

Chicago District Convention Ended

Haywood Makes Brilliant Report on Negro Problems—Miners, Steel Workers, Railroaders and Stockyard Employes Relate Conditions

By Hays Jones
(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

CHICAGO, Ill., June 2.—The Illinois Communist Party finished its two-day convention with the selection of the State Committee, re-election of Morris Childs as District Organizer, and selection of its delegates to the National Convention of the Communist Party. State and Congressional states have already been chosen for the election.

Miners, steel workers, WPA workers, stockyard workers, railroaders, and building trades mechanics took part in the discussion. Outstanding points were Harry Haywood's magnificent report on work in the Negro districts and Beatrice Shields' report as Educational Director.

The shortcomings were that neither a seaman nor a farmer delegate was present. Illinois is a great farm state, and 40 per cent of the water-borne commerce of the United States goes over the Great Lakes. This should furnish the district with many Communist seamen and farmers.

Ovation for Foster

William Z. Foster tried to make a quiet entrance into the convention hall. The first person to spot him started an ovation that lasted fifteen minutes. Morris Childs greeted the leader of the Communist Party, who was making his first appearance at a large meeting since sickness struck him down in the midst of the 1932 election campaign.

Foster made a short speech, bringing the greetings of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and a personal message to Chicago where his revolutionary career started and was carried on many years.

Negro Discrimination Problems

The problem of discrimination against the Negro people rests on a strictly economic base, declared Harry Haywood, in his report. The cure for it, the first step toward destroying this criminal conspiracy against 15,000,000 people, is to destroy the discrimination they face in earning a living. The Negroes of Chicago, acting on the program laid down by the National Negro Congress, are out to destroy this base of discrimination.

The fight for the Randolph resolution, for membership rights in all A. F. of L. unions, for Negroes, is an important step. Every union in Chicago is to be approached. Many have already declared their support of the Randolph resolution. The matter will soon be brought before the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Utilities Jobs

But the big fight is the fight for jobs among public utilities. This drive will not deprive any white worker of a job. It will be a united fight for better conditions for white workers and the right of Negroes to work. One-man street cars will be a special point of concentration. They now overwork one man, as conductor and motorman. The fight for the demands of the traction workers, for the six-hour day, and full crews, must be linked up with the demand for employment of Negroes.

Such a campaign is to be started among the 270,000 Negroes who form one-twelfth of Chicago's population. This fight will bring support from thousands of white workers.

The National Negro Congress broke the ground for a powerful people's movement among the Negro people, he said. They way to keep that movement growing is to develop this program to full life. The old parties will be asked to

send the Negro delegates to their national conventions to a special meeting. The Democratic convention will have no Negro delegates. The Republican delegates will be asked to explain why they didn't adopt the Congress program against lynching and for other Negro demands. The attitude of delegates of working class parties will stand out clearly. This, and the direct efforts of the masses, will be the basis of building a movement for independent political action on the South Side.

Education Report

Beatrice Shields, reporting on education and forces, struck another strong note. The Illinois Party has fine young American forces, she declared, but the Party could not be satisfied with the development they had received or work accomplished. They were fine warriors in the cause of the working class, but they did not have the development, knowledge and training to carry on independent work and make independent decisions.

To be effective Bolsheviks requires more training and different training than they have received formerly from the Party.

She suggested changes in material and methods of study. Not too much crowding, but use of everyday struggles to bring out points of theory. She proposed a series of local schools based on the experience of Southern Illinois, where these local schools taught the meaning of the class struggle to large groups of non-Party workers in trade unions, and developed many new Party members.

She urged greater use of the Chicago Workers School and proposed a series of section and district schools. She emphasized the need of giving every new Party member a "prolonged 'new members' class" with the unit and section responsible for the member's attendance and growth.

Miners Report

Miners from the Southern Illinois fields told how the coal operators are introducing new machinery that cuts down working forces and how the men are trying to prevent this taking too great toll of jobs and lives. The main obstacle in this and every other struggle is the split among the miners. To end this split, the Party proposes to call on the Progressive Miners of America to end the five-year "strike" that has blacklisted 3,000 miners in Franklin County, and to call on all the miners to go to work under the U.M. W.A.

The miners reported great progress in the Farmer-Labor Party movement, and in unity between Communists and Socialists.

Railroad Consolidation

The railroad workers reported on their struggle against "consolidation" that threatens 200,000 jobs, and the conditions of all men on the roads. Chicago is the biggest railroad center in the world, and the struggle stands at peak strength here.

Steel workers from South Chicago and Gary reported great interest and enthusiasm for industrial unionism. A young fellow from

Plans Ready For Convention In Philadelphia

Basic Issues to Be Broadcast from Hall on Saturday

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June 2.—Preliminary arrangements for the convention to be held by District Three of the Communist Party June 5 to 7 are virtually completed. Pat Toohey, district organizer, announced today.

Although the convention will be formally opened with a banquet on the night of Friday, June 5, most of the delegates from mines, steel mills, textile factories and other Pennsylvania industrial centers are not expected before the first business session of the convention Saturday morning.

Basic issues to be discussed by the convention will be broadcast over station WIP by Organizer Toohey at 10:30 P.M. Saturday, June 6. These include the role of the Liberty League in the present crisis, relief problems in Pennsylvania, the growth of the united front, the increasing menace of war and fascism.

The banquet opening the convention will be held in Garrick Hall, 507 South Eighth Street. Among those slated to speak at this opening session are Mother Bloor, famous working class leader, and another member of the Communist Party Central Committee.

All mass organizations in Philadelphia and vicinity have been invited to send delegates to the banquet.

South Chicago told of the fight of the Independent Union there and the Party's influence being used to raise the idea of a national industrial union.

Another delegate reported that Gary is worried for fear the reported agreement between Lewis and Roosevelt, that no organization will be attempted among steel workers this year, is true, and that the unionization campaign will sink to a few meetings addressed by Lewis. The Gary Communists are pushing for a real union drive. Every Communist in the mills is to join the A. A. and make himself a force to organize the rest of the steel workers.

Packing Plants

The work in the packing plants is weak, declared a worker, because the plants are working at very low levels. A beef kill of 2,000 is the average today although either Armour's or Swift's can handle 20,000 a day. The Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union does not organize the big plants. It is content with a few small packers. A drive to organize the packing houses is a job for the Communist Party. Although most of the workers are laid off, the Communists can make a start toward this drive.

Youth, war, women's work and a score of other problems were discussed, all in the light of the united front of the working class and the development of independent working class political action, around the unions and the Farmer-Labor Party.

The Illinois Party will go into the election campaign as a power among the working class, and the election will be the central theme of every struggle among the workers, the convention declares.

Work among the unemployed has suffered from the inactivity of the Workers Alliance, but the union of the Alliance with the Unemployment Councils has put new life into the movement and a real campaign is developing against the starvation program of both old parties. A mass march on Springfield is the aim of the militant workers.