Workers

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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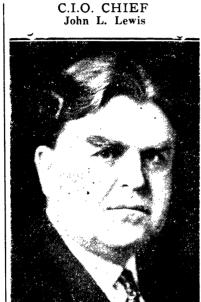
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C.I.O. DRIVES SWEEP MASS PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES; STEEL OPEN SHOP ENDED

LEADERS OF VICTORIOUS ORGANIZATION DRIVES Rubber Workers Strike; New



AUTO UNION HEAD





SIGNED UP STEEL

Court Fight

Attempts To Whip Party Conservatives Into Line On Reform Issue

In partial contrast to his recent vapid speeches, President Roosevelt, speaking at the Democratic Victory Dinner, opened up fire against opponents of his proposal anent the Supreme Court.

Apparently throwing caution to the winds and confounding those of his supporters who predicted this would be a conservative administration, he practically appealed to labor and the agrarian movement to create a fighting mass movement in behalf of court reform. Actually, it must be remembered that the spirit of his phrases is still bound by their actual content-which happen to concern a very incomplete ineffective reform of the Supreme Court.

Roosevelt's strategy was twofold: first, to so absorb the laoor movement and its farm allies with his meagre proposals, so that labor's goal of a constitutional amendment would be pushed aside; secondly, to set in motion the Democratic party machinery in such a way that should the apparently oncoming party split actually take place, it would be the new deal, the Roosevelt group that would maintain the leadership and not the dissident conservatives. Press comment from opposition democratic papers show that they recognize this, raving about "personal allegiance" being the main criterion, etc. In line with this could be seen the implications of his mass appeal: the attempt to hold the growing political independence of labor within the revived New Deal, heading off the break which threatens on that side

FDR Sharpens A.F.L. Declares War On C.I.O. Unionism

Green Orders CIO Unions Expelled from Central Labor Bodies; Aluminum Union in Revolt; Plans New Attacks on CIO

last Monday with a picked crew of amalgamation of several unions 50 city and state organizers of the A. F. of L. to map a vigorous drive against the ever-expanding and victorious Committee for Industrial Organization. At the same time John L. Lewis opened a conference of CIO leaders to map the organization drives to be launched in the textile and oil industries. The difference in the aims of the two conferences is in itself an indication of the role which the two labor bodies are playing—the one negative, fighting desperately to hold on to what it has today, the other positive-organizing, striking and thereby improving the condiof hitherto tions or unorganized workers.

The war conference of the A. F. of L. comes after an order was circulated among the city and state bodies of the A. F. of L. instructing these bodies to oust all units of international unions affiliated with the CIO.

A number of local A. F. of L leaders are resentful at the expulsion order, claiming that Green, who has not the courage to handle this problem on a national scale is passing the buck to the local labor bodies. Todate only the Cleveland organization has approved the A. F. of Labor order. In other important labor bodies the matter will not be settled so easily since the CIO organizations represent a significant force.

The first attempt to curb a CIO organization driven has already hit a snag in the case of the shoe industry. In this particular field CIO has issued no statement.

William Green went into session | sponsorship was able to achieve the and the launching of a drive with this amalgamated organization as the base. Green rushed organizers into New England to aid the Boot and Shoe Workers Union and ordered the state and local labor bodies to cooperate in stopping the drive. This the state federation refused to do.

Whether the A. F. of L. intends to counter the drive in the textile industry with one of its own is not yet known. Leaders stated, however, that the CIO would be fought all along the line. It was even hinted that the craft unionists would boycott goods from industries that recognized the CIO.

As Green began to plan the drive against the CIO, insurrection against the craft union policies broke out in a new field. 6,000 aluminum workers seceded from the A. F. of L. and applied for admission to the CIO bringing with them \$27,000 which should have gone to the A. F. of L. as per capita taxes The organization also announced its intention of calling a national convention of all aluminnum orgaizations for the purpose of forming an international organization.

An interesting angle has devel oped in the case of the drive begun by the machinist unions in New Jersey. This drive is said to have the support of the CIO, yet the drive is being conducted by a member of the executive board of the machinists whose president A. O. Wharton, is among the most bitter opponents of the CIO. Wharton

Sit-Downs in Chevrolet Plants

Steel Wage Rise and 40 Hour Week Paves Way For Enrollment of All Workers; Textile and Oil Drives Now Being Planned by CIO

Illinois Steel and the Steel Work- ponding hour and wage improveers Organizing Committee, the ments, for, once the big guy fell, forty-five year old solid front of competition made it impossible for open-shopism was broken. The amazing rapidity with which the C.I.O. has organized the steel workers has left the labor movement breathless. The failure of the crafts to organize this and other mass-production industries, the stern and apparently eternal opposition of the steel trust to permit the existence of a bona-fide union in the industry are now ended—industrial unionism has been given its strongest argument.

Once given the desire and determination to organize the workers, the C.I.O. has swept into the industry, made such strides that Steel had seriously to reconsider its whole strategy. It was the undisguised militancy of the C.I.O. its incorruptible program, and, consequently, the response of the workers, that forced Steel to sign. Secondly, the continuous war preparations of the ruling class made its undesirable that profits should be in any way obstructed. The steel industry by its agreement can now comply with the Walsh-Healy Act, bid for Navy orders, and merrily rake in its blood-stained shekels.

The agreement recognizes the Amalgamated Association as bargaining agent for its own members, pledges the corporation against discrimination, establishes a forty-hour yeek and an eight hour day, with time and one-half for overtime, a minimum of \$5.00 per day and a 10c per hour raise. Further details are to be worked out this week.

The company unions in steel are "legally" still existent. But they are obviously no long the pillars of corporation strength-for this wage rise and hour decrease, altho "granted" to the company unions, came out of the CIO ment, and it is the bona fide union that will surge ahead. The stand of the company that it will "deal with any representatives of its em ployees" cannot, tho it tries, ne gate that very important fact.

However, the management, al the forced to yield at present, still plans to make a fight for it thru the company unions. These stooges have been mobilized to protest the recognition of the C.I.O., and to battle it for membership. . A sharp struggle ahead is indicated.

The effect of the wage rise on prices is of course over emphasized by the enemies of the union. A price rise was planned, witness the statement of Irvin, president of U. S. Steel: "... a price rise was inevitable due to the fact that quotations on scrap iron have risen from \$14.96 per ton to \$19.88 since Feb. 1, 1936."

With the forced about-face of

With the drying of the ink on U.S. Steel, the independent comthe agreement between Carnegie- panies have also announced corres-

Auto Workers Make New Gains

While the GM victory of the Auto Union encouraged the steel workers and forced U.S. Steel into line, the smashing victory of the SWOC has now given additional strength to the auto workers in their negotiations with Chrysler and GM. To the former, Homer Martin presented an ultimatum for recognition as sole bargaining agency-a demand which it is expected will be won. Chrysler's company union collapsed completely when the union showed that 103 out of 120 of the representatives were theirs!

Settlements in Motor Products, Briggs and Murray Body, strategic parts plants, were effected this week, with union recognition. Negotiations will deal with hour wages, speed-up. These were also sit-down strikes.

General Electric To Sign

General Electric, employing 60,-000 workers has been forced to enter into negotiations with the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, a CIO affiliate. Conferences are scheduled to begin on March 15th. The Union demands are: 10c per hour increase, overtime pay, elimination of the "group incentive" system of pay (a speedup device) etc. The union has 100% organization of three major GE plants.

Westinghouse was also confronted with a determined union list of demands, including a 20% pay rise. A strike was threatened.

Rubber Workers Close Firestone **Plants**

The United Rubber Workers of America demanded recognition as sole bargaining agency for 10,000 workers of the Firestone plants, and closed the plants to enforce their demands Conferences are under way and a settlement is expected.

CIO Plans Drive In Textile and Oil

Successful in two major attempts at organizing the workers in steel and auto, the leaders of the CIO are preparing an extensive campaign to organize the textile and oil industries. It is planned, in the former, to set up a Textile Workers Organizing Committee, which will include textile, garments, shoe and leather, etc., embracing a million and a quarter workers.

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THE C.I.O. VICTORY IN STEEL

T is obviously not yet possible to estimate the full sweep and magnitude of the CIO victory in the steel industry. But one thing is certain: labor history is being made, and labor history of vast scope and significance. Without the necessity of resorting to a strike, a wide breach has been effected in the solid open shop front of the most gigantic corporation in America. Through its biggest subsidiary, Carnegie-Illinois, the steel trust has signed a contract with an "outside union", the Steel Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO, altho only a few months ago the American Iron and Steel Institute announced defiantly that its members would never, never do any such thing. Unionism has begun to invade the basic industries of the country, the special domain of U. S. Steel, General Motors, General Electric and their like!

To what may we attribute this stupendous achievement, the significance of which is only emphasized by the puerile self-consolation of the reactionary press and the envious futilities of William Green? The great success of the steel organizing campaign, with nearly 200,000 workers enrolled in the SWOC in less than a year, is undoubtedly chief among the factors involved; the instructive experience of the General Motors strike, the effective penetration and capture of the company unions by the SWOC, the fear that a general strike would seriously interefere with the piling up of corporation profits in this period of recovery, the industrial repercussions of New Deal politics and the new temper of public opinion, certainly contributed to the general result. But behind it all was the tremendous power and prestige of the CIO, the concentrated expression of all that is virile and militant in the labor movement of this country! Faced with the CIO and all that it stands for, the steel trust, like General Motors before it, began to discover the beauties of unionism in terms curiously like those characteristic of New Deal labor policy.

In attempting to estimate it in its immediate consequences and far-reaching implications, we must regard the steel settlement as an organic part of the great organization campaign launched with the foundation of the CIO and now beginning to show results. It is, in the first place, a most fruitful opening of the vast, nation-wide drive to bring unionism to the steel industry and to wipe out every vestige of the open shop or company union in this field. Like the General Motors strike, it is bound to serve as a powerful stimulant to organization in other mass-production industries; negotiations are already under way with General Electric, and textiles seem to be next in line. What has happened in steel has helped to establish, beyond possibility of challenge, that with industrial unionism and militant tactics, the basic industries can be organized. Coming as the latest of a series of CIO triumphs, the steel settlement has also greatly contributed to what may be called the imponderable effects of the new movement—the marvelous growth of self-confidence and union-consciousness among the workers everywhere, in every part of the country, in every trade and industry. The upsurge of labor militancy let loose in the course of the last year is without precedent in nearly two decades, surpassing even the great spurt forward during the NRA "honeymoon period" of 1933 and early 1934. It is expressed not merely in the avalanche of strikes during 1936, but also in the awakening of sections of the working class hitherto almost completely indifferent to the appeal of unionism. A new spirit is beginning to permeate the ranks of the working masses-a spirit of buoyant self-reliance and enthusiastic confidence in their own organized power: it is the spirit of the CIO.

If anything more were needed to establish the CIO as the recognized spokesman and authoritative leader of American labor, organized and unorganized alike, the settlement in the steel industry has supplied it. In the CIO a new labor movement is being created in this country, a labor movement equipped in spirit and organizational strategy to meet the challenge of big business. Whatever is healthy, whatever is fit to survive in the A. F. of L. will, sooner or later, be absorbed into this new

American SP Covers Up for Caballero's POUM Pogrom

sharply divergent in a class sense, ront course to permit continued 'neutrality" on these questions.

The United Socialist Party of Catalonia (affiliated with the CI) and the combined Socialist and Communist forces in the people's front government of Spain struck out against the POUM because the POUM campaign was laying bare not partners in crime, is a delithe true nature of the people's berate attempt to cover up the front course—its inherently anti- guilt of the Socialist partners in working class, counter-revolutionary role, and instead proposed a POUM engineered by the Socialist program of proletarian revolt and and Communist Parties. vorking class dictatorship. The Socialists and Communists began "polemize" against the revoluionary proletarian organizations by utilizing the state power in their hands, against their political

what has the Socialist Party of roblems? The recent resolution it dopted "expresses complete disapproval of and profound working class regret that the reports coming rom Madrid and Catalonia are not denied - reports which indicate to which they still belong. that there is a concerted attack by working class forces in Spain against some of their comrades in arms, namely the POUM and the P.O.U.M. Calls for

"The Socialist Party deplore these reports and hastens to inform the Socialist Party of Spain that it hopes that it will use all of its influence to prevent any such events taking place and to correct them immediately if they have taken place."

This resolution is a good example of political chicanery and double-dealing. Especially is this indicated in the appeal to the Socialist Party of Spain. Does not the American party know the Spanish Socialist Party is as much

movement; the rest will meet the fate it well deserves. Who, today, can talk of unity except on the basis of the CIO? For the CIO is already well on the way towards

The steel settlement, as the first great victory of the steel organization drive, represents-we do not hesitate to say so—a highwater new social order. mark of union achievement in the historical general strike of 1919. omy in each branch of industry. Under vastly different conditions, and our victory today is their victory as well!

A new day is dawning for Ameronly just beginning, in steel as in but also unified economic activity. track, it will move forward with a question must be faced. It is urgent. scious elements in the working class impose unity. than to devote themselves in con- (Reprinted from "The Spanish structive service to the new labor Revolution," English organ of the movement that is now being born? P.O.U.M., issue of Jan. 6. 1937). * Postponed to March 20.—Ed.

A T last the American Socialist his participation in even reaction-Party has broken with its atti- ary cabinets, a forerunner of the tude of "neutrality" on problems of present people's front course? It inner-Spanish policies. The belief is against this policy of the Comthat now is not the time to munist and SOCIALIST organizapolemize on the correct policy in tions that the POUM conducts its Spain (a strange attitude for a struggle. Does not the American revolutionary" party) was proven | Socialist Party know that it was futile by the very developments in Caballero himself, the leader of Spain. The drive for a revolution- | Spanish Socialism, who was most st Unification (POUM) was too cialist Press called upon the people's front followers to destroy, rom the purely bourgeois people's to massacre these opponents of the people's front whom he labeled Franco's agents?

Under the circumstances, to appeal to the Spanish Socialist Party to "prevent such events or "correct them if they have taken place," as if Caballero and his the murderous attacks against the

For many months socialist spokesmen have attempted to cash n on the right-wing course of official communism by mouthing revolutionary phrases about the people's front, war and democracy. The resolution on Spain indicates In the light of this development, clearly that the American SP America to say on inner Spanish waging a consistent revolutionary campaign against such opportunist policies where they could be most effective-in their own reformist Socialist Party and in their own Socialist (Second) International

-G. F. M.

Unless it is due to a desire to derstand what is preventing trade union unity, as already achieved y the Malaga workers.

There can be fundamental differences between political parties, with each one defending its own doctrine and trying to form the rather economic - planning and of military operations." building the new economy. With the ended upon the liquidation of the capitalist system. They must unite tary leadership. their will and strength to build the

struggle of steel, from the Home- time no one can put personal inter- 3.) Mobilization of the police. stead martyrs in 1892 to William ests above the collective interest. Z. Foster and his colleagues in the Dual unionism creates a dual econ-

Aside from the need for a con- police system. they fought the same good fight crete governmental program, trade union unity is the most serious need of the revolution. The coordination of trade union activity means not ican labor! Of course, the work is just fusion of the two organizations generally. But was it not Engels assumed by the trade unions, or working class starts off on the right hands of the middle class. The speed to astonish the world? Can Now is the time to consolidate the

EUROPE TODAY

POUM Suppression Fails—Soviet Silent On Franco-British Sabotage

London, February 17, 1937.

THE London Committee ruled that from February 20th* on, the Spanish frontiers should be ary policy, at the head of which outspoken against the POUM and closed to volunteers and war material. The scheme stood the Workers Party of Marx- in an editorial in the Spanish So- for the control of the frontiers will not be put into operation before March 6th. Portugal "refuses" to accept any control of her frontiers, and the British members of the committee hinted that Great Britain is disinclined to participate in a blockade of the Portuguese coast.

This practically means: 1.) Up to March 6 Germany and Italy will continue to supply Franco with troops and war materials. 2.) Even after March 6th, no border control will be established along the party were neutral observers and Portuguese frontier. Border control against the Valencia government, however, will be strictly enforced. 3.) By participating in the blockade Great Britain and France help tighten the noose around Valencia.

British government circles do not even try any more to disguise their purposes.

In "L'Humanite" of February 17th, Peri advocates that the SFIO (Socialist Party) carry out the decisions of its National Council, which opposed the neutrality course in Spain, and reclaim its freedom of action. At a mass meeting in the Velodrome d'Hiver, Thorez raised anew the demand for unredoes not desire, is incapable of stricted trade with Spain, but the CPF does not do anything to make this demand effective. According to L'Humanite, Thorez also declared: "We have often been torn between the desire to aid Spain and the necessity to maintain the People's Front" The result is the sacrifice of the Spanish revolution for the schemes of the fascist and "democratic" powers.

The USSR also agreed to accept the decision of the London Committee. Evidently, the sabotage and resistance of the British and French government make it impossible for the S.U. to give further aid to the Valencia government. However, it is hard Trade Union Unity to understand why her representatives have failed to openly condemn British and French action and thus arouse working class opinion against it.

In spite of all this, the Spanish revolution will stay the revolution, we cannot un- not be lost if the revolutionists follow the road of proletarian revolution, if they succeed in establishing unity of military action through the organization of a red army of workers and peasants and unity of political action by the centralization of all revolutionary committees.

Unfortunately, the People's Front parties do not policy of the government. Nothing, follow this road. After the fall of Malaga, the Vahowever, can justify permanent lencia government issued a manifesto saying separation and rivalry between "Enough of the parties, committees and splits! Let responsible for the people's front course as the Communist Party? In fact was not Caballaro through the mission of trade unions is not the mission of trade unions is not and the Junta which alone must be put in charge

An appeal which the Madrid Defence Council destruction of the Capitalist sys- addressed to the Valencia government included the tem, the rivalry and competition be- following demands: 1.) Immediate introduction of tween the trade unions should also compulsory military service. 2.) Positions of leaddisappear. The historic tradition of ership to be given to civilians who are loyal to the becoming the main stream of the trade union struggle between cause of the people and know how to cooperate with the military leadership. 3.) Centralized mili-

At a common demonstration of the SP and CP at Valencia the following demands were raised: The lack of trade union unity can 1.) In the Hinterland all guns should be handed United States. Let us not forget, create serious problems in the rev- over to the government for control and redistributherefore, the pioneers in the epic olutionary economy. At the present tion. 2.) Establishment of an efficient naval police.

> This means nothing less than the disarming of the workers and the restoration to power of the old

In Catalonia the PSUC wages a systematic campaign for the dissolution of the Workers Control Patrols, the proletarian safety guards. The POUM issued the following slogan: "Workers control of both centralized military leadership and compulthe big mass-production industries The economic obligations must be sory military service"! "Arms only to the workers"! "Establishment of a workers' and peasants who said that, once the American they will pass secretly into the government based on the committees of workers, peasants, and revolutionary fighters!"

These slogans fit the revolutionary situation of there be a higher duty, a more conquests of the revolution. If dual today. The effect of the slander campaign which fruitful task, for the class-con- unionism is an obstacle we must the PSUC, the CP of Spain and the other Comintern parties wage (with the support of the official (Continued on Page 5)

Significance of the Auto Workers Strike future of many of the craft unions and the interests of all of their members are also at stake in this fight for the unionization of the millions of unskilled and semiskilled in the mass production in

By JAY LOVESTONE WE have been living through decisive weeks that will go dramatic and successful effort to down in history as epoch-making for American labor-and, therefore, for the international labor

ganization Committee!

Only a Beginning

of the entire American labor move-

ment. Nor is this beginning some

thing sudden or mysterious, some-

thing artificial or superimposed by

benevolent Roosevelt Democrats or

inspired working class radicals

The historic developments in the

steel, auto, rubber, radio and other

mass production industries are but

new day dawning for the labor

movement. Here we deal with

phenomena rooted in the social and

economic consequences of the most

profound crisis yet lived through

In this whole trend, in this

by capitalist economy in the US.

entire sweep, the mighty struggle

of the automobile workers, the

splendid battle waged by the

UAW, led by its dynamic and pro-

mising leader, Homer Martin, was

decisive. Had the auto workers not

taneous response, had they not

shown that thrilling readiness to

battle to a finish, the CIO would

have been, at least momentarily,

worsted in its struggle for union

ization of the mass production in

dustries and the entire labor move

defeat. It took courageous far

sighted leadership for the CIO

headed by John L. Lewis, it took

dogged battling and skillful leader

ship by the UAW to insure this

major working class victory and to

ment would have suffered a costly

given that immeasurable spon-

there were engaged no mere "foreigners," no "poor Hunkies," import have been following each no "ignorant immigrants." The other at a dizzying tempo. What front-line soldiers here, the men fortunate days to be honored by who went over the top in this atthe magnificent automobile strike, tack were almost solely of native the General Motors Corporation being brought to its knees and stock-in many cases folks who forced to sign an agreement with had come up from the South. With this new layer of workers as torchthe United Automobile Workers, bearers and trench-stormers, the and the United States Steel Corauto battle was fought to a vicporation subsidiary, Carnegie-Iltorious finish. It is in this fashion linois Corporation, granting rethat more concrete was added to cognition to the Steel Workers Orthe solid foundation for a new unionism in the U.S. Of course. we speak of a "new unionism" only in the sense employed to evaluate These great events are not the the pouring of hundreds of thous end. They are but the beginning ands of workers, hitherto unorgan of a movement that will change ized, into the British trade unions radically the face, mind and heart

at the beginning of the century. In parenthesis, let me add that t is precisely these Flint, Lansing, and Detroit workers from the reactionary South that had been brought to the Michigan and other auto centers. They were supposed to be sort of "strike-proof" immune to the wiles of "agitators" and "outsiders." as it were. Yet signs of the times, evidence of a in the throes of the struggle in Flint, a prominent auto corporation executive saw fit to denounce these supposedly docile workers as "rumpus-raisers" who had to be gotten rid of at all costs.

> Towards New Strike Strategy It is no accident that in a conflict waged in such an industry and under such circumstances the workers on strike should display great initiative and ingenuity and should make a major contribution to new strike strategy and technique. We have in mind not merely the "sit-down" as a weapon. We point to the efficacy of the strategy of striking at the vital sectors of mass production industries Through tying up the body plants, or a motor plant, or a frame plan and thus paralyzing the economic process far beyond the number of workers involved outright and directly, the automobile workers union and leadership has blazed a new path for American labor in its

turn the tide and change the cours for all labor in this country. It is in this light that we desir to examine the significance of the auto strike and what it heralds for the labor movement as a whole, t analyze the new problems of work ing class strategy. Furthermore the very attempts at unionizing mass production industries, the application of the "sit-down" strategy the new moods among the workers massed by the hundreds of thousands in the heavy basic industries place before us a number of theoretical or fundamental questions. We are at once pressed for answers and solutions of problems vital to the future as well as the present of the American working class as a class. The General Motors chieftain, Knudsen, did not giants of industry and finance. err when he cried, in the midst of the auto struggle: "The strike is an issue between property rights responsibility can dare resort to and no property rights." Nor did GM make a mistake when, in the publicity for an organization have white heat of the battle, it assigned one of its top executives to study Marx's "Capital."

Monumental Import of Strike

It is not merely the numbers in

tory, the recent GM strike will be unionize a mass production indus-

What is more, in this struggle

struggle for decent working and living conditions.

Clogging the neck of the bottle s decisive in a strike in a mass production industry. The "sitdown" strike, if employed by an intelligent, alert leadership after careful preparation of various moves suited to the specific condiions of the industry affected, means a sure stand-up for profits. There is nothing else that will bring bosses to their senses as carcely short of criminal to to lege youngsters on a lark to Washington clean its pavements by making a carricature of this very serious weapon employed by workers on the firing line against the Only those afflicted with incalculable insolence and infinite irthe "sit-down" in order to get ing Governor Hoffman as one of its directors.

Foundations of New Unionism In view of the new group of

workers and new industries involved that made the auto strike leadership that is being developed but under severe injunctions re- MINE CONFERENCES seeking been invented. The higher labor so important. It is where the num- through the dramatic struggles in trictions. bers came from, it's where the the automobile fields, the entire striking workers hailed from, it's problem of the organization of the BRASS WORKERS (10,000) dustry adjourned until March 9 on efficient production. the very involving of a new indus- mass production industries has secured wage increases adding motion of John L. Lewis. try that lent vital significance to been brought into the boldest re- \$1,300,000 to the payroll. New the revolt of the auto workers. In lief. It must be stressed that al- wage scales applies to all plants (See other pages for steel, auto, efficiency rather than on speeding the annals of American labor his- together too often have observers of the American Brass Co. locat- electrical and other labor news.) up the worker."

overlooked the fact that the substantial degree, unless some of their most strategic outposts are literally stormed, all labor standards-those of the skilled as well as those of the unskilled-are bound to deteriorate. To the credit of very large sections of the membership of the craft organizations affiliated to the A. F. of L. and growing numbers in the lower layers of leadership in these bodies, it must be noted that during the automobile strike they were very much aware of this truth. For a confirmation of this, we need but cite the conduct of the craft unions in the Detroit Federa tion of Labor and the action of the Columbia Lodge of the In ternational Association of Ma chinists.

No pigmies locked horns in the auto conflict. It was a battle o biggest aggregation of capitalist interests and the most militant and largest bona-fide trade union membership led by such fighting trade union stalwarts as John L. Lewis and John Brophy and such capable, energetic and inspiring leaders like Homer Martin and his colleagues. It was the class struggle conducted on a mass basis; it was a militant strike organized, led and fought on a mass production basis. Hence, the very dimensions of the struggle, the very size of the contestants add to the importance and underscore the significance of the issues involved and the results attained

Political Awareness of Labor

Despite Roosevelt's persistent there was centered on the hearings

KILLED BY FASCISTS



Ben Lieder

Ben Lieder, member of the Newspaper Guild, and skilled aviator, was killed flying for the Spangiants. It was a battle between the ish government it has been learned. Lieder had gone to Spain some months ago to aid the embattled Spanish workers and peasants in weekly income would not be retheir struggle against fascism. He duced. Such an increase would not had often flown in America for "necessarily mean that the cost of the Newspaper Guild, having once living would be increased. "The greeted a publisher returning from Europe by flying over the boat 1930, for example, were 40 percent with picket streamers.

> at Flint. Here was an intense political experience for labor, an experience enabling labor to learn in a very short time as much as it normally takes them years.

We cannot stress with sufficient emphasis that Lewis displayed magnificent strategy and real proletarian class health and cleanliness in the way in which he handled Roosevelt throughout the autoefforts to steer clear of the auto mobile strike and negotiations. strike, the Federal government was Some chicken-hearted, hat-in-hand, mmediately drawn into it. The self-over-advertised progressive Michigan and Indiana state ad- labor leaders at first thought otherministrations were in it head over wise. They threw up their hands heels in no time. It has been a in horror; they set up their own mighty long time since so much private wailing walls and shrieked attention was focused on an in- to Jehovah that all was lost. We junction in a labor struggle as hope that Lewis taught them the (Continued on Page 6)

ON THE LABOR FRONT

broke off negotiations with the Ansonia, and Torrington, Conn., Scripps-Howard World Telegram and at Buffalo and Detroit. when this sickly attempt at liberalism insisted that any contract . "SANDHOGS" organized in the signed with the American News-, local which the murdered Redpaper Guild must be on the com- wood headed are continuing the pany union form.

• FARM UNION to include all complicity in the murder. organizations of farm laborers now in the A. F. of L. or independent is now under consideration. ing closed down 16 mills involving There are about 50 organizations about 6,000 workers. Refusal to of farm laborers, of these 30 are settle the strike in the Berkshire independent groups made up main- Mill was the initial cause, accord- wealthy automotive industry was a quickly. However, it is asinine and ly of Mexicans and Filipinos. The ing to the American Federation of prime argument for granting the ied organization would num- Hosiery Workers. with the "sit-down," to have col- ber about 200,000. Already the question of international charter • SHOE WORKERS now have the industry: cal set-up has come up.

being picketed. Of the sit-down tee heading the new organization ity in an industry beset by peaks

• MEYER ADELMAN, fighting him to Illinois is being made. ton, Mass. volved, in view of the vigorous Picketing at the factory contines

• NEWSPAPER GUILDSMEN, ed at Kenosha, Wisc., Waterbury

strike against contractor Rosoff, who is now under suspicion for

• HOSIERY WORKERS in Read-

as against the present federal lo- one organization as a result of the merger of the United Shoe and working week would be that it Leather Workers and the Shoe would tend to lengthen the produc-Workers Protective. The commit- tion season, providing more stabilworks closely with the CIO and and layoffs. The provision for time strikers arrested after ejection from the factory some are still being held. The strike leaders face a two year jail term.

works closely with the CIO and and a half pay for over 30 hours the CIO to supervise its organization because the companies would not because the companies would not Powers Hapgood and Adolph Ger- want to pay the higher wages and

The Brotherhood of Shoe and seasons. CIO leader of the Fansteel strik- Allied Craftsmen voted against "It also would encourage moderners, was finally arrested in Wiscon- merger by a slight margin. The ization of machinery. Surprising as sin and an attempt to extradite organization is confined to Brock- it may seem, many plants in the

Labor Can Win 30 Hour Week

In an interview accorded the Detroit News on February 28th, William Munger, Research Director of the United Automobile Workers and secretary of the Negotiations Committee, now in conerence with General Motors, presented the reasons labor demanded he thirty hour week.

Agitation for the thirty-hour reek, he stated, was closely linked with the union's struggle against the inhuman speed-up and the socalled "incentive systems of pay" prevalent in the industry. worker could endure better the high tension of the production line if he only had to keep pace with the line for six hours daily, and had two days off a week for rest and recreation . . . the thirty hour week is imperative from a health standpoint. . . . The shorter work week will enable the worker to remain on the production line beyond the age of 40."

If a thirty-hour week were brought about by labor, the union, Munger pointed out, would insist on higher hourly wages, so that automotive industry's profits for higher than in 1935. The manufacturer would be forced, by competition to take the additional labor costs out of the profits in order to meet the prices of other compa-

The relief of technological emdoyment by the installation of the thirty-hour week was stressed. Pointing out that there are, by onservative estimate, about 9 milions unemployed, with production evel for all industries within 5 percent of the 1929 level, Munger stated "the thirty-hour week offers he logical way out."

"It is not sufficient to place more vages in the pockets of those already on the payrolls. We need to add more persons to the country's payrolls. . . . Other industries have made important advances toward the thirty-hour week, proving it is not a question of ability to install shorter work week but purely a matter of industry's willingness and labor's power to create that

villingness.' "Employers were raising the same objections a few years ago to agitation for the ten hour day. There is nothing that can be said logically in justification of long hours of labor."

"The automotive industry proluced 8.8 automobiles per employe in 1935 as against 5.6 in 1919. The manufacturer is getting more product for each employee. It is time for an adjustment." Munger stated.

In concluding his survey of the ecessity of a thirty-hour week. Munger considered that the financial ability of the powerful and shorter work week. He also pointed

"Another advantage of a shorter would level off production into slack

industry have obsolete machinery, for which improved models have a new contract for the Appala- costs would force improvement of chian Districts of the soft coal in- this machinery to make for more

> "The burden of increased output would be placed on the machine's

18 MONTHS OF C. I. O. TRADE UNION NOTES

TT IS difficult to believe that the L Committee for Industrial Organization is only about 18 months old, so deeply has it struck root in American economic soil, so firmly is it already established in the most decisive mass production industries, so wide-spread the confidence it enjoys among the most exploited and oppressed, whom the American Federation of Labor somehow never could organize, so feared and respected by the most powerful industrial interests in the

Eighteen months of existence part of which was taken up with a vain attempt to operate thru the American Federation of Labor by securing favorable action for industrial unionism, and the results must astonish even the hard-boiled trade unionists of many decades

How was it done? By tapping the latent militancy of the masses of unorganized in the basic indus tries, by providing an organization which does not divide but unites in efficient fighting formation, by ization into trade unions imposof the factors which made it posthe walls keeping out unionism from the automobile industry and to bring to its knees the arrogant masters of the steel industry.

It took American labor 45 years to resume the battle which the Amalgamated Association fought and lost on the left bank of the Monangahela River and it is under the flag of the CIO that the battle is now being won by Amalgamated 5,000 and 7,000. The CIO set up Association against the firm which the Steel Workers Organization still bears the name of Carnegie.

Victories Foreseen

The victories scored by the United Automobile Workers and now by the CIO unions in the steel pects to have a majority of all in Washington. and electrical industry have taken out of the realm of speculation the permanence of the CIO as the spokesman for labor in the most

decisive, basic industries. Yet, in its broad outlines the success of the CIO was not unex- linois Steel Corporation, providing pected. In its resolution on the for increases in wages, 40 hour correct, namely, that the Newstrade union situation (Workers week, recognition of the union. Age, October 3 and 10) the CPO and other gains. In addition, the the A. F. of L.—in which the said that "survival and ascendency (of the CIO) will depend primarily upon ability to meet the challenge of the new conditions, and in this the C.I.Q. will undoubtedly have the great advantage. First is the challenge of the great, basic massproduction industries of the country-and these are organizable only along industrial lines, that is, similate into the labor movement the great hordes that will begin pouring from the rural regions into there is a more definite improvement in the economic situation. Only the CIO moreover, is in a position to meet the challenge of

Advances Made

than realized. When suspended

Victory in Auto

The auto union claiming a mem- Ladies Garment Workers and the tion.

THE C.I.O. UNIONS

Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers

Amalgamated Clothing American Newspaper Guild Federation of Flat Glass Workers

Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers International Ladies Garment Workers

International Typographical Union

Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Oil Field, Gas Well and

Refinery Workers United Automobile Workers United Electrical and Radio Workers

United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers United Mine Workers United Rubber Workers

United Textile Workers

utilizing the spirit of flaming bership of about 40,000 when i revolt against industrial autocracy joined the CIO, reported 80,000 and despotism which made organ- prior to the General Motors strike, 100,000 on the eve of the strike sible, by generating a crusading and close to the 200,000 mark now. spirit and giving it honest, in- according to a recent statement by spired leadership. These are some President Homer Martin. The union has already won wage insible for the CIO to batter down creases, shorter hours, seniority rights, and less speed-up:

> Still growing, the union will most likely record new gains in Chrysler and other sections of the

When the Amalgamated Associ-

to take over the organization drive Committee last June and a report by Phil Murray, leader of the steel drive, now claims a membership of 200,000. The anion exsteel workers within the next three months.

Now the CIO has broken down in its fights, the action might have the traditional open shop policy in had some influence on the stories CIO. the steel industry and has a signed of the wicked A. F. of L. and the agreement with the Carnegie-Il- glorious, angelic CIO." SWOC has made considerable improvements in conditions for workers in independent firms.

G. E. Is Nervous

The United Electrical and Radio Workers more than doubled its membership in the last nine months. It is now firmly established and has company recognition in key plants of the General Electric

agreement covering all its plants.

Other Unions Grow

company unionism, which has unions have grown. The United fulness which promises much for for great civil leadership, he has management must consider them NRA and since, and which has membership more than ten times A. F. of L., already outstripped, dictators." shown itself almost completely in- in the last year. Akron alone ac- has lost key industries to the vulnerable to the attacks of craft counts for a membership of 25,000. CIO. As the CIO continues to de-Many locals have won victories velop the prestige of the A. F. of securing seniority rights, shorter L. which is already outside the hours, wage increases, vacation main current of labor struggles, These expectations were more with pay and union recognition. will continue to decline.

The CIO has also made gains Is it possible that the A. F. of L. (read: expelled) by the A. F. of thru its affiliates in the glass and seeing the writing on the wall will action of the press accounts (action with the principles of industrial L. the CIO unions included a mem- ship building industries, has par- agree to reunify the ranks on the against Green) of the Lewis democracy, under which the workbership of slightly more than one ticipated in the merging of a basis of the program and activities million. Today the membership of number of shoe workers organiza- of the CIO? It is not. Recent tee?" the CIO is easily well past the two tions into one numbering about actions of the executive council in million mark. And it has just 20,000 workers, and is now pre- suspending the central labor unoins personal attacks against Lewis. measures affecting their welfare. begun to grow! An examination paring to launch a drive in the in Butte, Montana, and Columbus, They are the attacks of shifty-Anything short of these liberties, textile and oil industries. Great Ohio, and the chartering of dual eyed politicians who haven't the whether by employer coercion or tions in the CIO will indicate the progress has also been made by unions in certain fields, seem to courage to fight on the issue of inwell established organizations of indicate that the A. F. of L. has dustrial unionism. The progressives ership, would be contrary to the

ELSEWHERE in this issue will be found details of the sweeping victories just scored by the Committee for Industrial Organization. First was General Motors and now, with Watkins at a gathering of the Maurice negotiations with Chrysler and Murray begun, comes the joyous and Laura Falk Foundation, Pittsburgh, news of the agreement with the Carnegie-Illinois Steel and the Feb. 15, 1937.) negotiations with General Electric.

victories for the CIO and the mass they appreciate, even joined, the lem and then the price problem. sweeping refutation of their struggle against industrial unionism and a crushing defeat organiza-

tionally for the craft union apolo-

curately sensed that the mass of the toilers in these industries stands by the CIO. This is the basis and essence for the sudden shift in labor policy by the industrial overlords of steel-by the biggest of robber barons. They determined to be "liberal" and to ask for peace because they knew that the CIO and the masses behind it were ready for industrial war. This is the secret of the changed labor policy in steel and other industries.

HOWEVER, some of the supposedly very astute craft, bigshots approach the present situation in the labor movement with their eyes shut tight. One of these is Colonel John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Council.

While speaking recently at the simple, he said:

"Lewis is a shrewd man. He gave assistance to the Newspaper Guild, financed it with large amounts, he banquets Guild men

"If instead of Lewis the A. F. of L. had given the Guild money

Some of Frey's statements are paper Guild received no aid from Federation showed itself strictly impartial, for other unions have received similar "aid"—and that

Amalgamated Clothing Workers. CIO Has Met Test It is doubtful whether these advances, to be counted in terms of new recruits, higher wages, improved conditions and union reonly by the CIO. Only the CIO and Westinghouse and with a cognition in such industries as and captions it "Industrial Career closed shop, 36-hour week agreement in the Philos, largest radio manufacturers.

General Plactic have a sum and with a steel and auto, will be recognized by the officials of the A. F. of L. Whether or not they do is becom-

By George F. Miles

CIO because John L. Lewis and the other leaders of unions did assist them in their struggles. However, when Frey states that that's the reason for the publicity in the

In the eves of this "unbiased" gentleman, the publicity about the CIO has no relation with the CIO's participation and aid (yes, even financial!) in hundreds of strikes in dozens of industries thruout the

busting publishers just as he did

during the auto strike.

IT'S about time that progressive is in point to state some general and militant trade unionists in principles. (At this point I should Chicago begin to speak up against like to interject a word of caution. why it is that the CIO seems to Knockles, was in the forefront as with the rest of the manuscript, have grabbed for itself the first a ground-breaker for progressive eight months ago. Consequently, I ation accepted the offer of the CIO page of the newspapers while the thought in the American Federa- want to make it clear that Dr unions, labor party, and other is- endorsement or condemnation of ing age has come an extremely thousands of workers and in coming problems of labor such as labor

> ever, Federation News has spoken up against Lewis and the CIO in from blast furnace to the finished an inpermissible manner which rolled product constitute the ecoprogressives should not tolerate. reprints a slanderous attack on Lewis by Dr. Glenn Frank (the of Wisconsin who got his walking papers from Governor LaFollette)

line with historic necessity, he try, and the economic factors bear The story ends with the follow-

ing remark:

Articles of this kind are not expression and participation in the CIO such as the International chosen the road of slow extinc- are duty bound to demand a public ideals attainable in a democratic repudiation of this article. society.

|Report Declares for **Industrial Unions** In Steel Industry

(From the report of Dr. Ralph J.

With these victories, the croakings of the craft leaders have been silenced, for they cannot fail to recognize that these shall consider first the labor prob-It has been shown in this study (a) that, for many years up to the Code period, the industry had exercised unilateral control over labor gists.

Without resorting to a national plebiscite, the mass production inplebiscite, the mass production input mass production in ment with the Guild means the abrogation of freedom of the press aspired to in a democracy and (b) —that the Guild members would that under the Code there was censor the news and color editorial definite improvement with respect policy. That in essence is Frey's to labor's right of self-expression charge, and by voicing it he places and in provisions for settlement of himself on the side of the union- grievances and in discontinuance of many repressive measures but on the side of General Motors (c) that there was not essential change in the aim or in the fact

Need For Industrial Union It is not the function of this

discussion to outline ways and

means of organizing steel workers

or to indicate under whose auspices

they should be organized, but it

the industry.

of one-sided control of labor by

the increasingly reactionary The statement of principles I am policies of the Chicago Federation about to read was formulated and Cleveland Federation of Labor, a of Labor. Once upon a time the written more than a year ago and puzzled trade unionist asked him C.F.L., led by Fitzpatrick and was sent to the publisher, along A. F. of L. old-line unions are tion of Labor. This was true on Daugherty's statement of general in steel, it numbered between hardly mentioned. Frey did not the question of amalgamation of principles is precisely that and have to think long. It's really very the craft unions into industrial must not be construed as either sues. But that was about fifteen any specific agency.) First, steel years ago. A lot of things have workers should be organized. Efhappened. Fitz and Knockles are fective administration of personnel both getting old and with increas- relations in plants employing conservative outlook on the burn- panies employing tens of thousands of workers is dependent on organparty, industrial unionism and ization that extends to the lower reaches. Moreover, only through For a while the policy of the organization can the workers leadership seemed to be to dodge protect their interest. Second, the any commitments on the floor of logic of the industry's operation the CFL. The progressives seemed is such that vertical rather than to fall for it. More recently, how- craft organization is called for. from blast furnace to the finished nomic unit, and a form of organ-The recent issue of February 20, ization that would encourage juris-1937, gleefully and approvingly dictional disputes would be socially inefficient. Furthermore, since management is organized on a former president of the University vertical basis, any approach to equality of bargaining would require a similar vertical organizapouring from the rural regions into the main industrial centers once there is a more definite improved the main industrial centers once there is a more definite improved the first and the composition of the composition As the great battle of American characterized Lewis as 'A man of ing on wage rates and hours prolabor for unionization unfolds itinordinate personal ambition. He ceed from and in turn effect the self the young and vigorous CIO has a capacity for ruthlessness that national market. Wages constitute Without any exceptions the CIO shows a militancy and resource- I cannot believe is a qualification a significant part of costs, and made great headway under the Rubber Workers has increased its its future. On the other hand, the the lust for power that has made in national setting. In short, management will bring to a wage discussion a national point of view backed usually by the industry's united front, formed on the advice "Is more convincing proof of the of both "inside" and "outside" excorrectness of Prof. Frank's deductions of Lewis' character re- likewise? Fourth, organization of quired than that furnished by the steel workers should be in accord dominated U.M.W. Policy Commiters are accorded the unrestrained exercise of the liberties of self-

C.P. 'Progresses' to Social-Chauvinism

champion of liberty, progress, tionary means. It is this viewpoint peace and prosperity, carried a which explains its venom and leading editorial on February 22nd, brutality against the P.O.U.M. opposing the Pittman "Neutrality It is anxious to demonstrate in Act" which, for sheer, outright Spain that it practices what i chauvinism, would put even the preaches. The Communist Party right-wing social-democracy to has quickly forgotten that the shame. Instead of exposing the Pittman Act and the policy of the was led by a "an armed party or Roosevelt administration as an imperialist one, directed against the Spanish proletariat, placing a cordon sanitaire around the Spanish workers while Franco receives troops, arms and money from Hitler and Mussolini, the Daily Worker objects to the Pittman Act because it fails to distinguish between the aggressor and the victim. It declares:

"If the peace of the world is the desideratum, then a neutrality re- tarian revolution. solution which dictates that an aggressor and its victim are to be treated alike is not neutrality

either in name or fact." Invoking the Spirit of Kellogg

"aggressors"). It even out-Kel- Party, has lost all class consciousloggs Kellogg, and calls upon the ness in its analysis of this quespowers to suppress all perfidious tion, the bourgeoisie has not. insurrectionists who dare to resort to aggression against our good democratic governments! This is how

peace in the world.

thus disturb the peace of the War":

THE Daily Worker, the people's party seeking to overthrow a democratic government by revoluproletarian revolution in Russia faction which by insurrection' overthrew a democratic government, in fact, a people's front coalition government. But it is too much to expect that those who forget so easily the principles of communism on democracy and the war question, who cast off the teachings of Marx and Lenin, should remember the history of the struggle against the last imperialist world war and for the prole-

Advertising Peace-Loving U. S. Imperialism

Who Fired the First Shot?

Revolutionary Marxists have a war on whether one nation was "The Communist Party proposes first to take up arms or the first that in the event of the danger of to invade another. Only bourgeois or more nations, the Kellogg of such an approach. When Gerpact, the United States can then Marxists were with Germany durenforce an embargo against the ing the first stage of the war beaggressor power, the nation cause it was fighting a progresthreatening world peace. Such an sive war, a war for national unifiaggressor can be defined as that cation. In a civil war of the prolestate which declares war upon an- tariat against the bourgeoisie, in a other state, or which uses its war of the colonial peoples against armed force, with or without de- their imperialist oppressors, the Soviet representative in Spain) establishment of an old age pen- ing on the city, the POUM men claration of war, to invade another Marxists support the struggle of against the POUM is just the op- sions fund will be "postponed." It went forth armed with what few state. FURTHERMORE, AN AG- the oppressed masses against their posite of what they expected. The goes without saying that the de- rifles and pistols that could be GRESSOR SHOULD BE DEexploiters. And if the revolutionFINED AS AN ARMED PARTY
OR FACTION WHICH BY INup arms, they are not to be conSUPPROTION SEEDS TO OVER-SURRECTION SEEKS TO OVER- demned as "aggressors," but on the this campaign. THROW A DEMOCRATIC GOV- contrary, are to be hailed as RNMENT."

Woe betide a workers' revoluwar—a war in defense of working

fighting a progressive, defensive war—a war in defense of working

Council of the SFIO held on tionary party if it should attempt class freedom, a war for social February 14th, 1937, it became very to overthrow a capitalist govern- progress. Modern imperialism is evident that the struggle against ment of the democratic type! The the constant aggression of a hand- the policy of the Blum govern-C.P. will leap upon the "aggres- ful of capitalist powers against the ment and against the right wing sor," together with the bourgeois vast majority of the peoples of and the center of the SFIO has powers, or without them if they the earth. This handful of aggres- ceased. There was no opposition should be so blind to their interests sor nations comprises not only and the Blum government received as to remain neutral, and tear the monarchist and fascist govern- a vote of confidence. Pivert's as "aggressor apart," limb by limb! ments, but, in the main, bourgeois well as Zyromsky's followers have And woe betide a revolutionary democratic countries like France, surrendered. This is due to the party in the colonies that should England, United States, Spain, and policy of the CPF and to its renunbegin a revolutionary struggle "small nations." like Holland. As ciation of all criticisms of, and against its democratic masters and Lenin wrote in "Socialism and

"If Morocco were to declare war follows appears clearly in the It would receive the same peace against France tomorrow, or India speech Blum made before the civil medicine. It is to such lengths that against England, or Persia or service officials. He talked about the bourgeois democratic cretinism | China against (Czarist-B. H.) | the necessities of a "recess" in the of the C.P. has gone. After years Russia, those wars would be just, government's social program. This of shouting about the "third "defensive" wars, no matter which means that the civil service officials period" and the "epoch of wars one was the first to attack. Every and revolutions," it is now unable Socialist would then wish the vic-

tory of the oppressed, dependent, non-sovereign states against the oppressing, slaveholding, pillaging

to those democratic powers in the "aggressors."

armaments in the history of the

working class party is to dissipate this smoke screen of bourgeois pacifism, instead of instilling bourgeois-pacifist and democratic il lusions in the minds of the work-

What the People's Front Leads To

The readers of the Daily Worker The Daily Worker after frowning policy—undisguised counter-revoupon insurrectionists in general, lution. From the People's Front properly concludes by a complete policy of unity with the bourgeois In the "classless" spirit of Kel- endorsement of the existing foreign parties, one must of necessity prologg, if the embargo is against policy and neutrality legislation of ceed to the policy of "suspending the "aggressor," then the neutral- the American government: "The the class struggle." From class colity legislation is acceptable to the peace which the American people laboration and the suspension of Communist Party! Thus, para- so ardently desire to maintain can the class struggle one logically representatives of the Spanish heroic Spartacus Group of Liebdoxically, the policy of "defence be preserved by collective action goes to the policy of supporting Workers Party of Marxist Unity knecht and Luxembourg in Germaof bourgeois democracy against the menace of fascism," of sup- and treaties."

| Description of the bourgeoisie in the oppression of the colonial peoples and to the revolutionary Spain and its proleporting "bourgeois democratic na- It is only in keeping that the crushing of revolutionary upris- tarian aspirations. tions against the fascist aggres- best defenders of bourgeois de- ings of the proletariat-all under sor" leads the Communist Party to mocracy become the best apologists the banner of defending "demomake a choice between the policy for the diplomacy of the democratic cracy" and preserving "peace." of the Roosevelt government on bourgeois governments-all of One cannot be on both sides of the neutrality and the Republican- whom are preparing for a war of class struggle at the same time. Hoover-Kellogg policy, the policy plunder. The existing treaties, such In choosing the People's Front "at of the Liberty Leaguers—and the as the Kellogg Pact, which could all costs," the C.P., in order to pamphlet, "Socialism and War": not prevent the seizure of Man- keep its bourgeois allies in the churia by Japan, the rape of front, must take sides, and throw The editorial, with more courage than wisdom, proceeds to accept support of Franco by Hitler, the courage in its lot with the democratic bourgeoisie. It is for this reason laboration instead of class strugthe full logic of the C.P. position, C.P. tells us, can keep the peace that the French Communist Party gle, renunciation of revolutionary (that is, the suppression of the of the world. If the Communist gives up the struggle for the free- means of struggle; aiding 'one's' dom of the colonies of French imperialism. It is for this reason instead of taking advantage of its that the Communist Party travels difficulties to work for a revoluwith breakneck speed along the tion. smooth highway from opportunism to social chauvinism and calls for opportunism and social chauvinism. the Communist Party will keep never based their attitude towards a world embargo against any The Daily Worker editorial raises "armed party which by insurrec- the death's head of "embargo" on tion seeks to overthrow a demo- revolutionary struggle. It is chalcratic government." Beginning lenge to every revolutionary war, or an actual war between two democratic philistines are capable with the same premises as Scheide- worker, to every member of the mann and Noske, the defense of Communist Party to take up the

'great' nations."

And by "great, slave-holding na tions," Lenin referred specifically whom the Communist party puts its faith for maintaining the peace of the world, and for suppressing

The capitalists have a definition for the "aggressor"—not he who fires the first shot, but the revolutionary proletariat and the colonial peoples. And far from relying on existing legislation to maintain the peace of the world, the capitalists know full well the real purpose of such legislation, to create a pacifist smoke screen behind which can be accummulated the biggest

The duty of a revolutionary

Peace Pact be invoked. Collabora- many invaded France in the War ting with other signatories of this of 1870, the sympathies of the must eventually land in the same course of the C.P. **EUROPE TODAY**

(Continued from Page 2)

opposition to the Bium government.

What line the Blum government



P.O.U.M. MILITIAMEN

Pictured with the militiamen of the POUM are: third from the left, top row, Bert Wolfe who has just left for Europe, and seated in front of him is Jay Lovestone. The picture was taken at the meeting described on this page.

revealing so plainly the logical conclusion of the People's Front Police o At Special CPO Meeting

Before three hundred wildly en- | great drive of the Russian Bolshethusiastic workers gathered in viks in 1917, compared its role with Rivera Hall on February 26th, the traditions and heritage of the

Speaking for the POUM, Comrade Costa, a young militiaman, likened its struggle today with the

swamp. As Lenin wrote in his "The ideological and political contents of opportunism and social chauvinism is the same: class colown government in its difficulties

No Chinese Wall exists between

the discussion of the bill for the

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of the Spanish Communist party, and in the split which occurred in 1929 internationally, was expelled with Joaquin Maurin, now slain by the fascists, and founded the Iberian Communist Federation, which later became the POUM. His first words brought a fren-

ny. With fiery eloquence he decried

the division of the Spanish workers

by the false policies of the Commu-

nist and Socialist parties of Spain

who were acting in opposition to

the proletarian revolution. The

proletarian revolution was invin-

cible, however, and the POUM car-

Then a political report was pre-

sented to the assembled workers by

one of the editors of La Batalla,

official organ of the POUM, Com-

rade Raboul. Formerly an anarch-

ist, he became one of the founders

ried its banner high, he declared.

while his listeners cheered.

zied reponse when he stated that: "Tho we are three thousand miles rom Spain, here we feel at home and among our own kind." Comrade Raboul then told the

story of the first days of the uprisng in Barcelona. The solidarity and heroism of the workers quickly quelled the rebel fascist officers. In this fight the members of the POUM and its Youth organization played a decisive role. When word came that the troops were march-The Blum government faithfully The political problems of Spain, follows the instructions of the and the attitude of the various workers parties were discussed.

Answering the oft-repeated accusation of Trotskyism, Comrade Raboul stated: "We are as far from Trotskyism us we are from Stalinism. It is becoming increasingly clear to us

that both Stalin and Trotsky repre-

ent two harmful tendencies. The workers, members of the Communist Party Opposition and its sympathizers, responded not merely with the spirited enthusiasm natural at such a meeting, but, after a short announcement of the need for funds, immediately re-

sponded with \$300. Comrade Lovestone, speaking for the CPO sent fraternal greetings to the POUM, in its struggle for Soviet Spain.

The meeting continued long after t was formally closed, all present inging and cheering for hours.

Catholic Church Is Child Labor Backer

heading for certain defeat in New York State: that is the concensus of opinion of well-informed sources. Workers Age has been informed that regardless of whether the legislature acts or whether the issue is submitted to a referendum vote, the amendment faces defeat.

The line-up against the amendment is substantially the same cutthroat gang that ganged-up on the measure on previous occasions: the Catholic Church, the State Grange and the affiliates of the National Association of Manufacturers-State Economic Council, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

The outlook this year was exceedingly promising until the intransigeant opposition of the Church came into full play. The tide was turned when Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons of Albany delivered his blast before the Assembly Judiciary Committee and Cardinal Hayes sent an episcopal letter to his

While it is well-known that Catholicism has everywhere and at all times bitterly contested the right of any secular power to exercize any kind of regulation of youth, it is felt in more analytical quarters that Catholicism has much more at stake in warding off the Amendment than any future abuses which it claims would follow in the wake of ratification.

Catholic Complaints

Boiling the Catholic grievances down to the essentials we discover the following two major complaints: 1) The amendment would give the Federal government "excessively broad powers" and since it would be administrated by "a remote agency at Washington" it would "contravene the principles of our government and seriously en-danger the rights of parents." State child labor laws are favored. 2) The use of the word "labor" instead of "employment" as the object to be regulated will permit the government to interfere in Catholic educational institutions because 'labor" can be interpreted as encompassing mental labor.

The objection to the word "labor" is easy to comprehend, for the National Child Labor Committee has pointed out that, "Any one familiar with the administration of state child labor laws knows the evasions which occur when the word employment alone is used. In industrial home work, in the beet fields. frequently in canneries, children who work are not employed in the technical sense of the term."

The argument that "work" encompasses "mental work" is the sheerest kind of bunk. This argument was deflated long ago by the economist, Henry R. Seager: "It is They feel that they want to march charged that the amendment will on and improve their conditions. give Congress control over our edu- This notion about having scored a cational system. The language of the amendment, relating as it does but it is a powerful illusion and solely to child labor, is proof to the contrary, unless out of it can be distilled the implied power to regulate all other activities of children. But the 'implied powers' of Congress are, as every lawyer understands, only those necessary and appropriate to the exercise of the powers expressly conferred. The utmost in the field of education which Congress could possibly do in connection with regulating child labor in accordance with the amendment would be to add to a minimum age qualification a minimum educational qualification as a condition to the lawful employment of children under eighteen. How such education should be acquired could not by any stretch of the doctrine of implied powers become a subject for Federal determination.'

What is the real, though never so much as hinted, objection of the "company mob," a mass weapon clear that the auto strike and its

The Child Labor Amendment is Catholic Church? All this talk about its being for "States rights' against "federal dictatorship?," all this blather about "work" meaning "mental work," etc., is a smokescreen. The preference for "em-ployment" instead of "work," the preference for State as opposed to Federal regulation, exposes the whole dirty game.

The Catholic Church fears that the passage of the Child Labor Amendment would for the first time permit a regulation of the hundreds of thousands of children and youth who are at work in its orphanages and in its homes for telinquent girls. Under present state laws which contain the term "employment," these youngsters are technically not at work and their compensation and hours of labor are beyond the power of regulation. Under present state laws, the Church has nothing to fear because in the principal centers of Catholic population, the Church controls the legislatures!

In addition, the Catholic Church hierarchy by its continued opposition to the Amendment is pursuing the aim of still further convincing the wolves of Wall Street, that it is not only the most reliable foe against Communism, but is a faithful ally of the bitter end in the oppression of the American working-

—S.H.

Significance of Auto Strike

ATTENTION!

Due to lack of space, we have been forced to omit an article by Bertram D. Wolfe in his series on "Present Day Mexico". This feature will be resumed in next week's Workers Age.

(Continued from Page 3)

a-b-c of elementary school work-

ing class politics. Regardless of

how much these kow-towing labor

leaders may have thus unlearned

or how little they may have thus

learned, it cannot be denied that

thousands of workers became more

politically conscious as a result of

their experience in the auto strike.

This enhancement of the trend

toward independent working class

political thought and action is an

event of monumental import for

the labor movement as a whole.

a reflex of a certain mood of

awakening among the workers.

The workers in general, and the

auto, steel, and rubber workers and

miners in particular have had the

feeling that they scored a big vic-

tory in the November elections.

has certain vital objective con-

sequences-stimulating the work-

ers' will to fight and their deter-

mination to win. The auto workers

especially were hell bent on avoid-

ing a repetition of the disastrous

double-cross they suffered in the

1934 Green-Roosevelt-Wolman pact

selling them down the river. In

no small measure did these moods

explain the vigor and elan with

which the auto workers flung

Gathering the Fascist Gangs

that the employing class was asleep

in this history-making struggle.

The titans of industry, the king-

pins of finance were wide awake.

They have also learned through

this bitter experience. They have

begun to work out a new strategy

to fight labor. In its use of the

Let no one for a moment think

themselves into the battle.

In fact the auto strike itself was

STEEL PROFITS

Company	1936 Net Profits	Profit Per Employee	% Increase Over 1935
United States Steel	\$50,525,684	\$250	4500%
Bethlehem Steel	\$13,901,006	\$174	320%
Republic Steel	\$ 9,586,922	\$192	110%
Youngstown Sheet &		,	,
Tube Company	\$10,564.501	\$621	500%
National Steel	\$12,541,842	\$597	12%
Inland Steel	\$12,888,647	\$347	36%
Blaw Knox Steel	\$ 1,500,000	\$600	166%
Gulf States Steel	\$ 660,112	\$330	367%
Pittsburgh Steel	\$ 571,114	(last six months)	,-
American Steel Foundries	\$ 2,953,426	\$821	2393%
Wheeling Steel	\$ 4,000,000	\$222	14%
Eight Leading Steel Firms	\$110,337,821		250%

From the S.W.O.C

New Jersey C. I. O. Council Not Bluffed by Hoffman

Newark, N. J. - (UNS) - The | voted to organize a local. Hununion organizing campaign of the New Jersey Council for Industrial Organization is flourishing under the verbal attacks of Gov. H. G. Hoffman and the attendant public-

"Gov. Hoffman has served as a volunteer organizer without cre-dentials!" declared Julius Emspak. secretary of the United Electrical & Radio Workers and chairman of the state council.

"His statements announced our campaign to those very unorganized workers we want to help." he said. "As a result we have been flooded with calls for heip."

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee is making outstanding headway among the employes of John A. Roebling's Sons Company, the American Steel & Wire Co. and the Crescent Insulated Wire & Cable Co. At the National Radiator Corporation in Trenton, 100 joined the union in one day and

for dividing labor and smashing

strikes, General Motors has writ-

ten more than one ugly page for

defeated the Flint Alliance. How-

ever, organizations of this type

with roots among the workers are

more dangerous than the packs of

professional, imported scabs.

strikebreaking "outsiders," special-

ized vigilantes and filthy merce-

naries. In the Flint Alliance and

organizations of this type we have

most menacing form, of nascent

fascist outfits-far more danger-

ous than the Vigilante bands which

Clean-Cut Victory For CIO

strike will go a long way toward

determining the outcome of the

conflict between the AFL and the

CIO. The victory scored by the

UAW in GM and other strikes

paved the way for the beginning

of a change of policy toward union-

ism on the part of the U.S. Steel

and General Electric Companies.

Within fifteen months the CIO was

able to do a thousand times as

much as the A. F. of L. tried and

did do in the mass production in-

dustries in several decades. If one

keeps in mind that the real issue

between the AFL and the CIO was

whether an earnest and sound ef-

fort should be made to unionize the

mass production industries, he will

readily see how rapidly the CIO is

defeating the AFL backsliders.

This fight is far from over. But

the auto victory and the tremend-

ous impetus it has lent to organ-

ization and union recognition in

steel and other mass production

industries will go a long way to-

wards settling the struggle in

favor of the CIO and, therefore,

in favor of working class progress.

Finally, the outcome of the auto

have no broad base.

the employing class.

dreds of other applications are pending, according to E. J. Lever, S.W.O.C. organizer.

Rubber Plants Organized The United Rubber Workers reports enrollment of 150 out of 165 employes at the Luzerne Rubber Co. and of 800 out of 1,200 employes at the Thermoid Corp.

The United Electrical & Radio Workers has chartered a new local in Newark, right under Gov. Hoffman's nose, and has won union recognition, a 10% wage increase, reduction of hours and payment for overtime work under an agreement signed by the Continental Electric Co.

The union is making particularly rapid strides since the C.I.O. auto strike victory, in organizing among the 50,000 electrical and radio workers in northern New Jersey.

C.L.U. Aids C.I.O. Drive

Elizabeth, N. J.—(UNS)—Un ion County Central Labor Union is '100% behind the organizing campaign of the New Jersey Council for Industrial Organization," Pres. Geo. Cushing of the C.L.U. informed Mayor Brophy, following Gov. Hoffman's radio attack on the union campaign.

"We are going to help that drive in every possible fashion," Cushing said. "We shall provide our sound truck and all other necessary assistance.'

victorious termination will have a marked effect on the political and economic developments in the an aggravated expression in the country for the next few years. Governor Murphy's political star is rising. The auto strike of 1937 will have many echoes in the 1940 elections. The auto strike-its outcome the emergence of a mighty, stable, automobile workers union with several hundred thousands members-these are events and experiences for which working class militants live and fight for decades. These are milestones in the achievements of American We value them as signposts on the Workers Union is continuing its road to working class victory.

BARBARA HUTTON



Woolworth Heiress Forced to Settle

Woolworth Sit-In Strike Is Won

The sit-down strike of Woolworth employees, led by Myra Kamaroff of the Waitress and Waiters' Union, was settled with a definite and encouraging victory for the girls. The agreement, signed with the company, provides for a 48 hour week, and 33 cents per hour for present employees. A minimum wage of \$14.50 a week for all future employees was also won. It should be remembered that conditions under the NRA were a 48 hour week for only \$10. Male employees, working in the kitchen and bakery will get from \$22.50 to \$37 for a 54-hour week.

While the strikes occurred in two of the main stores of the Detroit Woolworth chain, the agreement was won for the entire area. This should enable the swift organization of all Woolworth girls not only locally but on a national

Knitgoods Union Wins Closed Shop

After a prolonged strike of five months conducted by the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union against the Supreme Braid & Trimming Co. of 126 West 26th Street, New York City, the Union has succeeded in bringing about a settlement with that shop. A closed shop, increases in wages and other conditions enjoyed by the rest of the organized Textile Trimmers have been won for the workers.

After four years of opposition to organized labor, the Buffalo Knitting Mills located at 100 White Street, Brooklyn, has finally settled with the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union on a 35 hour work week basis, closed shop and increases in wages for the work-

Despite a very poor Spring Joint Council Knitgoods organizational activities.

Challenge"

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