

Anti-Red Statement Backed By Stalinists

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Workers Of The World. Unite!

THE MILITANT

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Crying Need Is Labor's Unity In Action Now!

An Editorial

Big Business is hurling an unprecedented propaganda barrage against the striking miners. Its vast press and radio artillery is pouring out lies and slander day and night.



There should be no underestimating the effect of this propaganda assault. It is having influence even upon sections of the working class. This campaign, as almost every union leader and member realizes, isn't directed at the miners alone. Wall Street is trying to create a general atmosphere of anti-labor hostility for the further development of its drive against the American working class.

How can organized labor meet and answer this tremendous propaganda attack? Only by mobilizing its own forces for a full-scale counter-offensive—only by showing the same unity in action as the capitalists are displaying.

Labor must gather together its full resources, unite every worker in the ranks, and strike back with all its concentrated weight and power.

For this, it is necessary to establish effective machinery for joint action of all unions. The crying need is for a National Conference of Labor, composed of all unions, to formulate and carry out a unified fighting program.

But the top leaders of the CIO and AFL are too narrow-minded, too blinded by their own bureaucratic interests, to take this imperative step on their own initiative.

It is up to the union members in every locality to build a fire under the union leaders and to initiate a tremendous campaign against the government's attempted frame-up of John L. Lewis and its infamous strikebreaking injunction.

Every union local, large and small, regardless of affiliation, must take a public stand in defense of the miners. Protests by the thousands and tens of thousands must pour into Washington. The local press and radio must be forced to give these actions fullest publicity so that labor's support of the miners becomes known and felt in every community.

In every city and county, the local unions must form their own United Labor Conferences, mobilize actions on behalf of the miners and demand that the union leaders call a similar conference on a nation-wide scale.

The danger to organized labor was never more acute. Act now! For Labor Unity In Action! For a Fighting Counter-Offensive Against Wall Street!

Public Hearing Held In Move To Evict Detroit SWP Local

By Kay O'Brien

DETROIT, Dec. 1—A public hearing on the attempt to oust the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood Avenue, was held before the Detroit City Planning Commission last Wednesday.

The case of the Socialist Workers Party was ably presented by Walter M. Nelson, prominent Detroit attorney, and representative of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Nelson warned the Commission that the right of a political party to occupy headquarters of its own choosing was a political right which the Commission had no power to deny. "Nor is there any other body in the land," added Mr. Nelson, "which is empowered to deny this basic political right."

From statements, both written and oral, which were submitted to the Commission at a previous hearing by the Linwood and McGraw Civic Association, Inc., it had been clearly established that hatred toward the intermingling of colored and white workers on a plane of complete social equality, motivated not only the ouster move but also the arson attack made on the headquarters on July 25 of this year.

STORM OF PROTEST

This reactionary drive, however, has brought such a storm of protest from the entire Detroit labor movement and has evoked such strongly worded statements supporting the Socialist Workers Party, that the spokesman for the property owners was forced to back down and apologize to the Commission for having openly raised the issue. Nevertheless, it was perfectly apparent from his further statements as well as from

questions asked by the chairman of the Commission, that the racial issue remained dominant. The efforts of the Commission to sidetrack the hearing onto the technicality of whether, under the terms of the zoning law, the Socialist Workers Party could be considered part of the neighborhood community, were ably met by Mr. Nelson. He pointed out that it is precisely in residential areas, as part of the life of the neighborhood, where political parties belong.

In support of his argument, Mr. Nelson presented petitions signed by more than 500 residents of the area surrounding the party headquarters, demanding that the Socialist Workers Party be permitted to stay. These petitions completely silenced the previously hostile Commission secretary.

In the course of the questioning, an attempt was made to connect the Socialist Workers Party with the Communist Party which had formerly had headquarters a few blocks away.

Arthur Burch, Detroit organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, replied that the only connection was that the same fascist gangsters who drove the Communist Party out by violence in 1939, were now trying to drive out the Socialist Workers Party.

The hide-and-seek game of the Commission to bury the political and racial issues beneath zoning law technicalities failed completely, and the Commissioners retired in confusion without rendering a decision.

CIO Packing Union Set For Strike Action

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Dec. 1 — The CIO United Packinghouse Workers Union has cleared the way for strike action against the Big Four meat packing corporations. Its 27-man strike strategy committee meeting here on Nov. 27 called the packers' terms "inadequate" and directed International officials of the union to call a strike "when and if such action is necessary."

Demands of the union include a cost-of-living bonus, which is a variant of the escalator clause long advocated by The Militant and the Socialist Workers Party, to provide a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

Other demands are a minimum wage of \$1 per hour, a guaranteed annual wage, and a health and welfare fund.

Arrogant counter-proposals by the packing profiteers had called for freezing wages at present levels for a year with no reopening provisions, and eliminating all forms of union security. A reported new offer by Swift and Co., the terms of which have not been made public, is said to be far out of line with the union's just demands.

The union represents 200,000 workers in packing centers throughout the country. The critical need of these workers was emphasized at the CIO convention by Herbert March, UPWA leader, who declared that "the people who produce the meat products of the nation are in a position today to eat very little but neck bones and spare ribs, if they can afford them."

Ford Local 406 Backs Miners

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 26—At a regular meeting of UAW-CIO Ford Local 406 today, a strong resolution was unanimously adopted giving 100 per cent support to the striking coal miners. The resolution condemned the anti-labor action of the government and called upon the Los Angeles Industrial Council to appeal to all sections of the labor movement, AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods for united action in backing the miners.

The Local resolved to "set aside \$2,500 to be used in behalf of the United Mine Workers if and when the federal government seizes their treasury."

St. Louis Machinists Demand Monthly Living-Cost Raises

(Special to The Militant)

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 26—Another union has decided to demand a sliding scale of wages in future contracts. To protect the members' standard of living from skyrocketing

prices, the Independent International Association of Machinists here will request monthly wage adjustments, Lawrence Connors, business agent of District 9, announced today. The union represents some 20,000 workers in this area.

Connors said that about half of the District's approximately 500 contracts will expire before Jan. 1. In all the new contracts the Machinists will demand a clause along the following lines: "All employees shall receive a monthly bonus of 1 per cent of their regular earnings for each 1 per cent in the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumers' index above the bureau's index (for the month in which the contract was signed). Adjustments will be made one week

after each new labor bureau figure is released." Connors explained that the clause would work out like this: If, for example, the bureau showed a rise of 2 per cent in living costs the first month following signing of the contract, the union would expect a 2 per cent bonus for the next month. However, if the index should fall 3 per cent, for instance, in the second month, no bonus would be paid; but the members would not be penalized for the extra 1 per cent the price level dropped. They would lose nothing but the bonus.

The Machinists insist on an established base rate of pay, higher than the present scale, below which wages would not be allowed to drop no matter what happens to prices. The machin-

Ganging Up On The Miners



"Obey Or Starve" Is Washington's Policy On Food Relief For 1947

Beginning next month all the wraps are coming off and food will be employed exclusively as a political weapon by the U. S. Government. That is the meaning of Washington's decision to abolish UNRRA and its blunt refusal to set up an international or UN-controlled relief fund.

Hunger and starvation are still widespread in Europe and Asia, and 1947 will see little improvement over 1946. But from here on the U. S. government is discarding its "humanitarian" cloak and will give food only to nations which are ready to grant the political concessions demanded by Washington. After Jan. 1 there will be no U. S. relief for nations who do not toe Wall Street's political line.

Fiorello LaGuardia, retiring director of UNRRA, whose work in Europe expires Dec. 31, has proposed the establishment of a \$400,000,000 fund to meet world emergency needs during next year. But the State Department refuses to even consider contributing to such a fund. Anyone who wants food should make direct arrangements with Washington, says the State Department.

The reason for this new procedure is plain to everyone who has followed the recent crack-

down on Czechoslovakia and the withdrawal of its credits and loans because some Czech officials had dared to voice criticism of Washington's economic policies. The nations in the U. S.-British political orbit will get some handouts, if they do what they are told. The nations trying to follow an independent political line and those in the Soviet Union's sphere of influence—who will need relief most urgently in 1947—will go hungry until they are ready to come to terms.

The junking of UNRRA and the refusal to establish an international relief agency in its place cannot be explained in terms of an improved food situation next year. On the contrary, some countries will suffer more drastically than this year from shortages of the most basic necessities. An article in World Report of Dec. 3 has the following figures in annual world production by millions of tons:

	Prewar	1946	1947 (Est.)
Cereals (Wheat, rye, and rice)	410	340	380
Fats and Oils	22	17	18
Sugar	35	27	30

No Compensation For Steelworkers Laid Off In Ohio

By Harry Braverman

(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, Dec. 1—The ruling of the Compensation Bureau in Ohio denying unemployment compensation to steel workers made idle by the coal strike is being strongly protested by the labor movement here. Workers in the area feel very strongly about this dirty move by state officials to prejudice the steel workers against their brothers in the mines.

The executive board of the Mahoning County CIO Council has wired Governor Lausche protesting the ruling. This is one of many protests by local union leaders and bodies, including a public statement by James Griffin, candidate for office of CIO Steelworkers District Director.

CIO Steelworkers Local 1330, sent a sharply worded letter to all PAC-endorsed political office-holders from the Youngstown region condemning their silence on the issue of compensation for idle steelworkers. By their silent acceptance of the vicious ruling, these politicians once again demonstrate the incorrectness of the present PAC policy of giving support to candidates of the capitalist parties.

The district directors of the Steel union from Ohio are at present meeting with the Compensation Bureau in Columbus to demand for the steel workers the unemployment compensation to which they are entitled.

Wall Street Offensive Aims To Cripple Union Movement

By Art Preis

The ferocious, all-out assault of Big Business and its government against the striking coal miners is far more than a strikebreaking attempt against one union.

This bitter battle between the 400,000 soft coal miners and the capitalist government marks a new and more crucial stage in the great social

"Liberal" Bloc In Senate Asks Attack On Labor

The real views of the Democratic and Republican Senators who call themselves "pro-labor" were made public Nov. 27 when a group of them sent an "emissary" to Truman and Attorney General Clark with a demand that they refuse to yield to the coal miners.

An anonymous spokesman of the group was quoted as follows: "The Government cannot afford to appease John Lewis to the extent of one iota, even though standing firm should bring on the calamity of a non-productive winter, a closing of the schools, general suffering—and even bloodshed. I am convinced of this."

"This is the final showdown. The Government must write the terms. If it does not, or if it writes them in terms of appeasement, the Government might as well give up."

These political rats who thus incite the use of force and violence against the labor movement hide under a cloak of anonymity. The meeting where they voiced their pent-up hatred of labor was "guarded from public record." "Participants," said the press, "refused later to identify themselves... publicly." Their reasons for hiding their names like poison-pen letter writers is obvious. If their names were made public in association with their real views it would give fresh impetus to the movement for a Labor Party. And that is something these Wall Street political agents fear above everything else.

Call For "Greatest" Demonstration

Evidence of the growing demands for militant action by all organized labor to defend the AFL mine workers, is the appeal made by the 5,000-member local of the CIO American Federation of Hosiery Workers in Philadelphia. The local wired CIO President Philip Murray and AFL President William Green on Nov. 27 to "alert the entire labor movement for the greatest demonstration in history in the event that John Lewis is sacrificed on the altar of Big Business and a reactionary administration."

Detroit Auto Workers Back Fighting Miners

By E. Kennedy

DETROIT, Nov. 29—A tremendous wave of solidarity with the striking AFL coal miners is sweeping the CIO auto workers here. The main topic of conversation in the shops is the miners' fight and its importance to the entire labor movement.

Evidence that the UAW-CIO rank and file, unlike the UAW and CIO top leaders, are serious in their expression of support for the miners, is shown by the strongly worded resolutions passed this week by the General Council of Briggs Local 212 and the Dodge Local 3 membership. These resolutions pledge strike action, if necessary, in order to repel this new attack of Big Business and its government on organized labor.

Local 212's resolution pledges "complete and unqualified support" to the mine workers. It states: "We stand ready to aid them financially, and with strike action if they should find it necessary to call upon us to do so." The resolution further calls upon the International Union "to take a similar stand and to take the lead in organizing a National Labor Conference of AFL, CIO and independent unions to prepare any joint action which may become necessary to defeat this attack on labor."

The only sour note in the Lo-

