

LABOR ACTION

MARCH 29, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

Roosevelt Tries To Save His Wage Policy In Mine Dispute

By Mike Stevens

President Roosevelt has now stepped into the deadlocked negotiations between the United Mine Workers and soft-coal operators, and proposed that negotiations continue after the union agreement expires on March 31. President Roosevelt also proposed that any wage increases agreed upon shall be retroactive as of April 1, BUT that "if any wage adjustments are made they must, of course, be made in accordance with the act of October 2, 1942, and Executive Order No. 9250."

The mine owners immediately agreed to the proposal. And why not? Mr. Burke, spokesman for the southern owners, gave the answer: "I know that under the terms of the telegram sent by President Roosevelt there can be no increase in pay to the miners."

The Mine Workers also accepted Roosevelt's proposal, but with a stipulation that the negotiations will not be carried on more than

thirty days after April 1, thus suggesting that the possibility of a strike would still be on the order of the day if the miners' demands were not met by that time. Even with this stipulation, the miners' acceptance of Roosevelt's proposal raises many questions, the most important of which is: Are the miners ready to disregard the WLB?

Under the act of October 1, 1942, and Executive Order No. 9250, "The National War Labor Board shall not approve any increases in the wage rate prevailing on September 15, 1942, unless such increase is necessary to collect maladjustments or inequalities..." In its "wage stabilization policy" the National War Labor Board adopted the Little Steel formula: "If a group of employees has received increases amounting to 15 per cent in their average straight time rates over the level prevailing on January 1, 1941, the board will not grant further increases as a correction for maladjustments."

It is significant that at the same moment that President Roosevelt sent his telegram to the mine workers and the mine owners, the WLB rejected the petition of its AFL members that the Little Steel formula be scrapped and a higher formula substituted in its place. This rejection automatically threw out the second point in the petition to "permit employers to apply the maladjustment principle" without obtaining approval of the WLB, which means that Mr. Burke, of the mine owners, knew on which side of the dispute the government's policy was buttressed.

Mine Owners' Strategy

President Roosevelt intervened at the request of the soft coal mine owners who have, during the two weeks of negotiations, rejected every single proposal made by the union. Early in the negotiations it became obvious that the owners had absolutely no intention of granting any of the workers' wage demands, but that they were going to utilize the negotiations as a forum and the expiring agreement deadline as a means to stir up "the public" against the union.

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CIO Unions Map Political Campaign In Detroit

DETROIT—Challenging the reactionary drive against labor in Congress and in the Michigan State Legislature, a special conference of the Detroit CIO unions held here on Sunday, March 14, called upon all locals to mobilize their members AGAINST anti-labor legislation and FOR progressive legislation.

All the speakers stressed the feebleness of labor's voice on the political field, in the nation and in the state, and attributed this to the fact that the workers abstain from voting in elections. Ben Probe, secre-

See editorial on Political Action on page four of this issue.

tary-treasurer of the Michigan CIO Council, reported that 30 per cent of the Michigan CIO membership of 700,000 registered for the last election, and a smaller per cent actually voted.

"Everything we do is controlled by government," R. J. Thomas, president of the Auto Workers Union, CIO, told the delegates, and therefore he insisted that labor must "think politically." He scored the anti-labor conduct of Mayor Jeffries who had been supported "time and again" by the CIO, but continued to advocate the policy of support of "friends of labor." Thomas, like the other speakers, warmly praised President Roosevelt and his war policies.

The report of the resolutions committee on its six point plan for political action brought forth a speech from one of the delegates who explained that the reason for the apathy of the workers in elections was the CIO policy of sup-

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LABOR CAN DESTROY WLB WAGE FORMULA!

What Will the Miners Do?



Carlo

Board Rejects AFL Petition-- Situation Demands Showdown On Little Steel Pay Formula

Rejecting a petition by the AFL, the War Labor Board on March 22 refused to scrap the Little Steel Formula by a vote of eight to four. Industry and the "public" voted together, while the labor members dissented.

The question immediately arises: what is labor going to do? There is hardly a union which has not taken a stand against the Little Steel formula which limits wage increases to 15 per cent over the level of January 1, 1941, while profits balloon upward. There is hardly a section of the working class that is not clamoring for higher wages. These are known facts. They are known to every union leader, to every worker and to every boss and government agent.

Now, what we ask, are the labor members doing on the Board? They had no business there in the first place. With the position of the "public" and industry—AND ROOSEVELT—reiterated in every important decision, it should be clear to even the most feeble-minded of what John L. Lewis calls the "labor zombies" that it is long past time for them to get off the Board. Their dissents are about as fruitful as blotting paper in a flood.

Murray has denounced the Little Steel formula. He has demanded that it be lifted. But he contributes nothing to the situation—that is, nothing of benefit to labor—when he adds that the WLB should be maintained.

There is absolutely no justification for the continued presence of the labor members on the Board. With all their dissents, their very presence on the board contributes to the straight-jacketing of labor in a wage policy that is driving the standard of living of the American working class down.

Despite all the vocal fury of the WLB, it is a sick and ailing body. Last week there was more than one indication that the Board was on its way out, or that, at the very least, its powers would be clipped and the formula raised. The resentment against it is so strong that an organized push could easily topple it.

The miners may yet provide that push. The fact that the WLB has in several recent decisions, and in its rejection of the AFL petition loudly reiterated its formula is definitely related to the mine dispute. The situation has reached the stage of show-down. On the one side are the miners who are doing something CONCRETE to break the Little Steel formula. On the other side, the Board (and, behind it, Roosevelt) who are making a last ditch attempt to save the formula—and the Board.

That is why, apart from the solidarity which workers owe their fellow-workers under any and all conditions of struggle for better wages, is it so especially important to back the miners in their demands today—and to watch the situation closely. If the miners win their fight, the stormy declarations issuing from the WLB may prove to be nothing more than an over-delayed death rattle.

Not only must the Little Steel formula be broken, it CAN be broken. It won't be broken by pussy-footing. It WILL be broken if the labor unions rescind the no-strike pledge -- and if the labor leaders show that they mean business by getting off the Board. Rescinding the no-strike pledge, with the threat of action that it implies, will do more than a million dissents in putting an end to the scandalous imposition of a 15 per cent fetter—the Little Steel formula!

Corporations Continue to Pile Up Big Profits While the WLB Keeps Labor's Wages Down

Company	Earnings* for Recent Same Period	Per Cent Increase	
Paramount Pictures, Inc.	\$14,525,000	\$10,251,242	41.7
Lush-Termal Buildings Co.	569,120	341,656	66.6
Loose-Wilco Biscuit Co.	2,996,652	1,110,675	82.8
Parkersburg Rig & Reel Co.	764,744	544,008	40.6
Fressed Steel Car Co., Inc.	1,728,726	812,258	112.7
Climax Molybdenum Co.	13,396,433	8,954,204	49.5
Dresser Industries	518,007	299,692	73.2
Hathaway Bakeries, Inc.	208,546	44,620	367.4
Consolidated Cement Corp.	333,697	86,392	286.2
Consolidation Coal Co., Inc.	1,531,498	702,344	117.1
Doyle Machine & Tool Corp.	303,683	189,533*	60.2
Thomas J. Lipton, Inc.	353,819	175,516	101.7
Pullman Co.	9,150,769	1,855,069	393.3
Basic Refractories, Inc.	670,293	450,592	48.8
Bayway Terminal Corp.	226,728	136,958	65.5
United States Freight Co.	1,418,593	808,616	75.4
Kansas City Southern Railway	2,121,784	1,426,122	48.7
Market Street Railway Co.	841,357	94,785	785.9

*The figure given by the company was \$173,738 for eleven months. Our figure is for a year at the same rate of profit.

By EVERETT WESTON

When the AFL members of the War Labor Board last week joined in the attack on the Little Steel formula of limiting wage increases to 15 per cent, they made the ranks of labor virtually unanimous. And no wonder. For while workers have been fighting every type of bureaucratic delay to get a MAXIMUM of 15 per cent increase, the rise in the cost of living has increased by more than double that figure. And the bosses, who were doing very well in 1941, have shown enormous increases in 1942.

The figures in the accompanying table are as reported by the various companies in recent issues of the New York Times. All profits shown are NET, after all expenses and all taxes. And the increases, as you can see, make 15 per cent look sick.

Not all the companies reporting

their profits are shown, of course. But that does not mean that all those not included here did not increase their take. In most of these articles we have given an example or how, by one bookkeeping device or another, the actual profit of one company after another is much larger than the one reported. The Apex Electrical Mfg. Co., for instance, "earned" \$597,186 in 1941 and less than half that amount, \$212,004, in 1942. But if you consider the general rise in profit and the fact that this company is almost certainly doing war work, you look further. And you find—that \$500,000 of the \$597,186 profit in 1941 was from a patent lawsuit, a non-recurring item that should be left out of this kind of comparison. If we ignore this, we find that the increase was 119.1 per cent.

Figures on the rise in the cost of living vary greatly. The lowest is higher than 15 per cent, so that at best workers are told that they may remain not quite at the same level as formerly, while the bosses reap unprecedented profits. But a survey by a labor group, the New Jersey State CIO Council, found that the cost of living rose 35 per cent during the year ended January 1, 1943. This is the rise in money prices only and ignores the rise in real prices. Practically everything the worker buys, from food to clothes to furniture and back, has gone down in quality as well as up in price. The price ceilings, as everybody knows, are not enforced. But if they were, they would still be a joke.

in the face of all this, it is becoming increasingly obvious to workers throughout the country that the Little Steel formula is nothing more or less than a device to force down the living standards of their class. It is a means by which the workers are being made to pay for the war. It must be broken.

Labor Party Is a MUST!

Need Is Demonstrated by General Anti-Labor Legislative Drive

On March 18, the Kansas State Senate passed a bill which would prohibit strikes, the main weapon of the working class in their fight against boss oppression. This bill also gives the state full access to the financial records of the union—making dues, assessments, salaries, etc., the business of the state. Further, the state is given the right to limit the use of union funds for any purpose which it may deem inadvisable or unwise—that is, any union activity which furthers the cause of the

workers. It could, for example, bar the use of union funds in the organization of unorganized industry or in financing the campaign of any independent political labor candidate. Other state legislatures will undoubtedly be given encouragement in their anti-union legislation by this repressive act.

In Arkansas a "violence" bill has been passed through the efforts of Texas Sen. O'Daniel and his "Christian American Association," an organization which has been labeled

fascist by the AFL. This bill would actually ban strikes and picketing under the mask of outlawing "intimidation and violence."

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On the Food Front

By Gertrude Shaw

Chaos and confusion still reign supreme on the food front.

On the one hand Secretary of Agriculture Wickard boasts that 10,000,000 more acres of land will be planted in food crops.

On the other hand, canners have announced that they are seriously considering cutting down the canning of food because the government purchases of the 1942 pack for the armed forces, lend-lease, etc., are still stacked in the warehouses—and, by the way, there is considerable dispute as to whether the government needed to buy as much as it did of the 1942 pack.

At any rate, if the canners reduce operations, much of the additional 1943 crops will simply be spoiled.

Thus the bureaucrats muddle along—and workers pay for it.

Lobbying in Congress pays those who can afford it.

When canned goods rationing went into effect, the OPA picked ceilings on beans, cabbage, carrots, peas, tomatoes, lettuce and spinach.

But no housewife has any way of knowing what the ceilings are supposed to be. When beans are 25 cents a pound one day and 29 cents the next, and she makes a fuss about it, she is told the beans are entirely different, coming from another state, and of course are of much better quality.

One gag is as good as another—as long as the housewife is forced to pay more for the same goods.

The mystery has never been solved as to why the OPA picked out just seven vegetables upon which to put ceiling prices—so that they can be violated.

Why is it not required of the dealer even to give a fluky explanation as to why turnips went up from three cents to eight cents a pound—why

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News and Views from the Labor Front

Local 9 Aims at Hodgson Yard Contract

By VINCENT QUEEN

SAN PEDRO, Calif.—The growing resentment of the Hodgson-Green-Haldeman Shipyard workers against the chiseling and violations of the contract practiced by the company exploded at last into a large and enthusiastic meeting held under the auspices of Local 9 of the Shipyard Workers Union, CIO. At this meeting a contract was approved for presentation to the company, a contract designed to end many of the abuses

that exist in the Hodgson yard and to raise the wages and working conditions to the levels of those in the other yards in this area.

For weeks there had been a growing union consciousness among the men and a realization that they had to take an active interest in their own affairs because nobody else was going to do it for them. There was no confidence in the Pollard administration in the local because of its do-nothing policy in the face of a

mounting list of grievances that the men had against the company.

The contract as it stands approved for negotiation contains a check-off clause, shop steward and grievance machinery, one week vacation with pay after one year's work, a three-stage improvement in going from helper to Journeyman with a two-month limitation on each stage, strict seniority in hiring and layoff and 100 per cent union hiring. Under the new con-

tract, all men doing mechanics' work at improvers' and helpers' wages stand to benefit as increases in pay are provided for them. Unless the company stalls, the contract should be signed and in effect about April 1.

Hodgson men know that it is as important to enforce as to sign a good contract. The best contract in the world is only a scrap of paper if open violations of it are allowed. Nobody expects Walter S. Pollard, "administrative director" of Local 9, to see that the provisions of the new contract are lived up to. He has tolerated not one but a dozen violations of the old contract. The job of making Hodgson Shipbuilders live up to its signed word falls squarely on the men who work in the yard and on the stewards they elect.

Shop stewards must be elected in every department, men who are ready, willing and able to end company chiseling. Such shop stewards, however, cannot do the job alone. They must have the 100 per cent backing of the men they represent or else they cannot do their job. It is up to the men working in the Hodgson yard to see that a grievance committee is elected, that shop stewards function and that everybody who calls himself a union official does the job he's supposed to do. Unless this is done the new contract will be no better than the old.

At the same meeting, the overtime grievance was taken up. The company paid straight time on the Saturday and Sunday after Christmas, and the Saturday after New Year's Day, although time and a half and double time are provided for in the existing agreement. Straight time was likewise paid on overtime days when the men were sent home during the week due to rain—another violation of contract. It was voted to take this matter up with the company immediately and to have a report at the next meeting. If this grievance is successfully pushed, most men in the yard stand to gain five or six days' back pay.

The union started late in the Hodgson yard, but it is losing no time in catching up and passing the other yards in the area.

CIO-AFL Protest Beats California Anti-Labor Bill

LOS ANGELES—California labor this week beat back one of the most reactionary anti-union measures ever presented by the representatives of the big corporations and the Associated Farmers in the State Legislature. Senate Bill 250 carried within it provisions requiring that trade unions be incorporated, that their books be made open to the public and that the check-off and closed shop be barred. This obvious piece of class legislation was defeated by a wave of protest in a joint campaign sponsored by the CIO and the AFL.

The Daily Worker And Phelps Dodge

The March 13 issue of the Daily Worker, Communist Party sheet, reports with hand springs of joy that a meeting of Local 451, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers Union, condemned LABOR ACTION as "dishonest, treacherous and dangerous." If the hand that wrote the Daily Worker article did not write the resolution, it is only because the Stalinists have enough forces to assign the same filthy job to two people. (Let us always remember that these same people supported a pact with Hitler up to June 22, 1941.)

The resolution adopted by Local 451 does NOT represent the sentiment of the rank and file—specifically the Phelps Dodge workers. It represents the opinion of a Stalinist clique in the leadership—which, we might add, is in difficulty. It is reported that the election of Reid Robinson, Stalinist president of the international, has been challenged as fraudulent.

LABOR ACTION recently reported a spontaneous walk-out at the Phelps Dodge Refining Corp. (It was, unfortunately, our only report of the situation.) Unable to get any support in their demands from the leadership of Local 351, and embittered against the company, the workers in Phelps Dodge took matters into their own hands. The union leaders stabbed the workers in the back, and forced the men to return to work without a victory.

What was and is the issue? The workers at Phelps Dodge want union security and a \$1.00-a-day raise from a company that is coining plenty in war profits. Now that the men are back at work, the WLB has postponed its decision, and the leaders of the union are seeking to squelch resentment by postponing and cancelling meetings.

The Daily Worker charges that we erred in our report that the WLB had granted a \$1.00 raise nine months ago and that the company had refused to pay it. We may have erred. Our information came from workers in the plant who assured us that it was common knowledge although the union leaders have made no announcement of the fact. But suppose we did err? If we did—and in the absence of an honest and democratic leadership it is difficult to ascertain if we did—but if we did, what of it?

We are willing to correct the error, and hereby do. The WLB didn't grant an increase? All right, it didn't. The fact remains that that increase is what the workers need and want. The fact remains that conditions in the plant are evidently so bad that workers took to the picket line against the will of union officers and in the face of general intimidation.

As a labor paper with a responsibility to report the truth and support labor's struggle for better conditions, we reported (along with other papers) the walkout. And, we admit it, we reported it in such a way as to make it clear that we are in sympathy with the demands of the Phelps Dodge workers—just as we are in sympathy with the mine workers in their demands, and with workers all over the country who seek a better wage.

What sticks in the craw of the Daily Worker and the Stalinist stooges in the union, who call upon the government to suppress us, is that many Phelps Dodge workers are LABOR ACTION readers. And that these workers know that LABOR ACTION is LOYAL to the interests of the working class—and that if "treason" exists, it is the treason of those who, like the Daily Worker, betray the interests of the working class. It is the treason of those who, faced with a situation that loudly calls for the support of the Phelps Dodge workers in their demands on the company, denounce—not the company—but a paper that tells the working class truth, and will continue to tell it regardless of any spurious resolutions spawned in the Daily Worker office.

E. G.

Brewster Local Wins Victory

Remaining Grievances Can Be Settled by a Continuation of Militancy

LONG ISLAND CITY—The recently concluded job evaluation and reclassification at Brewster offered a demonstration of the roles being played throughout the U.S. by the companies, the government, and the militant workers.

According to the contract between the local union (Local 365, UAW-CIO) and the company, a joint reclassification of the workers to eliminate the many inequalities in the plant was to be made and put into effect as of April 12, 1942. The company stalled for many months but finally the Job Evaluation Committee of the company and the union concluded its task. Its findings showed what everyone knew: Brewster workers were grossly underpaid. As the company was well aware of the Union's no-strike policy, it did

Throughout the country this combination of a union-busting company, a union tied by its no-strike pledge, and the "impartial" WLB has resulted in catastrophic defeats for the workers. However, Brewster workers from the very beginning had made it clear that they would not let events take their "normal" course.

At the very meeting in which the WLB was asked to take jurisdiction in the dispute, some of the workers showed their lack of confidence in the board by calling for a strike vote. Departmental walkouts were threatened so often while the WLB was stalling that the union leadership informed the board that it would not be responsible for the actions of the workers if a quick and just decision was not handed down. At the monthly membership meetings, the WLB was denounced in no uncertain terms. The local's paper carried some of the most scathing attacks against the WLB made by any trade union paper in the country. Most important of all, the aggressive union leadership aimed an arrow at the heart of its difficulties by presenting its Bushkoff program which seconded a call for a special UAW convention to rescind the no-strike pledge. The climax was reached in a 95 per cent work stoppage in the plant as workers refused to perform any work not in their classification.

It was in this atmosphere that the second reclassification was made. The most militant shop stewards completely disregarded the "scientific" job specifications set up by the WLB—and got away with it. The WLB was sitting on a powder keg and did not wish to light a match. Job evaluation was established and the more-than-partial success in achieving it is a victory in itself. Thousands of workers have been reclassified and are now receiving wages more in keeping with their skill.

To deny that there is still dissatisfaction in the plants today is to close one's eyes to an obvious fact.

The source of this dissatisfaction is also obvious—the WLB reclassification is lower than the September classification which was thrown out. In the absence of official statistics from either the union or the WLB, it appears that the WLB average increase is from four to six cents lower. Particular attention must be paid to the fact that the WLB classification was made after the men had increased their skill by working an additional four months on their jobs and, if anything, should have received higher ratings.

Special havoc was wrought in the ranks of the A. M. In the disputed cases the union really received a slap from the WLB—with some departments winning only five per cent of those cases. Also, the high-handed and arbitrary action of the WLB in going against its own directive order, by refusing reclassification and back pay to those workers hired after October 4, 1942, is a sharp blow to the pocketbooks of many workers.

Yet, with all these faults, Local 365's reclassification was a decisive union victory. The militant actions of the workers forestalled the plans of the company and the WLB. The victory must be solidified by the laying down of hard and fast work standards in keeping with the pay rates of the various classifications. President De Lorenzo's statement that "no one is going to work for glory" is a good indication that this will be done. Above all, Brewster workers have learned the importance of not entering a fight with their hands tied behind their backs—the no-strike clause must be retracted.

Local 365's victory was more than a local labor triumph. The aircraft industry is a real war baby, so notorious for its chaotic wage system that doubts of its ever being organized were openly expressed by leaders of the international. Now, in Local 365, job grades and wage scales have been established that can serve as a strong base for further organization in the industry and for further demands at the proper time.

Editor's Note:

It has been brought to our attention that in the last issue of LABOR ACTION the structure of the article on Brewster Aeronautical contained a misplaced emphasis that did not give an accurate picture of the developments in the situation there. The article in this issue, we feel, clears up any misunderstanding of the events.

what bosses throughout the country are doing: it refused to recognize the conclusions of the Job Evaluation Committee and told the union to "Take it to Washington."

The War Labor Board's decision went into effect on March 1, 1943—fully five months after it had entered the case. It completely threw out the original reclassification on the ground that it added too much money (22 per cent) to the Brewster payroll. The WLB drew up a list of "scientific" job specifications which were far higher than the standards of the Job Evaluation Committee and ordered a second reclassification.

Who Are the Betrayers in the House of Labor?

We begin publication below of sections of a long survey of racketeering bureaucracy in the AFL written by a worker-correspondent who has been a militant unionist, and member of the AFL carpenters' union, for several decades. LABOR ACTION does not agree with every single line or point of phrasing in Comrade Carpenter's argument, but we submit as a valuable and interesting compilation by a worker who knows his AFL. We regret that we lack the space to publish the work in its entirety. Other sections will follow in subsequent issues of LABOR ACTION.—Editor.

much time in exposing crooked lawyers, bankers, loan-sharks or big industrialists who are exploiting labor on a much greater scale. Pegler's whole lamentation for the free American workers and their right to walk through the picket-line has been demonstrated far too conspicuously.

One does not want to look at the AFL bureaucracy, its racketeers, gangsters and extortionists as something that is independent of the present "American Way of Life" itself, but rather as one of the lower branches of the same tree. It lives under its wing. It accepts its policy and, in return, contributes to its fertile soil. In other words, it serves the same purpose as the newspapers, the radio, the theatre, school, church, police, courts, army and the navy.

To be sure, I checked up on Pegler's broad statement, where he offered to name one hundred criminals holding office in the AFL. I searched through the records of the New York Public Library and after a few months was convinced, that there is truth in his statement.

But what of it? Pegler, as I pointed out above, explores these evils for his own ends. At the same time that does not mean that the workers belonging to these unions should stop there and let it go at that, or should look around for ele-

ments outside of their union such as journalists, intellectuals and shyster lawyers, posing as friends of labor, to rescue them from these labor betrayers. No, this can only be done by the workers themselves. The workers must make their own investigations, discuss them among themselves, find the remedy and then act accordingly. And the best remedy is rank and file control, union democracy.

After all, it is your organization. You maintain it with your dues. It is true that some sacrifices are needed. But that is no greater than the sacrifices of the men who founded the union movement. They were faced with similar obstacles. They were blacklisted, framed up, jailed, driven out of the state and some of them even murdered.

Bureaucracy Perpetuates Itself

Now, in commenting on the argument of the three Reverends, A. R. McGowan, J. F. Smith and W. J. Smith, in defense of the AFL—'all around the old song,' 'Just because there are a few discredited among the 300,000 officials, that does not prove the whole AFL is bad'—let us see whom they are trying to defend.

The report of the sixty-second annual convention of the AFL, held in Ontario, Canada, in October, 1942, shows that 507 delegates represented 5,482,581 paid-up members. The re-

port does not disclose how many international unions, state councils, city councils or local unions. But it is estimated that about 20 international unions, 48 state councils and 471 city councils were represented. Taking for granted that 20 international unions and 48 state councils were represented by two members of the executive, let us say, the president and the secretary, that gives you 136. Then add one for each of the 471 city councils, although the number of city councils is far beyond that. That brings the number to 507. But not one of these needed to be elected, since they were all union executives. Where were the delegates elected by the 5,482,581 paid-up members?

The composition of the AFL convention and its executive board are a true reflection of almost all of the international unions, state and city bodies, with only minor differences in their functioning. While some hold conventions every two, four or eight years, there are others that meet only once in thirty years. And although conventions may revise constitutions or hold referendums, the referendum vote is often concealed from the membership and the opposite is announced. The powers vested in the international president reduce even the few rights of the union members to a mere sham. Yet with all their power they live in fear

of what the future will bring and they are always expelling the mildest critics of their policies and lifting charges of disapproving locals. In New York City alone, at least eight locals with a total membership of about 5,000 had their charters lifted by their national presidents.

What becomes of all these thousands of members and their officers after their locals are destroyed? Well, most members are transferred within thirty days after notice is served on them to transfer to other locals by their national presidents. Others who disobey and hold out, but rejoin after the verdict is announced, have to pay full initiation fee plus penalties. Some remained out to this day.

But for their officers it is not quite so simple. They stand under joint responsibility for the local union's funds. Suppose a local union had twenty-five thousand dollars in the treasury at the time the charter was revoked, and the officials used part or all of that money to fight the case, but lost. They, as individuals or as a group, cannot rejoin before that money is paid to the international office, and then only by paying their initiation fee plus a penalty of two to three hundred dollars. In addition they can "never again hold office in the organization."

charges and evidence against Ehrlich and Alter, and in the case of the collapse of these charges, the vindication of these labor servants' good name and punishment by the Soviet government of this tragic act of factional political vengeance by its agents....

NEW YORK—The Executive Board of the Knitgoods Workers Union, Local 155, ILGWU, has adopted a statement protesting the execution of Ehrlich and Alter. "We are deeply shocked and grieved," reads the statement, "to learn that Victor Alter and Henryk Ehrlich, the two Polish trade union leaders and anti-fascist

fighters, were executed in the Soviet Union. This is a blow to the millions who loved them and followed their leadership, to the underground movement against Hitler that was inspired by them, and to the cause of democratic struggle against fascism." Charging that it is impossible for anyone to believe the slanders against the two socialists, the statement cites the records of the two men, and goes into the known facts on the case.

A committee, headed by David Dubinsky of the ILGWU, has called a meeting, in Mecca Temple on March 30, to protest the executions.

Detroit CIO - -

(Continued from page 1) porting the old party candidates. He expressed regret that there was not a seventh point in the program calling for independent labor candidates. The speech was greeted by scattered applause, but there was no further comment from the floor or platform.

Six-Point Plan

- 1. That a political action committee be established in each local.
2. That these committees be co-ordinated by congressional districts.
3. That delegates be selected from the districts to act in conjunction with the state CIO in Lansing in obtaining desirable legislation.
4. That delegates be sent to Washington to act in conjunction with the CIO Washington groups.
5. That the CIO work co-operatively with the AFL, the railway brotherhoods and other unions to abolish anti-labor legislation.
6. That the executive board of the Wayne County CIO Council appoint a committee to work with and co-ordinate the activities of the political action committees established in the locals.

Continue Old Policy

It was also decided that each local would break down its membership rolls by residence, in wards, pre-

dicts and districts for political action.

The report was vague as to the work of these committees. Efforts will be made through them to get the unionists to register and vote in elections, and conduct pressure campaigns against anti-labor legislation and for the CIO program. All the speeches, however, implied that the CIO leaders wished to continue the old policy of "rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies" and would continue to support candidates of the two old parties, particularly President Roosevelt.

Other resolutions at the conference called for increased child care for children of war workers; the forty-eight-hour week and time and a half pay on the sixth day for city employees; government aid to housing; compulsory arbitration as a means of eliminating strikes; for increased war production; for repeal of the five per cent victory tax and for greater taxation of the wealthy.

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St. Louis CIO Council Hits Ehrlich - Alter Executions

ST. LOUIS, March 11.—Local Stalinists got a dose of their own medicine at the CIO Council meeting here on Wednesday, March 10, when their resolution demanding the recall of Admiral Standley was defeated, 2 to 1, and a resolution condemning the murder of the two Polish socialists, Ehrlich and Alter, was passed in its stead.

Referring to the information given by Russian Ambassador Litvinov to American labor leaders that Henryk Ehrlich and Victor Alter had been executed as spies in the employ of Hitler, the resolution describes the charge against the two Polish labor leaders as "amazing." After citing the records of Ehrlich and Alter in the labor movement "through their long careers in public life," the resolution claims that:

"...these vague, undocumented and unproved charges tried in secret before a court of fanatically intolerant political opponents can remind us only of the political injustices and hatred visited upon unpopular figures in our own coun-

try such as Sacco and Vanzetti, Tom Mooney and others under a disguise of false and framed criminal charges."

It concludes, after paragraphs which refer to the "horrifying charges" and "this ghastly miscarriage of justice," that it is resolved:

"That the St. Louis Industrial Union Council solemnly record its protest to the Soviet government through its Ambassador at Washington and request of the Ambassador and President Murray of the Congress of Industrial Organizations collaboration in an international investigation by an unprejudiced labor commission of the

In Chicago:

You can now get LABOR ACTION, The New International and Henry Judd's pamphlet, "India in Revolt," at CESHINSKIS BOOKSTORE 2720 Division Avenue.

