence and all Tuscany, the conflict with the police, the increasing occupation of factories and the growing agrarian movements, all these developments were followed eagerly by the majority of delegates at the Congress. In addition, this gathering had a more proletarian aspect than the Congress of the Communist Party in Milan.

But the results of the discussions confirm the opinion of those who had long ago given up the idea that the centrists of the Italian SP could be a possible center for regrouping the revolutionary forces in Italy. It was evident that the Congress had been carefully prepared organizationally. More than half of the delegates were local, regional or national functionaries of the party, constituting that notorious "monolithic apparatus" which gives this party a certain resemblance to the

CP. The election results indicate:

a) that the Trotskyists in Ceylon have deep roots among the masses; b)

that the most oppressed peoples of the colonies, fighting for freedom and independence, are prepared to rally around the banner of an uncompromising revolutionary party; c)

that it is possible in the colonies at least, to by-pass the obstacle of treacherous Stalinism and Social

Democracy.

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that the most oppressed peoples of the colonies, fighting for freedom and independence, are prepared to rally around the banner of an uncompromising revolutionary party; c)

that it is possible in the colonies at least, to by-pass the obstacle of treacherous Stalinism and Social

Democracy.

We are fully cognizant at the

same time of the unfortunate division existing between the official

section of the Fourth International

and the dissidents in Ceylon. But

the fact that both organizations bear the same name and campaign under the banner of the Fourth International, signifies that the masses voting for these parties and their candidates had no way of distinguishing between them and the election results had to be taken in their totality. It was a great victory for Trotskyism.

The division in the ranks, however, made us apprehensive about the possible future developments. We asked ourselves: would the split be healed in the face of the responsibilities imposed by the victory in the elections? Would the parliamentary fraction work as one in the face of the class enemy?

It was our fervent hope that this

would be the case and that such

common work would lead to the

eventual fusion of the two organiza-

tions. We expressed this hope in

a message of felicitation sent to

the two organizations.

We did not have to wait long for

an answer to the above question. The

independence issue which came up before the Ceylon parliament shortly after the elections, presented the Trotskyists with an early test.

Two separate positions and two dif-

ferent stands were taken on this is-

ue. Nine members of the parlia-

ment adhering to the dissident orga-

nization took a "neutral" position,

abstaining from the vote on this

burning issue.

It remained for six other mem-

bers of parliament, five representing the

official section of the Fourth Interna-

tional, to take a firm stand

against the spurious independence

bill and to defend an uncompromis-

ing position in behalf of genuine in-

dependence from British imperialist

rule.

What was involved in this issue?

The disintegrating British em-
pire which was greatly weakened by

the Second World War, amid the

threat of a production crisis at home

and abroad.

We hereby repudiate the stand

taken by the dissidents and re-

nounce all responsibility for it. The

Fourth International is the uncom-

promising fighter for the complete

independence of colonial peoples, for

their unfettered freedom to deter-

mine their own fate. This is one

of the fundamental questions on

which the Fourth International dif-

fers basically from the traitor par-

ties of Stalinism and the Social De-

mocracy. The position of the Fourth

International was advanced in Cey-

lon by only one force, the BLPI and

its members in Parliament.

What is incomprehensible how-

ever, is the failure of the dissidents

to do likewise. We are greatly con-

cerned with this. The fact that they

too claim to be Trotskyists ob-

scures the real position of the

Trotskyists in the eyes of the

masses.

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Presidential Campaign Resolution of the SWP

Resolution Adopted by the February Plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party

The National Committee reaffirms the decision of its August 1947 Plenum to enter a Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket in the 1948 elections.

In addition to the considerations for a party presidential campaign which were enumerated in August, such as the political and propaganda value of appearing on the national arena as a political force contending for the most important office, several important developments since the August Plenum make participation in the campaign a more urgent task for the party.

The party must find the most dramatic and effective means of countering the reactionary offensive of finance capital on the domestic scene and its war drive. The temporary recession of mass struggle on the economic plane has not eliminated the sources of popular discontent. On the contrary these grievances have become sharper as a result of rising prices, anti-labor legislation and the danger of war. The presidential election campaign will provide the party with the best arena in the next period for presenting its revolutionary answer to the reactionary offensive.

AIM OF THE RED-BAITERS

The strategy of the ruling clique of the bourgeoisie in its red-baiting drive has been to identify all revolutionary opposition with Stalinism and thereby to smear the authentic representatives of revolutionary socialism with the crimes and discredits that is attached to Stalinism. Because of our small forces it is difficult to counteract this strategy in a routine day to day propaganda manner and in the trade unions. The presidential campaign, however, will provide us with a broader vehicle to differentiate genuine communism from Stalinism. Regardless of the scope of our campaign, which must be limited by funds and forces, our appearance as an independent political factor will go far in accomplishing the above aim.

Add A Dash of Poison!

By Grace Carlson

All of the big commercial bakers tell the suffering public that their product is "unique"—that it is baked according to a special "home recipe"; that it "stays

fresh longer"; that it contains some "priceless ingredient." The facts are, of course, that the ordinary loaf of packaged white bread is uniformly soggy and tasteless.

And recent medical studies indicate that it may be uniformly dangerous to its users.

In the December 14, 1946 issue of the *British Medical Journal*, the famous nutritional expert, Sir Edward Mellanby reported that bleached flour gives dogs fits. Since that time, two groups of American scientists have verified Mellanby's findings. Their reports, published in the November 22, 1947 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, gave the experimental evidence to prove that bleached flour poisoned dogs, cats, ferrets and monkeys. In each case, the symptoms vanished with the species.

Nine-tenths of the bread eaten by the American people is made out of bleached flour. For the past 30 years, most of our bleached flour has been "ageneized." Agene is the trade name for nitrogen trichloride—a substance added to flour during the milling process. With the agene treatment, the flour is only bleached, but is made inedible for weevils. Thus, it keeps for a much longer time in the bakeries and warehouses.

On the subject of agene and its possible dangerous effects on human beings, the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council has made the following recommendations:

1. Investigation of the effects of agene-ized flour on human subjects.
2. Exploration of alternative processes of flour treatment to make sure that flour is free from toxic effects.
3. Reduction of the use of agene by commercial bakers.

Agene gives fits to dogs. What it does to human beings is still a matter of speculation. Experiments now under way indicate that agene may change some of the wheat protein into a nerve poison, which, in turn, may cause alcoholism or some other personality disorder.

But the mere discussion of the "agene" question is giving all of the flour trusts and the profit-hungry bakers fits. Because all of their bread recipes call for the addition of "a dash of poison."

The Negro Struggle

Position of Negroes in Industry Today

By George Lavan

The Negro people engaged in a great migration from the farms to the cities. It was also a migration from laborers' jobs and domestic work into semi-skilled factory jobs.

In April, 1940, one-third of all employed Negroes were farm workers and farmers. The same month in 1947 saw only half as many Negro workers left on farms.

Many of these had stayed on the land because they owned their own farms or had, with the help of children working in factories, been able to buy farms. So that while in 1940 only 43% of Negroes working in agriculture owned or managed farms, by 1947 the figure had risen to 60%.

But now more than four-fifths of all employed Negroes were outside agriculture. What kind of jobs did they get? The overall picture is beyond question one of advancement into better paid jobs with better working conditions. This progress can be attributed not only to the full employment brought about by World War II. Much credit must go to the militant spirit shown by the Negro people and the progressive industrial unions—the CIO.

Before the war over 70% of Negro women, not employed on farms, worked as domestics. Fifteen months after Pearl Harbor this figure had dropped to less than 50%. Many Negro women escaped from the long hours of domestic drudgery and went into service jobs—beauticians, restaurant cooks and waiters.

Notes from the News

UNION SHOP WINS — A union shop was approved 45 to 16 in a NLRB election last week at Geometric Stamping Co. in Cleveland, it was announced by Steve Sabe, international representative of the UAW-CIO. This was the first CIO election held in Cleveland for a union shop under the Taft-Hartley Law.

MOVIE JIM-CROWED — The scheduled film on the baseball career of Jackie Robinson, starring the Brooklyn first baseman himself, has been cancelled. Reasons were the Hollywood witch hunt and pressure from Southern theater owners.

DEPORTATIONS STOPPED — The fight against deportations has won five victories as courts ruled against the Department of Justice. Among those saved from deportation was Steve Tandaric, who came to the U.S. in 1911 at the age of five. A former member of a CIO Steelworkers local, Tandaric was arrested for deportation after his return from fighting in the Spanish Republican Army. Also saved were Umberto Silex of El Paso, former regional director of CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, and Anton Jay, CIO Auto Worker of South Bend, whose citizenship the FBI tried to revoke.

SWEEPING INJUNCTION — The Los Angeles AFL Building Trades Council was forced to call off

THE MILITANT

PAGE FOUR

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1948

CIO Shipyard Union's Structure Radically Altered at Convention

Malraux Slanders Trotskyism; Gets Aid from "Times"

(Continued from Page 1) Malraux is doing, i. e., "collaborate" with de Gaulle. The use of this letter shows that Malraux is aiming not only at the French workers but at his American public which is fittingly aghast at his new political role. But Malraux will not be able to cover himself with the name of Serge, whose friendship with Trotsky is heavily emphasized in Sulzberger's article.

SERGE AND TROTskyISM

Victor Serge was a distinguished revolutionary and writer of many years standing. After taking part in revolutionary struggles in Europe he went to Russia, worked with the Bolsheviks, and joined the Trotsky Left Opposition. He fought heroically against the Stalinist persecution of all supporters of Trotskyism. Through his reputation abroad and the pressure of his friends, he was able to get out of Russia and to expose the crimes of Stalinism.

But for Serge, too, the Spanish Revolution was a decisive turning point in his relations with Trotskyism. Victor Serge publicly became a member of the POUM, a party which joined the Popular Front and carried out a vacillating policy. The break between Serge and Trotsky soon assumed an extremely sharp and well-publicized form.

Trotsky took every opportunity to denounce publicly Serge's political theories and policies especially in relation to Spain. Thus he wrote in 1938: "Serge plays with the concept of revolution, writes poems about it, but is incapable of understanding it as it is." The sharpness of the polemic and its comprehensive character show how necessary Trotsky thought it to break all political ties with Serge. All this appeared in the Pioneer Press edition of *Their Morals and Ours*.

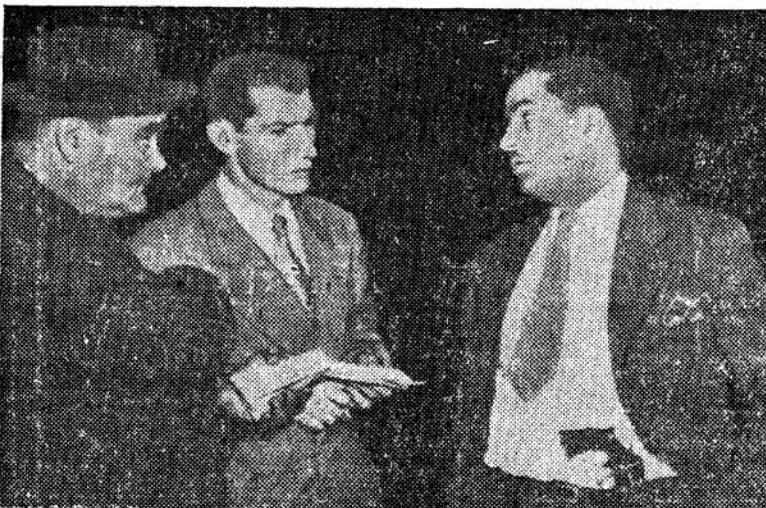
Sulzberger, however, writes of Serge that "in Mexico he was a great friend of Trotsky until the latter was assassinated." After 1938 Serge could not possibly have been a "great friend" of Trotsky in any place. It also happens that Serge arrived in Mexico after Trotsky was murdered.

As for the pretense that there are French Trotskyists who would consider Serge's letter as a good reason to "the left" to join de Gaulle, it is a brazen lie in the GPU manner. The French Trotskyist movement knows de Gaulle for what he is, the mortal enemy of the French proletariat, and is in the vanguard of the struggle against him.

READ

Fourth International

Defies Ku Klux Klan



When Walter Bowland, Lakeview, Ga. basketball coach, was ordered by the Ku Klux Klan to stay out of Rosselle, Ga., he decided to put up an argument. The gun in his belt showed that he was prepared to back up his stand with the kind of language the Klan understands. No one bothered him.

Federated Pictures

Dobbs-Carlson Ticket

(Continued from Page 1)

better than that of the other capitalist politicians?

Wallace claims that he stands for peace. In the same breath he emphasizes his loyalty to the capitalist system. Peace and capitalism don't mix. Woodrow Wilson promised to keep America out of war. In office, however, he plunged the United States into World War I. Franklin D. Roosevelt likewise proclaimed that he hated war and promised "again and again and again" he would not send American boys to fight overseas. But Roosevelt had Wallace's help in plunging the United States into World War II.

"Wallace now insists that he represents the tradition of Wilson and Roosevelt. Isn't that the tradition of promising peace and giving us

plenty. It replaces the profit system and thereby eliminates the basic cause of wars, poverty and political reaction.

"End the rule of the piratical cliques of capitalists who run industry for greedy personal ends! Put order and planning in our magnificent industrial system! Prevent a Third World War! Join the struggle for peace and security by building socialism."

The conservative leadership of

A delegate from Brooklyn then

took the microphone and attacked Wallace as a "millionaire publisher who had no responsibility to the labor movement." This delegate then criticized CIO-PAC policy as "company unionism in politics" and charged that, implicit in the PAC leadership program is support of "strikebreaker" Truman, the graduate of the corrupt Pendergast machine of Kansas City and his corrupt and reactionary party."

The opening day of the convention brought a political debate on the CIO-PAC program when a resolution embodying these ideas was read out by Resolutions Committee Chairman, Thomas Flynn. A pro-Wallace spokesman quickly gained the floor and spoke "about smacking out the reactionaries in both parties." His speech was met with boos and cries of "sit down!"

A delegate from Brooklyn then took the microphone and attacked Wallace as a "millionaire publisher who had no responsibility to the labor movement." This delegate then criticized CIO-PAC policy as "company unionism in politics" and charged that, implicit in the PAC leadership program is support of "strikebreaker" Truman, the graduate of the corrupt Pendergast machine of Kansas City and his corrupt and reactionary party."

Pointing out the class nature of the union organization, the speaker called for the formation of a party of labor. "Only by independent labor action will we be able to mobilize the workers of America against Wallace, Truman and Taft, all representatives of the capitalist class, the manufacturers, the same people whom we fought on the picket lines for five months last year."

The delegates reacted to this militant speech with marked interest. Although they voted for the resolution endorsing the CIO Executive Board's policy, the interest they showed indicated a willingness to seriously consider the idea of a real labor party.

Though a large majority of the delegates voted for most of the major proposals of the leadership, such as the amalgamation, the Marshall Plan, etc., a scattered opposition—apart from the Stalinists—could be detected. This opposition solidified against the Green leadership on one major question when they defeated a proposed amendment to the constitution that changed the election of officers from once a year to bi-annually.

Easter Sales Trends and the New Steel Price Hike

By John G. Wright

Feb. 24 — Since the commodity price break, two new developments have taken place in the country's economy. They can prove decisive in determining what lies immediately ahead. On the one hand, we have the first significant signs of dislocation in the home market; and, on the other, there is the action of the Steel Trust boosting sharply prices of semi-finished steel.

These two trends run counter to one another and in the process of their unfolding are bound to lead to highly antagonistic consequences, thus adding still another contradiction to an already explosive economic situation.

The first week of the commodity price break gave no definite signs of disturbance in the domestic market as reflected in the highly sensitive field of department store sales. For the week ending Feb. 7 the Federal Reserve Board weekly reports showed signs of "softness" appearing here and there.

But on a national scale, department store sales continued to record the same gains in dollar volume as in the last several months. In the Feb. 7 week, there was a 9% increase as against last year's sales.

In any case, in our opinion, one controversial aspect of the current situation is already quite clear. The commodity price break has such

marked shift, which if it persists, will reverse the trend of the entire previous period. Up to now the stores have been taking in an average of 10% more in dollars than they did last year. A shift from 10% over last year's sales to 3% under last year's figures therefore represents a loss in sales of hundreds of millions of dollars a month.

Furthermore, the most ominous feature of this initial decline is its widespread character. The only district reporting any gain was the New York area with its 1% larger sales. The rest of the country showed losses ranging from 9% in the Boston reserve district (covering New England) to 2% decline in the San Francisco district (covering the West Coast).

EASTER SEASON

In the second place, this relatively sharp drop comes at the beginning of the Easter sale season which as a rule sets up retail trade. It is, of course, too early to say whether or not the long-anticipated breaking point in retail trade is already here. A single week is not enough to establish a trend. But the next period up to Easter week itself (ending March 27) is indeed highly symptomatic and may very well tell the full story.

The decline in physical volume of retail sales which set in during the middle of last year did not prove decisive at the time because the economy was jet-propelled to new price levels by the inflationary spurge. It was the Steel Trust at that time that fixed the economic pattern of the second half of 1947 by hiking iron and steel prices on top of a thumping increase in coal prices.

By the time such whopping increases reach the consumer they snowball to roughly 20% and more on the price of durable goods from autos and refrigerators to picnics and pans. This is, therefore, a major inflationary measure. It is similar, if not identical, to what was done last

July. It is intended to produce the same results.

The prospect of still higher prices makes it profitable to maintain and even add to existing inventories, no matter how large. The fuel that this adds to speculation—buying and hoarding in expectation of still higher prices—hardly requires comment in the light of the still fresh experience.

The whole question therefore is: Will this fanning of inflationary fires prove successful the second time as it did the first? A partial success is by no means excluded. But this in turn depends on several factors, of which the most important is once again the existing condition of the domestic market. Can the latter today absorb a general price rise as was the case in the second part of last year? Or has the inflationary orgy already sapped beyond repair the domestic market?

MORE EXPLOSIVE

The final outcome of this desperate inflationary measure will be only to render more explosive and devastating the effects of the oncoming depression. But the immediate outcome—whether or not it will provide a temporary respite in the current situation—still remains in doubt.

Here again, the answer will in large part depend on what happens in the sphere of retail trade, especially during the current Easter season.