

Chicago Milliners Are Threatened with Expulsion

By WILLIAM F. KRUSE.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Ill., March 26.—As part of the convention arrangements of the Right wing in the International Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, Local 52, the Chicago Women's Millinery Workers Local is in process of "reorganization." After several attempts had been frustrated by the indignant girl membership, Manager Gertler finally got together a handful of foreladies and designers as a rump "local" to whom he announced that every one of the 530 members of the local would receive a notice of suspension from the union, and that they would have to make new application to come back, but the "loyal" members would not have to worry because only the radicals would be kept out.

This is the latest move in a battle that has lasted over a year, during which the Right wing has been trying to break down the resistance of this militant Left wing local and its organizer. There are 4,000 unorganized women millinery workers in Chicago, yet the machine has for a whole year directed all its attention to smashing what organization had already been built up after two years of work by this organizer, Anna David. She was appointed organizer in April, 1926, by the Zartisky crowd who never expected any sort of organization to be possible in Chicago. But they soon found that when a Left winger starts out to organize the unorganized something happens. Local 52 was formed and this was soon followed by the formation of two other new locals, those of the cutters and of the blockers. Then followed the formation of the Chicago Joint Board, with five locals, and Anna David unanimously elected secretary.

From the very start the Chicago Joint Board was a thorn in the side of the Right wing officialdom. Under the direction of the yellow "Vorwaertz" the reactionaries took advantage of the capmakers' strike, they enabled the bosses to break the strike and then expelled the leader of the workers, I. Feingold, a leading Communist capmaker. The next objective in the campaign of destroying the Chicago union by their own New York bureaucrats was the Joint Board. Its criticism had to be stopped else it would become the rallying center for the Left wing in the capmakers' trade. So the Left wing manager, J. B. Salzburg was removed by New York, and in the fight that followed, first two locals, then a third and finally the fourth was split away from the Joint Board, leaving the women's local to carry on the fight alone.

The Right wing thought to solve this situation by removing their organizer from the payroll, but the

girls unanimously voted to keep her on the job and pay her themselves. While this was more easily decided than carried out, she nevertheless stayed on the job that paid \$70 in a period of the last five months. The Right wing sent in one of their stars, J. Roberts, general secretary-treasurer of the organization to break this local but he had to give it up. Then came the present manager, Gertler, who tried more subtle methods, the organization of girls' club activities under the leadership of forewomen and designers who had control of two shops. In this way he hoped to get at least some base of operations against Anna David. His first attempt was to break up local union meetings of the girls by sending in men members of the other locals to disrupt them. This failed. His next attempt was to start a new "local" with seven non-members, but the girls invaded the meeting and won over the converts. Then he resorted to secrecy, calling another meeting, not in the union headquarters at 35 So. Dearborn St., but in Fraternity Hall, at 19 W. Adams. The girls got wind of the plan on the last day, however, and published a leaflet attacking the disruptive activity of the Right wing "special organizers." Right from the shops they marched, fifty strong, invaded the fakers' meeting, and made Gertler run yelling for the police. Organizer David took over the meeting. This was on Monday, January 21. So once more, despite a considerable number of strong-arm guards and the protests of the hall owner, the militant girls carried off the day.

On the following Friday the local had its regular semi-annual meeting in the Capitol building for the election of officers, and Anna David was unanimously re-elected. A staunch executive board was elected at the same time and all agreed that the fight would go on.

On January 29, however, the Gertler outfit determined on one more attempt. This time they did not trust themselves to any public hall but hid themselves away in a protected private room of the radio broadcasting station of the Chicago Federation of Labor at 623 S. Wabash. Again fifty girls invaded the place, got by the guards posted to prevent their using the elevators, but were unable to penetrate to the meeting itself. The disturbance held up the radio program for some time and a threat was made to call the police. When dared to do so, the fakers backed down. Then the expulsion was finally announced and now the girls face the problem of "what's next?"

The New York union fakers have no interest whatever in or-

NEGRO BOY GETS 40-YEAR TERM

Life in Prison for 10c "Crime"; Is Only 19

CHESTER, Pa. (By Mail).—Judge Albert Dutton MacDade, of the Common Pleas Court of Media, has sentenced a Negro youth, Carl Wilson, aged 19, of Chester, to serve 40 years in the Eastern Penitentiary and pay \$2,000 fine. The youth received this death warrant sentence for the "crime" of stealing ten cents in an alleged hold-up.

A white youth, Louis Vernon, aged 17, was also at the same time sentenced to serve 30 to 60 years in the Eastern Penitentiary for alleged robbery, by this judge.

The pompous labor-hating judge recently returned from a long vacation in one of the wealthy colonies of Florida where he went because of supporting the political group that protect the dope, liquor, prostitutes and tax graft of this county.

2 Killed When Crowd Tries to View Foch at Imperialist Arch

PARIS, March 26.—The body of Foch, commander of the allied armies during the world war, lay in state today under the Arc de Triomphe, with his sword and marshal's cap, symbols of imperialist war, resting on his casket.

Two persons were killed when they were knocked down and trampled upon by the crowd of people trying to get a view of the casket.

ganizing Chicago or any other center. They make a feeble bluff at it in order to make some pretense at justifying their 20 cents per week per capita. Actually their role is to prevent the workers from forming an organization strong enough really to give the bosses trouble. This has been shown clearly in their Chicago capmakers' tactics, and in their disruption of the New York and Boston locals and of the Chicago Joint Board and the repeated attempts to destroy the women's local. There are tens of thousands of hat trade workers all over the country waiting for a chance to organize. Only the militant workers can do this, and only through the new industrial unions.

Comrade

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