

FROM



Why is the Socialist Platform Silent on Wage-Cutting?

The following is the third of a series of articles written by Comrade I. Amter, at Hart's Island Penitentiary, on the "socialist" party platform. Revolutionary workers will find these articles of great value for their discussions with their fellow workers on the present election campaign.—Editor.

By I. AMTER.

Prisoner No. 52351.

(Communist Candidate in the 23rd Congressional District—Bronx)

It is not an accident that wage cutting is not even mentioned in the state or congressional platform of the "socialist" party, because the "socialist" controlled or led unions are cooperating with the employers in reducing wages.

Being supporters of capitalism and seeking new methods of having the workers shouldered with the consequences of the economic crisis, the "socialists" are working together with the bosses to put wage cuts across "painlessly" if possible, but forcibly if necessary.

Muste Helps Treachery of Green.

Hoover bluffed the workers into the vain belief that not only the employers who attended the November conferences would "uphold wages," but that this would be the general policy of the capitalists of this country. Almost before the ink was dry on the statement issued in November, the wage cutting campaign began and embraced every industry, but particularly the unorganized and sick industries—coal, textile, steel, auto, rubber, chemicals, etc. Up to date, some hundreds of wage cuts have been made—and yet only recently William Green praised Hoover for having "upheld wages!" This shows not only the insolence but the black treachery of the leadership of the American Federation of Labor.

A. J. Muste, "socialist" trade union leader, assails the leadership of the A. F. of L. for non-militancy in resisting wage cuts. But Muste should not talk so loud. The "socialist" led union of the Full-Fashioned Hosiery workers only a short time ago under pressure of the "socialist" leaders accepted a wage reduction of 30 to 40 per cent. Here is the apostle of "militant action" criticizing the A. F. of L. leadership and himself guilty of one of the worst wage cuts that have been put across on the workers, 16,000 textile workers being affected!

Social Democratic Wage Cuts.

The same policy is being forced on the workers in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and Ladies Garment Workers—both "socialist" controlled unions.

Is this a peculiarity only of the American "socialist" party?

By no means. In Germany, by agreement of the employers and the social-democratic trade union leadership, a general wage reduction of 7½ per cent is being forced on the workers. This was approved by the government while the social-democrats still were in the ministry.

In England, with the British Labor Government (socialist) in power, with unions con-

PRE-PLENUM DISCUSSION

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE U.S.A.

Along the Front

Some News from Chicago on the Carrying Out of the Shock Plan.

In Gary, Indiana, we have two functioning shop nuclei. One in the Gary Tin Mill, the other in the U. S. Steel Mill. We got out a bulletin for the mill which was distributed a few days ago, and which nearly created a revolution in the plant, it was so successful.

Last Sunday we went to Gary, visited and talked to young workers. We got a large number of young workers to sign up for the Young Communist League. We elected officers of the shop nucleus, gave comrades concrete tasks, decided on meeting, paid dues, etc. Each nucleus is going to meet every week regularly. Every comrade has a task to perform, especially in the building of the union.

In the city of Chicago a meeting is going to be held on Thursday, of some young workers (Polish), from the stock yards. We have enough to start a shop nucleus there now.

The spirit of the comrades is growing daily, and we are all convinced that we will have at least the five shop nuclei by the end of the Shock Plan. Comrades are out collecting

trolled by "socialists," wage cutting is proceeding. One hundred twenty five thousand wool workers had their wages cut, with the government and trade union officials doing everything to put it through, despite the resistance of the workers. In France, the adoption of the socialist insurance law, which required a three per cent compulsory contribution by the workers, meant a reduction of 3 per cent in wages. The workers demanded an increase in wages—but the "socialist" trade unionists sabotaged and sold out the strike that took place.

Wages Cut in the Anthracite.

The excuse of the capitalists of the United States is twofold: There must be a wage "adjustment" in union shops and factories so that they can compete with non-union shops; and secondly there must be a general wage "revision"—that is wage cut—so that the United States may compete on the world market. The capitalists are using the excuse the world over in order to saddle the workers with the effects of the economic crisis and keep up their own profits.

William Green no longer can lie about wage cuts. His conservative lieutenants are having no easy time explaining how Hoover "kept wages high" and how wage cuts mean wages "up." The workers are discontented. The organized workers know that their wages are the next to go down. John L. Lewis, the coal mining traitor, forced the anthracite miners to agree to a "fact-finding committee" which will take up "readjustments" of wages—that is, will put over wage cuts. The building trades workers in most cases are not getting the official wage scale, but are glad to get jobs at \$5-6 a day. A Wall Street paper can say quite correctly that whether the trade union leaders admit it or not, wage cuts have been going on quietly for some time.

"Socialist" Platform Silent for Good Reason.

There is good reason, therefore, why the "socialist" platform can talk much and loudly about booze and graft, but can "forget" the vicious wage cutting campaign, which as yet is not yet in full swing. The employers will take full advantage of the fearful unemployment this fall and winter to slash

on the Young Worker, and you will get some dough in a day or two.

Tonight we have a meeting of a new unit in Maywood and a new unit in Indiana Harbor. Work has been started on the unemployed conference and youth committees are being formed in the unemployed councils.

A conference for a basketball league is making the most progress. One of our weaknesses is in connection with the anti-lynch conference. We are only just getting to work on it here, but will do our best to make it a real success.

* * *

Chicago seems to be coming along now. The comrades in the district must discuss the methods by which these achievements were made, as well as some of the lessons to be drawn from the work. All such experiences should be written up and sent in to the National Office, Young Communist League, 43 East 125th Street, New York. All comrades in the units, and in the districts are asked to contribute to this column regularly.

Tomorrow some news from the Cleveland Shock Front.

wages on all sides. Already it is announced in the steel industry, the coal mining "fact finding committee" will cut wages, textile and auto will cut. The bosses are relying on the full cooperation of the fascist A. F. of L. leadership, they will depend not less on the "socialist" party, which may mouth phrases of "militancy" but betrays the workers nevertheless.

Why do the "socialists" use militant language? For the simple reason that the workers are getting into a fighting mood; they are being forced to live far below the subsistence level and whole families have to go to work. In Colorado it is reported that families of six and seven working in the beet-fields have a total income of \$500 a year.

The workers—with the unorganized, unskilled and semi-skilled workers leading because they are being attacked first—are beginning to fight. Auto workers, textile workers, agricultural workers—are organizing and fighting, organizing into the revolutionary unions of the Trade Union Unity League, they are beginning to strike against wage cuts. Under Communist leadership, they are going into the fight against this vicious attack of the bosses.

No Accident.

It is no accident the wage cuts play no part in the "socialist" platform. The workers must understand this, as they must understand the strikebreaking unemployment insurance scheme of the "socialist" party. They must understand that the fight of the working class is against the capitalist class, their government and their tools among the workers—the fascist A. F. of L. leadership and the social-fascist "socialist" party.

The Communist Party in its program of the everyday struggle and in the election campaign calls on the workers to organize and strike against wage cuts. This is one of the primary demands and needs in the present situation. The Communist Party thus proves to be the only real party of the working class fighting always in its interest.

Workers! Support the program of the Communist Party! Support its candidates in the elections! Vote Communist.

(Written at Hart's Island Penitentiary.)