



The Election Campaign in the State of Indiana

With the approach of the elections we again see the attempt of the capitalist parties to mislead the workers of this steel and oil region and to create an illusion that by voting for either the Democratic or Republican parties in this state they will "free" themselves from the misery and starvation which is facing the steel workers today. Lay-offs and wage cuts are a daily event in this steel and oil region. The Inland Steel Company of Indiana Harbor, besides only working 45 per cent capacity, has given its workers two 10 per cent wage cuts in the last month. The Gary Screw and Bolt Company, employing some 500 workers, has shut down completely a week ago. The Standard Oil, the Sinclair Oil and the Royal Dutch Shell refineries are laying off as many as 300 to 400 workers daily. The Illinois Steel Mills of Gary are working 50 per cent capacity. The Youngstown Sheet and Tube of Indiana Harbor is working 40 per cent capacity. The Standard Steel Car Company of Hammond promises to shut down completely in a week or two.

These wage cuts and mass lay-offs in addition to terrific speed-up and rationalization, as well as unheard of impoverishment of the farmers, is the direct effect of the crisis which is undermining the influence of the three capitalist parties.

The Old Parties and the Crisis

The fact that the crisis is forcing the old parties to make unemployment as their major issue is exemplified by the fact that the Democratic Party in this State puts forth, besides their usual slogan of "ousting the corruptible Republicans out of office," has raised the slogan of "Let your stomach answer who to vote for." The Republican Party of this city, is running Mr. William F. Hodges for re-election for State Senator. The same gentleman who while the Mayor of Gary in 1919 employed police, thugs, gangsters and the militia to smash the famous 1919 steel strike. This same strikebreaker today is running as a "friend of labor."

This same Republican Party who left the prison doors open in Marion, Indiana, for the mob to lynch the two young Negro workers is appealing to the Negro masses for support. The Democratic Party in Gary, running for county commissioner a real estate dealer, Charles Baran, who owns and controls land in a segregated part of Gary; who owns lots around the Washington Park, to which Negro workers are not permitted; and when a Negro worker does stray into the park he is beaten and thrown out. This

tions. The fascist A. F. of L. leaders and the social-fascists agree. These officials believe in the use of injunctions even against one another—but also against employers, because all of them are against the militant action of the workers and wish all strikes to be settled by the leaders with no participation by the membership. The "Socialist" Party supports the A. F. of L. bill in Congress, which "opposes" the "abuse" of injunctions—which means that they will be supplied with vicious police action only against militant workers, who answer by DEFYING ALL INJUNCTIONS.

"Socialist" Gangster Methods

UNION DEMOCRACY. One of the worst aspects of reactionary unionism is shown in "Socialist" as well as A. F. of L. unions in the matter of union democracy. In the unions, where A. F. of L. fascists and social-fascists rule and control, all democratic rights have been crushed. Some unions have not met for years (building laborers, etc.), and members are expelled for demanding that meetings be held. Any militant who dares to criticize the local administration or the national officialdom is in danger of expulsion in addition to being slugged, if not killed.

This is linked up with three vicious, demoralizing practices in A. F. of L. and Socialist-controlled unions—gangsterism, graft and misuse of union funds. Gangsterism characterizes the unions of the building trades, miners, needle trades workers, against the membership and outside against the bosses' struggles, is every day practice. Not militant action of the workers in masses on the picket line, who can handle the sluggers, as they did in Passaic and New Bedford, but professional gangsters to do the "dirty work" of the unions.

Graft

In order to "avoid" strikes, A. F. of L. and "Socialist" officials are notorious for their grafting. Brindell is the outstanding example of the many smaller and petty Brindells, like Sigman, who make up the A. F. of L. and "Socialist" trade union leadership. In accepting graft, the fascists and social-fascists agree.

Misusing Funds

In misusing union funds, which is common in the unions, we have the latest example of Ship-

laccoff, formerly in the Pocketbook Makers' Union.

If the A. F. of L. has refused to organize the unskilled, the "Socialists" "organize" by appealing FIRST to the bosses, and NOT to the workers. With the workers the "Socialists" use "militant" phrases to entice them into the A. F. of L. unions, where gangsterism and graft rule and democracy has been banished; where assessments and taxes follow in rapid succession to pay fat salaries and "expenses" of officials, but no funds are available for organization work, strike benefits or relief of unemployed members. The loss of membership in the A. F. of L. unions has to be substituted by enough new membership to replenish the union funds, so that the officials—A. F. of L. and "Socialist"—will not suffer!

Against Negro Workers

Just enough NEGRO workers are organized to pretend there is no discrimination—Ladies' Garment Workers and Pullman porters, and both are losing Negro members.

At the trade union conference held by the Jewish "Socialist" Verband in New York, which includes the Hebrew Trades, assertions were made by "leaders" that the "Socialist" Party should not bother with the organized workers. Waldman, the "brilliant" lawyer—standard-bearer of the "Socialist" Party in this year's elections, declared that the "SOCIALIST PARTY IS NOT A PARTY OF PRODUCERS. IT IS A PARTY OF CONSUMERS. It is a party of the working class in so far as the workers make up the largest part of the consumers. The TRADE UNION IS MERELY A GROUP OF PRODUCERS IN CONFLICT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY, THAT IS THE CONSUMERS."

This view was attached by Shipplacoff, whose shady handling of some \$200,000 led to his forced resignation from the Pocketbook Makers' Union, and who is another "eminent" candidate of the "Socialist" Party. Shipplacoff pleaded for "ACTIVE, FRIENDLY, participation in the A. F. of L." To be sure! As long as graft and power can be obtained at the same source, "Socialists" must participate. No breaking with the "good brothers"—no placing of the A. F. of L. unions

for them—Ah, that is different! Count up what 3,000 Dailies per week make. And surely he doesn't use them for personal ends, but sells 'em, getting at the rate of 3c. per, a sum of \$90 per week.

But what happens with that \$90 is a mystery. Away back there on July 3, the Daily got Five whole dollars from Boston. Then the D. O. got real generous with his old mates starving on the Daily Worker staff, and sent in 12 big round dollars on August 4.

Hope sprang eternal in our more or less human breasts and we thought we might get enough to go out and buy a hot dog with when September came. Nothing doing! And though the total bill has mounted to \$457 up to August 31, not counting the papers since sent, Pharaoh has hardened his heart toward us and we are disconsolate.

Also, broke!

Farmers, What Are You Paid for Eggs?

"Eggs," says the N. Y. Telegram headline, "Are at the lowest price in 20 Years." Undoubtedly the Rhode Island Reds have been dumping eggs in "our" market.

Strange as it may seem, however, the more the price goes down IN THE PAPERS, the higher it climbs AT THE GROCERY STORES. For those eggs which have not been laid by hens now dead of old age, the A. & P. chain stores in the working class districts of New York now want no less than 59 cents per dozen.

The N. Y. World, which pursues its buncombe way regardless of fact, joyfully proclaims that "eggs are now at 35 cents, retail, for the best," and writes a long lecture on how much better it is to eat eggs at that price than meat. It says these eggs are now 23½ cents, wholesale. That may be, but they are not 35 cents retail.

Sometime, if the workers get hungry and angry enough, a lot of omelet will be made in a string of groceries, and a few cackle-berries scrambled around the ears of the nearest capitalist editor.

In opposition to the Community, as Waldman puts them—but a community of interests between reactionary, fascist A. F. of L. and "Social-fascist" "Socialist" union leaders.

Co-operating With Bosses

Above all, both the fascist and social-fascist union leaders are opposed to industrial as well as opposed to craft unionism. Industrial unionism today means mass action, militancy, control by the membership; craft unionism means leader control, building of powerful machines of henchmen, graft, gangsterism, co-operation with the bosses. The struggle today can be effectively conducted only by militant industrial unionism; nevertheless, and JUST FOR THAT REASON the fascist and social-fascists are united in opposition to anything that will deprive them of their jobs and rackets and lead them into opposition to the employers.

If we need any further demonstration of the unity of policy and practice of the fascist A. F. of L. and social-fascist union leadership, then let us remember how Woll and Green assisted Sigman in the Ladies' Garment Workers and Slutsky and Kaufman in the Furriers, to break up these unions. Millions of dollars were spent for GANGSTERS, GRAFT, POLICE PROTECTION (furnished by Tammany Hall, which Waldman and Thomas "attack" so sharply in the campaign). The "Socialist" Party supported the BOSSES, POLICE and U. S. GOVERNMENT in breaking the strike led by the Independent Shoe Workers in New York this year, and of the Food Workers' Industrial Union. These are monumental testimonials to the fact that the A. F. of L. and "Socialist" trade union leadership not only agree in policy and practice, no matter how much the "Socialist" Party may criticize the A. F. of L. in words; that they work in the interest of the employers; and are against the interests of the working masses.

This explains in part why the workers look to Communist leadership and to the revolutionary unions of the Trade Union League for organization in the struggle—for unemployment insurance, strikes against wage cuts, speed up, injunctions, gangsterism, for union democracy. They are beginning to understand that economic struggles are political struggles, as Hillquit once pretended to understand, but which he and his lieutenants now deny. The workers are beginning to see how the economic crisis which is driving them to struggle against the worsening conditions, is also increasing the danger of imperialist war, is sharpening the danger of war against the Soviet Union. Hence they are turning to the TUUL.

Hillquit and the "Socialist" Party programs dared not raise these questions—but the Communists raise them militantly. They are BASIC questions to be raised in the shops, all unions, etc. They are questions that the Communists put forward also in the election campaign.

The workers must open their eyes to the character of the A. F. of L. and "Socialist" Party trade union leadership. Show where you stand by supporting the Communist program of struggle of class against class in the shops as well as in the election campaign! Vote Communist! (Written in Hart's Island Penitentiary)

Socialists Support Fascist A. F. of L. Policies and Methods

By I. AMTER—Prisoner No. 52351
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This is the fifth of a series of articles written by I. Amter, at Hart's Island Penitentiary, on the platform and slogans of the "Socialist" Party. The revolutionary workers will find these articles of great value in agitating against the "Socialist" Party and for Communism. Clip these articles and refer to them in your discussions.

EDITOR.

Not a word is said in the "Socialist" State or congressional platforms about the policies and methods of the American Federation of Labor officials.

At conferences, meetings, and in articles, the social-fascists declare that it is the function of the trade unions to occupy themselves with economic matters, the party with political matters (O'Neal).

What About Injunctions?

Hillquit, the millionaire "Marxian," knows that this is all humbug, since trade union policies all have a DIRECT POLITICAL aspect, as, for instance, injunctions, yellow dog contracts, unemployment insurance, length of working day, etc.; and because the A. F. of L. officials and the unions affiliated regularly endorse candidates in the elections. But Hillquit knew that any criticism of A. F. of L. policies and methods would ruin all possibility of local endorsement of "Socialist" Party candidates.

But there is a more FUNDAMENTAL reason why the "Socialist" Party program and Hillquit said nothing about or against A. F. of L. policies and practices, and that is that "SOCIALISTS" IN THE TRADE UNIONS USE IDENTICALLY THE SAME POLICIES AND METHODS AS THE A. F. OF L. OFFICIALS DO, HOWEVER MUCH THEY TALK ABOUT "PROGRESSIVE," "ACTIVE," "MILITANT" TRADE UNIONISM.

Socialists Want No Insurance

UNEMPLOYMENT. Muste's U. S. government aid of \$100,000,000 to the states in putting through state UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, agrees with Roosevelt's proposal of industrial insurance according to the plan adopted by the General Electric Co.—a strikebreaking, "sucker"-producing plan. Green agrees with this method. Waldman's appeal to Roosevelt to call a special session of the State legislature on unemployment, at the same time assuring Roosevelt that no appropriation could be made and that it would not cost the State a cent, is also in agreement with Roosevelt's strikebreaking policy, however much the social-fascists may talk about unemployment insurance.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers have procured in some shops the kind of group insurance which is now proposed on a state-wide scale. This union and the Ladies' Garment Workers are led by "Socialists."

Like the A. F. of L.—and Hoover,—the "Socialist" Party has persistently understated the number of unemployed, as they still do today.

"Socialist" Sell-Outs

STRIKES. The A. F. of L. leadership is opposed to strikes. It takes the position that strikes belong to an earlier period of the labor movement, but that today all disputes can and should be settled around the conference table. Green's promise to Hoover to lead no strikes for wage increases has resulted in mass wage-reductions. The "Socialist" Union leadership makes a pretense of strike, in cases where the workers are militant, but, as in Marion, N. C., Elizabethton and Philadelphia, they soon sell out and call off the strikes.

This is clear—it means no strike, but the workers are striking despite A. F. of L. and "Socialist" leadership.

SPEED-UP. On speed-up, the A. F. of L. and "socialist"-controlled unions are not to be distinguished, except by the fact that the "Socialist" unions BOAST OF their willingness to raise the efficiency of their union shops. Thus in exchange for the right to "unionize" the workers in the Nash Clothing plant in Cincinnati—to which the workers were persuaded NOT BY Hillman of the Amalgamated but by Nash himself—efficiency was immediately raised to such a degree that Nash "earned" several times the dividends he did the year of "unionization."

In order to get agreements in the needle trades, the "Socialists," wherever necessary, FIRST organize associations of the bosses.

INJUNCTIONS. On the question of injunc-