

Trade Union Unity Convention

(The third of a series of articles on the Cleveland T. U. E. L. convention to be held June 1 and 2. The final article, dealing with the organization of the Negro workers, will appear in the next issue.)

By WM. Z. FOSTER.

THE reactionary leadership of the trade unions are greeting the T. U. E. L. convention with a whole series of denunciations and attacks. And well they may look upon it with hostility, because it bodes no good to them. One of the major aspects of the general work of the T. U. E. L. convention will be to further organize and concentrate the attack of the revolutionary and progressive elements in the working class against the corrupt and reactionary leaders who now stand at the head of the A. F. of L. and the conservative independent craft unions.

The T. U. E. L. convention will meet in the sense of a full realization that these reactionaries, with their social reformism, are the principal obstacle the left wing has to overcome in order to win the masses for real struggle against the capitalists. The T. U. E. L. convention will understand that it must combat on every front the A. F. of L. leaders and their phrase-mongering socialist party and Labor Age-Muste group supporters. The convention will intensify the struggle against these agents of the bosses, demoralizers of the workers.

For Class Struggle.

The T. U. E. L. has nothing in common with these reformists. They preach the doctrine of class collaboration, which in actuality means the surrender of the workers to the employers. The T. U. E. L. advocates the program of class struggle and carries through a policy of militant attack against the bosses; the A. F. of L., S. P.-Muste leaders, who are all basically of one stamp and brand, are defenders of capitalism. The T. U. E. L. is the foe of capitalism and fights for its abolition. Between these two conflicting elements there can exist only relationships of struggle. The T. U. E. L. understands and accepts this fight. The T. U. E. L. convention will organize further the struggle against these misleaders.

In every field of its activities to organize the workers and lead them in struggle against the employers and the capitalist government the T. U. E. L. must come into open conflict with the reactionary union and socialist leaders. The capitalists are preparing for war in the furtherance of their imperialist program. They are getting ready, multiplying military preparations upon an unparalleled scale, for war with Great Britain. They are only awaiting a favorable opportunity for a fresh armed attack upon the Soviet Union. In this work the A. F. of L. and socialist leaders, including the Muste group, are their tools. Their role is to misuse their strategic position as labor leaders in the interest of the capitalists, to act as capitalist recruiting sergeants among the workers and they are carrying it out militantly. They have made the craft unions a part of the capitalist war machine. The T. U. E. L. fights against the war danger, and this fight will be greatly stressed at the convention. But the only way it can be waged successfully is by thoroughly exposing and aggressively struggling against the imperialist labor leaders, war agents of the bosses, amongst the workers.

Against Speed-Up.

And so it is in the fight against the destructive effects of capitalist rationalization of industry. There again the reactionary labor bureaucracy looms up as an effective copartner of the capitalists, as a deadly enemy of the working class. While the T. U. E. L. fights against the speed-up, and struggles for higher wages, shorter hours, and social in-

Fight the Reformist Labor Leaders

insurance for the workers, the reactionary labor leadership is a tool in the hands of the bosses to defeat these objectives and to drive the workers into the speed-up slaughter house of capitalism. The new wage policy, B. & O. plans, Watson Parker laws, union management cooperation, and the rest of the semi-company union policies of the A. F. of

L. and S. P. leaders, is merely the rationalization program of the capitalists. Whoever would fight against the evils of capitalist rationalization—the speed-up, low wages, unemployment, etc.—must in the first line fight against the reformist trade union leaders. The T. U. E. L. understands this and its coming convention will direct the fire against

Slaves Auctioned In Fascist Bulgaria



So great is the misery of the workers and peasants in Bulgaria under the fascist terror, that women offer themselves to be auctioned off as servants. Photo shows auction of servants going on in Sofia.

Anti-Fascists Expose the Brutal Terror in Bulgaria

(Red Aid Press Service)

The newly-formed Committee for the Defense of the Victims of Fascism in Bulgaria has issued an appeal to the workers containing details of the inhuman treatment of the arrested workers in the Police Presidium in Sofia. The following are quotations from this appeal:

A prisoner named Methodi Sharatov was examined in the following fashion: For four days he was questioned to the accompaniment of blows on the head, in the face and on the hands. His hands were so terribly beaten that they turned blue and swollen. He was beaten so terribly that he lost consciousness. His tormentors then revived him with douches of cold water. This happened on a number of occasions and he heard how his tormentors discussed whether they should fling him out of the window. He could no longer walk alone and his tormentors dragged him up to the third floor and then tried to throw him down the stairs, but with his remaining strength he clung desperately to the banisters and commenced to scream. All the time the detectives demanded that he should confess that he had been party to a conspiracy. This treatment continued on and off for weeks.

Michail Pendjerkov, the chief editor of the independent workers newspaper "Novini," was arrested on September 5 last year. He was lashed with whips, beaten with sticks, punched and kicked until he lost consciousness. He was restored with cold water, whereupon the maltreatment commenced anew. This treatment was continued for a whole week as Pendjerkov refused to make the "confession" required of him. Medical testimony showed that at the end of the week his urine consisted for the most part of blood. He was also kept for 40 days in a dark cell on bread and water. His condition is very serious.

Ivan Denkov was beaten on the soles of the feet so that he could neither walk nor put on his shoes. He was also so badly beaten with truncheons that he has wounds all over his body. He suffers from frequent fits of giddiness as the result of this treatment and from terrible pains in his inside so that it is feared that he has sustained internal injuries.

Yanko Panov was punched again and again and beaten on the breast with revolver butts. His head was then knocked against the wall until he lost consciousness. On one occasion he was maltreated by eight detectives. His testicles were squeezed and he was threatened with death. The detectives then held him head downward over the banisters of the fourth story and threatened to let him fall unless he "confessed." He has been driven half mad and suffers from pains in the chest and in the head as well as from a general breakdown.

Protest Terror.

The Committee for the Protection of the Victims of Fascism called a mass meeting to take place in a large hall in Sofia on April 5. Long before the time fixed for the meeting the hall was occupied by the police who turned the whole neighborhood into an armed camp. Masses of workers assembled and as the hall was cordoned off a protest meeting was held on the open streets. The police attacked the meeting again and again and made many arrests.

Amongst the arrested is Entcho Staikov, the chief editor of the official organ of the Workers Party, a member of the Central Committee of the latter party and a member of the new Committee for the Protection of the Victims of Fascism in Bulgaria.

the labor bureaucrats as the rationalization agents of the employers.

For Organization.

Likewise in the great problem of organizing the unorganized. The reactionary trade union leaders are a deadly obstacle to the accomplishment of this work and they must be defeated in order to bring it to success. The great masses of workers are beginning to stir under the pressure of worsening conditions. This is the prelude to bitter struggles on their part. The labor bureaucrats will not organize and lead these struggles to victory. On the contrary, their whole course will be to demoralize and defeat them.

Although the A. F. of L. makes no efforts to organize the great armies of workers, we may consider it as axiomatic that wherever these masses begin to strike the A. F. of L. will have its "organizers" on the job, whose task it will be, in collaboration with the bosses and the government, to defeat these strikes and to do so under the guise of A. F. of L. unionism. The new industrial unions, in organizing the unorganized, will have many heavy obstacles to overcome—the bitter resistance of trustified capital, widespread terrorism by the state, etc.—but the most insidious and difficult thing will be the strikebreaking interference of the A. F. of L. Such strikebreaking will be the work not only of the Greens and Wolls and Schlesingers, but also of the so-called Progressive Muste group, as Passaic and New Bedford eloquently prove.

For Thoroughgoing Solidarity.

The test of the new unions will come in their efforts to defeat the strikebreaking tactics of the A. F. of L., in working out a successful strike strategy despite the treason of these labor misleaders. This can be done only by a thoroughgoing solidarity of the workers, based upon a knowledge of the betrayal policies of the A. F. of L. To develop such knowledge among the workers by thoroughly exposing the treacherous role of these trade union leaders, will occupy the greatest attention of the T. U. E. L. Convention. A militant fight against the reactionary trade union leadership is a first condition for the success of organizing the unorganized and strike movements, as it is for the whole left wing program.

The entire history of the T. U. E. L. has been a war against the A. F. of L. bureaucracy. The coming convention will not diminish that fight but will broaden and deepen it. The T. U. E. L. will carry on the struggle against the misleaders for control of the masses in the existing unions. It will also fight against these labor traitors in order to win leadership and build organizations among the vast multitudes of workers in the unorganized industries.

War Against Misleaders.

The expanded and reorganized T. U. E. L. emerging from the Cleveland convention, will be a real section of the Red International of Labor Unions. It will be a fighting labor movement, waging war on all the misleaders of labor whether they appear under such open capitalistic guise as Green and Woll, or attempt to hide themselves under radical sounding phrases as the socialist party and the so-called Muste group. Every effort must be put forth to make the T. U. E. L. convention a real mobilization of all the best fighting elements in the whole American working class.

BANTON, McADOO IN CLINIC RAID.

Police Commissioner Whalen today admitted that District Attorney Banton and Chief Magistrate McAdoo were in the conspiracy to raid the Birth Control Clinic. Both had representatives in the raiding party, which seized confidential clinic records and committed many other illegalities.