

Foster Exposes Frey Flaunting Wishes of His Own Union

By CARL REEVE

"Charles P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department of the A. F. of L., in attacking the advocates of industrial unions, is violating the decisions of his own union, the International Molders Union," was the charge hurled yesterday by William Z. Foster, working class leader.

"The national convention of the Molders Union endorsed the principles of industrial unionism as early as 1923," Foster said. "The following convention, in 1928, went clearly and unmistakably on record for the industrial union principle. The last convention, held in 1934, once more endorsed the principles of eliminating craft divisions."

Frey's statement, recently made public, specifically attacked an article by William Z. Foster, printed in the Daily Worker of Nov. 23, which favored industrial unions. Frey claimed he spoke for the "majority" of the A. F. of L. members. **Majority Claim Disputed**

"Frey has no mandate to speak for the majority of the A. F. of L. members," Foster told the Daily Worker. "Frey's own union has endorsed the industrial union principle. Where the craft union members have been given the democratic right to express their opinion, they have gone on record for amalgamation into industrial unions. Frey, violating his union's instructions, is attempting to crush all democratic expression on this subject in the ranks of the A. F. of L."

In the midst of the big campaign of the Trade Union Educational League, led by Foster, for industrial unions, the Molders national convention of 1923 adopted a resolution which declared: "Be it resolved that we, the delegates to this

26th convention assembled in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, do hereby go on record in favor of a more progressive move towards amalgamation of all metal trades."

Stand Reiterated in 1928

The next convention of the Molders Union, held in 1928, once more adopted a resolution with a clear-cut endorsement of the industrial union form of organization, Foster pointed out.

"Frey now has the effrontery to attack the advocates of the industrial union," Foster continued. "And in doing so he is violating the instructions given him by the highest body of the union in which he holds membership."

The resolution of the Molders convention in 1928 declared that the employers are solidly united and are . . . "supported by the government, the courts and the press" and are carrying on "a vicious attack on the labor movement," while "these unions, because they are divided against themselves along trade lines and are unable to make united resistance against the employers, constantly suffer defeat after defeat with heavy losses in membership and serious lowering of the workers' standard of living and working conditions. The only solution for the situation is the development of a united front by the workers through the amalgamation of the various trade unions, so that there will remain only one union for each industry."

Officers Instructed

The resolution concluded with the resolve, "That this convention demand its incoming national officers to take immediate steps in working with the other unions in the Metal Trades who are desirous of bringing about the amalgamation

of all unions in the Metal Trades industry."

"By what right then," Foster asked, "does Frey claim to speak for the majority when he attacks industrial unions? He has no mandate from the rank and file of his own union nor from the majority of the A. F. of L. members who have not been allowed to express themselves on the question."

The president of the Molders Union, Michael Keough, in his official report to the national convention of 1928, admitted that division into craft unions would hinder organization of the mass production industries, Foster revealed. Keough reported on a conference of national and international union representatives, called by the A. F. of L. on March 24, 1927, for the purpose of organizing the auto workers.

Auto Industry Discussed

Keough in his written report said, "It was evident to all of the national and international representatives who attended the conference that to bring about the organization of the employes in the automobile industry it would be necessary for the national and international unions claiming jurisdiction over work done in the automobile industry to waive jurisdiction where mass production prevailed."

The last convention of the Molders Union, held in August, 1934, once more recognized the harmful effects of craft divisions, Foster said, when dealing with the question of eliminating craft divisions in the foundries.

The 1934 convention adopted a resolution which read, "Whereas, the constant consolidation and growing power of the employers'

associations make it more difficult for craft organizations in the foundry industry to get results in the form of higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions,

"And whereas, the only solution for the situation which is ever growing worse from our point of view, is to solidly unite all workers who have anything to do with making castings in the foundry industry,

"Therefore be it resolved, that the 28th convention of the International Molders Union of North America herewith goes on record in favor of accepting as members all employes in the foundry industry into the Molders Union."

Frey Flaunts Union's Wishes

"These official decisions of the Molders Union endorsing the industrial union form of organization are a clear cut recognition by the craft union members that craft divisions are obsolete," Foster pointed out. "Frey is flaunting the interests and decisions of his own membership in attacking industrial unions. He has no authority to speak for anybody but a few antiquated A. F. of L. craft union officials who do not have the confidence of their own membership because they violate the decisions of their membership."

"Mr. Green, Mr. Frey and other A. F. of L. top official opponents of industrial unionism do not dare to submit the question of industrial unionism to the membership of the affiliated organizations to vote on. If so, their answer would be clear. The craft system of unionism would be overwhelmingly condemned and the principle of industrial organization endorsed.

"The craft union members have everything to gain from the indus-

trial form of union. Costly jurisdictional disputes which harm craft union members and often lose strikes, will be eliminated. United action in strikes and negotiations will be facilitated by amalgamation. The industrial union will be stronger and more powerful, and in a better position to fight for union agreements."

States Communist Position

"Frey tries to combat the Lewis industrial union bloc," said Foster, "by saying that the Communists support industrial unionism. Well, what of it? We are proud to have fought for industrial unionism for many years past. With John L. Lewis we have many deep differences, regarding the ultimate goal of labor; he favoring maintaining capitalism and we being for its abolition. Regarding immediate policies Lewis, for example, is against the Farmer-Labor Party and we are for it. There are other differences. But the fight for industrial unionism is a fight for one of the most elementary needs of the workers, like the fight for higher wages. And the Communists always throw their full force behind such struggles regardless of our differences on general questions of policy, with their leadership. We would welcome it if Mr. Frey would join the fight for industrial unionism, and he can be sure we don't like his political opinions. Mr. Frey's red baiting will not succeed in defeating the generation long fight of the workers for industrial unions.

"The entire labor movement would be strengthened by elimination of craft barriers and formation instead of industrial unions."