

# Stirring Call Is Issued to All Cap, Millinery Workers

## National Organization Committee Calls for Unity with Needle Workers Union

A stirring appeal to the rank and file cap and millinery workers, relating the union-destroying activities of the Zaritsky machine in the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' International, has just been issued by the National Organization and Propaganda Committee of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers for Unity with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union.

The appeal follows:

Brothers and Sisters:

The Zaritsky machine-ruled convention is over. The darkest page in the history of our union was

written at this so-called convention.

The rank and file delegation, representing the best interest and aspiration of all workers in our trade, were arbitrarily barred from the convention and were physically ejected from the hall. The voice of the rank and file found little expression at this convention against the criminal expulsion policy which has weakened and demoralized our union. For eleven days the so-called convention busied itself with white-washing

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the pogrom policies of Zaritsky and his henchmen, and devising new methods for maintaining in power the reactionary Zaritsky machine.

The conditions of workers are being steadily undermined by the competition of the open shops, in which tens of thousands of unorganized workers are working under miserable conditions. The demands of the workers for a campaign to organize the open shop centers, a campaign against the speed-up system, unemployment, etc., were completely ignored. During the entire period of the two years since Zaritsky has taken over the reins of the administration of the 1927 convention, our union has been steadily going downward.

## Zaritsky's Administration — An Orgy of Destructiveness.

They expelled Local 43 with a membership of close to 4000. They employed scabs, guerillas, and the police to break the strikes of Local 43 and united with the bosses to destroy the local. They provoked a lockout against the Chicago Cap Makers to force piece work in the trade, expelled the Chicago Strike Committee and gave up the general strike a few weeks before the season, thereby reducing Chicago to an open shop center. Later they expelled 200 members which reduced the local to the insignificant number of 85. They expelled the Millinery Local of Women Workers of Chicago, and made the field free for open shoppers of that city. They made all efforts to force piece work and the forty-hour week on the New York Cap Makers, which was frustrated only thru the efforts of the left wing. They presented tens of thousands of dollars from the unemployment insurance fund to the bosses, and are now secretly planning to do away with the unemployment insurance fund. They broke up the fighting Local 7 of Boston, organized a company local instead and took out an injunction against the old local, and withdrew the charter of the Millinery Workers of Boston which had laid the basis for the organization of the unorganized Millinery Workers. They expelled Salsberg, Miller, Weissman, Feingold and Anna David and many other loyal fighters for the workers. They fought against the Toronto workers because they insisted on enforcing the terms of the agreement and made the grounds fertile for small contracting shops in New York and elsewhere to spring up like mushrooms over night.

Zaritsky's administration made it possible for unemployment to become rampant and has done nothing to alleviate the suffering of the unemployed. Reorganizations in the shops had become daily occurrences. They established a reign of terror and discrimination especially in locals 24 and 1, took away from the membership the control of the union, which became the property of a small clique, and supported the Sigman-Schlesinger company union with thousands of dollars from the hard earned pennies of the workers.

The convention by giving its official sanction to this destructive work has demonstrated clearly to the great mass of workers of our trade that they can expect nothing from this clique of union bureaucrats who are dominating our union.

The responsible delegates chosen by the rank and file of the various locals, who were ejected from the convention by police, delegates from unorganized cap and millinery centers, and minority representatives of right wing locals therefore met in conference with the determination that the Hat, Cap and Millinery workers must be organized and must have a union to defend their interests; that the workers of our trade must curb the greed of the bosses and thru militant struggle improve their conditions in the shops and organize the tens of thousands of unorganized exploited workers in our trade.

The conference adopted a plan

for an immediate campaign to organize the unorganized, under the leadership of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. It decided to call upon the expelled locals to affiliate with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. It decided on an intensive campaign to expose and repudiate the decisions of the Zaritzky packed convention, and to enlighten the workers who are still in the locals that have not yet been expelled from the International, the urgent need for unity with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, the only organization in the needle trades today that is really championing the cause of and leading the needle trades workers in a militant struggle against the bosses and their agents, the reactionary right wing clique.

**Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers: Sisters and Brothers:** What are the problems confronting the workers of our industry today? What can we do to solve these problems?

Our trade is practically unorganized today. There are close to 40,000 workers employed in the trade and only about 7,500 of these are organized. More than two-thirds of the workers are women, who are the lowest paid in the industry. The speed-up system, standards of productions and low wages have been gradually introduced into the trade.

The capmakers agreement in New York expires in July. And the administration is again conspiring with the bosses to rob the cap makers of their basic gains, 40 hour week and the week work system. It is evident that they are already scheming to camouflage this betrayal of the workers interests in a manner similar to Hillman's hire and fire supplementary agreement.

In the millinery trade in New York, reorganizations have assumed such proportions, throwing out more workers into the army of the unemployed, which threaten the very basic conditions of the millinery workers. Zaritzky and his lieutenants in the millinery union are helping the bosses in their reorganization schemes so as to weaken the union and carry thru their plans to return to the piece work system thru the reestablishment of a collective agreement. They are granting wage reductions in individual shops.

### Call to Action!

Sisters and Brothers! The Zaritzky convention has shattered all hopes for unity even among those workers who had entertained the illusion that, realizing the destruction brought upon our union by Zaritzky's ruinous policies, the convention would make an end to his pogrom policies, and would unite the workers for struggle.

The Conference of Representatives of organized, unorganized and minority groups of right wing locals offers the only hope, a constructive program of action for the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers. The National Committee calls upon every worker in our trade to rally to the program adopted by the Conference. It calls upon the workers in the unorganized centers to form shop and factory committees, and with the aid and co-operation of the National Committee elected at the conference, to immediately take steps and begin organization work in the various centers. The National Committee calls upon the workers to organize their ranks and carry on the struggle in their respective locals for affiliation with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union. It calls upon the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers to carry on a struggle for the following program, worked out and decided upon by the left wing conference:

1. For organization of the unorganized with particular attention to the specific problems of the young workers, women workers and Negro workers.
2. For shop and factory delegate form of organization.
3. For a minimum wage for young and adult workers.

England. In some respects it is more reactionary than the conservative.

The debt claims will be pushed against France. The usual talk of "reduction of armaments" will be continued, the labor party officially demanding "a sufficient navy to protect the empire."

### "Freedom of Seas."

Now that the British no longer have a policy of building two ships for every one that their strongest competitor builds, and agree to naval parity with U. S., the labor party is made the instrument through which to demand the freedom of the seas. Freedom of the seas, hypocritically put forward, is a good slogan for any country that does not have a clear control of the seas.

Closer co-operation with the League of Nations is another tenet of the MacDonald empirialists. Britain controls the League of Nations enough to use it as an instrument of war against the U. S.

### Sell Out Labor.

MacDonald's party came out during the elections for class collaboration, and arbitration of strike demands. The labor party chiefs on the British Trade Union Congress General Council went to the extent of accepting the Mond plan, Britain's anti-strike and union surrender scheme.

The labor party government may renew relations with the Soviet Union. A large body of business men who lost money when Baldwin broke them off are after their markets again. On the other hand, MacDonald's ministry is certain to continue the suppression of the British colonies, and to enforce the strictest measures against any real workers' movement in industry.

### Probable Cabinet.

Political writers made the following forecast of the labor cabinet: Premier, J. Ramsay MacDonald; foreign secretary, Arthur Henderson; chancellor of the exchequer, Philip Snowden; home secretary, J.

4. Equal pay for women and men workers.
5. For the 40 hour week and the week work system.
6. For Social Insurance, such as unemployment, old age pension, etc.
7. Against the inhuman speed-up systems (standards of production, piece work, etc.), which is undermining the health of the workers and increasing unemployment.
8. For a struggle against the contracting and corporation shops.
9. Against Zaritzky's maneuvers to reestablish a collective agreement in the millinery trade in New York.
10. For a struggle against child labor.
11. For the formation of a militant trade union center to consolidate the ranks of the workers and to coordinate their struggles.
12. Against the impending imperialist war, and for the defense and recognition of the Soviet Union.

**Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers:** The time for action has come! Take up the work in your shops and in your locals! Take up the tasks of building your union in the large as well as in the small centers! Our industry must be placed under union control. We must see to it that every Hat, Cap and Millinery worker earns a decent livelihood in the trade. We must unite with the workers in the other needle trades and build a mighty Needle Trade Workers Industrial Union that will stand up against the power of the bosses and lead the workers from victory to victory.

We must go hand in hand with the heroic striking textile workers,

part of it to labor, it can continue the MacDonald government in power.

### Lloyd George's Attitude.

The London Daily News, chief liberal organ, issued an evidently inspired statement threatening the downfall of the MacDonald regime unless certain terms were met. It says:

"There will be a lamentable breakdown unless Mr. MacDonald changes in two important particulars which characterized his last term of office. "First he must remember. he is the servant not of his party executive committee but of parliament and the nation; and secondly, his attitude toward liberal members must undergo a complete spiritual transformation."

The paper then declared the former condition led to the labor party leader's downfall in 1924; of the latter it said: "The liberals will never again submit to the cheap mean-spirited indignities to which labor in 1924 thought fit to subject them and unless the ordinary human decencies are preserved practical co-operation will be impossible."

## Find Cheap Form of Houses in Moscow

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (By Mail).—

Professor V. Nekrassov has built in Moscow a two-story house of sphagnum blocks (sphagnum is the upper layer of peat retaining its fibrous qualities) with a slight admixture of caustic soda and lime to make it fireproof. The cost of this house was equal to 40 per cent of that of a wooden house.

In view of the great supplies of sphagnum in the U.S.S.R., which possesses three-fourths of the world peat deposits, Professor Nekrassov's experiment opens up bright prospects for the building industry of the U.S.S.R.

During the present building season it is intended to erect several houses from sphagnum.

with the shoe workers, with the food workers and the miners and all others who are fighting in open struggle against the exploitation of the capitalists and their servants, the right wing bureaucracy and social reformists, by uniting into a militant class trade union center.

Forward to new struggles!

Forward to the struggle for the abolition of wage slavery!

Forward to victories!

Forward to unity with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union!

Long live the powerful united union of all Needle Trades Workers controlled by the rank and file!

Long live the Militant Trade Union Center which will unite the working class of America into powerful weapon of the class struggle against capitalist exploitation!

—National Organization and Propaganda Committee of the Hat, Cap, and Millinery Workers for Unity with the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union.

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