Who Owns The Democratic Party?

By JAY LOVESTONE

(Continued from yesterday.)

PART II.

Financing the New York Convention.

THE last democratic convention has cost from two to three million dollars. This sum is exclusive of the money spent by the various presidential aspirants on organizing their pre-convention campaigns and of the funds expended for bribery, booze, and women during the convention sessions.

An introduction to the personnel of the democratic finance committee charged with the task of raising the necessary funds for the holding of the convention sheds illuminating facts on the character of the whole party, on the supremacy of the big business interests in the organization.

Among the financial wizards, in charge of putting over the convention were the mining, banking, aircraft and motor king Thomas L. Chadbourne; the prominent banker and department store owner, Michael Friedsan; the United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Manufacturers Export Association director, Lewis E. Pierson; the millionaire newspaper publisher, Ralph Pulitzer, and the multi-millionaire fountain pen manufacturer, Frank D. Waterman.

The treasurer of the National Convention Committee was Mr. Alvin W. Krech, president of the Equitable Trust Company of New York and a directing officer of twenty-seven coal, railway, sugar, light and power, commercial chemical and lumber corporations.

On the Executive Committee of the forces preparing the convention were the multi-millionaire theatrical magnate, Edward F. Albee; the millionaire pencil manufacturer, Philip Berolzhimer; the powerful commercial publisher, A. C. Pearson, and the typewriter manufacturer, exporter, banker and director of the United States Chamber of Commerce, George E. Smith.

Some Typical Convention Delegates.

One need not burden the reader with an analysis of the financial and industrial connections of the thousands of delegates and alternates congregated in the last convention to present an accurate view of the ownership and control of the democratic party. We need but examine the record of some of the leading and representative delegates at the New York convention to learn that the democratic party is firmly in the grip of big business. The following information substantiates our contention:

VIRGINIA: Mr. Harry Ford Byrd, chairman of the delegation from this state, is known as the "Apple King of the South." His orchards yield about sixty thousand barrels of fruit annually.

Carter Glass: Senator Glass is the owner of two newspapers, The Daily News and The Daily Advance, published in Lynchburg, Va.

Henry C. Stuart: Former Governor Stuart is the president of the Stuart Land and Cattle Co. He is the owner of the largest cattle ranch in the south, with an acreage of sixty thousand. He is also the president of the Buckhorn Coal Company and the First National Bank of Lebanon, Va.

MISSOURI: Ex-Governor Fred D. Gardner of Missouri is the sole owner of the St. Louis Coffin Company. He is known as "the millionaire Coffin King of the West."

Adolph Musser: Mr. Musser has been a member of the state committee for the last ten years. He is the owner of the biggest dry goods store in the country.

MARYLAND: Emory L. Coblentz of the Maryland delegation was one of the wealthiest men at the convention. He is the president of two insurance companies, one bank, three light and power companies, and two railroads.

FLORIDA: Mr. Edward Lambright, one of the leading spirits of the Florida delegation, is the editor of the Tampa Tribune, and the Pensacola Journal. The last named paper is one of a chain of dailies owned by John H. Perry, president of the American Press Association.

KENTUCKY: Lieutenant Governor H. H. Denhardt, came to the convention as the hero of one of the most notorious strike breaking feats in the country. It was Mr. Denhardt who crushed the steel workers in their brave struggle at Newport. Tank and machine guns were employed freely to break the strikers' ranks.

TEXAS: One of the most active members of the Texas delegation was Frank Wilson Woozencraft of Dallas. Mr. Woozencraft is a director of the American Life Insurance Company.

CALIFORNIA: The leader of the California delegation was former United States Senator James D. Phelan. The latter nominated Wm. G. McAdoo for the presidency. Mr. Phelan is the president and director of four big western banks.

WEST VIRGINIA: In the delegation from this state was found the arch-strikebreaker, Don Chafin, sheriff of Logan county. His fellow delegates nicknamed him "gunman." Mr. Chafin, it will be recalled, was the leader of the military forces and the band of gunmen that broke up the famous "Iron March" of the striking miners in the state.

ALABAMA: United States Senator Oscar W. Underwood, the guiding hand of the Alabama delegation, is one of the largest owners of stock in the Gulf States Steel Company. This corporation is notoriously anti-union and owns blast furnaces, rod wire and rolling mills, coal mines, and red ore mines. It is closely linked up with the Guarantee Trust Company of New York.

NEW YORK: The big boss of the New York delegation was Franklin D. Roosevelt, who made the nomination speech for Al Smith. When Mr. Roosevelt accepted the vice-presidential nomination in 1920 he resigned several of his financial and industrial offices. Today Mr. Roosevelt is the vice-president of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland.

Labor Lieutenants Present.

The connection between the official democratic machine and the labor lieutenants of capital was evident in the fact that there were represnted at the convention about thirty-five delegates who were trade union officials.

A roll call of these names would be most instructive. We will cite only a few of the outstanding characters in this list.

Chief among the so-called labor delegates to the convention were: William Green, treasurer of the United Mine Workers from the state of Ohio; P. T. Fagan, president of District Five of the United Mine Workers of America, from the state of Pennsylvania; J. A. Reardon, president of the Pacific States Allied Printing Trades Council; W. H. Young, secretary of the Denver Printing Trades Council; Mary E. Meehan of the International Union of Bookbinders, Massachusetts; George Curran, Theatrical and Stage Employees, Massachusetts; A. O'Keefe, Machinists' Union, New Orleans, La.; Wm. H. Maloney, of the Carmen's Union of Butte, Montana; Frank K. McNulty, of the Brotherhood of Electric Workers, Newark, New Jersey; M. J. Walsh, of the Carmen's Union of Yorkers, New York; Thomas J. Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Potters, Ohio; O. A. Cargill, of the Building Trades of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; A. Dolan, and James Dunne, of the Bricklayers' Union and the Brotherhood of Carpenters, Rhode Island, respectively; and George H. Slater, President of the State Federation of Labor, of Texas.

The above mentioned labor officials represent primarily the highest skilled crafts.

Conclusion.

In a word, our examination of the ownership and control of the democratic party affords an abundance of evidence showing that the democratic party is owned body and soul by the big capitalist interests.

In the democratic party, unlike the republican party, there is still a sprinkling of small owning class interests. But the veto power, the ability to make decisions, the control of the party machinery, and the formulation of party policies, are all securely in the hands of capitalist interests that are as big in size and influence as those controlling the republican party.

In the coming campaign the democrats will undoubtedly make every effort to mislead the working and farming masses, to confuse the latter into the ridiculous and unfouned notion, that it is the party of the downtrodden masses. Nothing could be further from the truth. The governing committees, the leading spirits, the important decisions, the platform and program of the democratic party will betray the organic and hopeless control of its mechanism and functions by the most powerful section of our banking and manufacturing—our capitalist—class. All the progressive gestures and noise that the democratic politicians will indulge in for the next few months cannot change this immutable feature of the party whose standard bearer is the Morgan and Standard Oil attorney, John W. Davis.

The Poor Fish says: Debs is a fine fellow. Tho I am a Republican, I have the greatest respect for a man who can see some good even in an enemy. Instead of being sore over Hillquit taking on the capitalist LaFollette as his new God, instead of the old God Debs (they are both old in a sense), Gene sweetly said, "The party could not have done otherwise." Indeed the kingdom of heaven is made up of such as he. If the Communists would only take this point of view the class struggle would not be so severe.

Putting It Over On the Farmer

THE recent "killing" made by Arthur W. Cutten, Chicago grain gambler, who sold 300,000 bushels of July corn at a profit of $1,500,000, will no doubt be an inspiration to the farmer. Mr. Cutten's "killing" is ascribed to his "faith in the rise of grain prices" and to his "patience" in holding on to his corn. The moral for the farmer, is, of course, "Go thou and do likewise."

The same type of "go-getter," "success" food is handed out by the plute press to the industrial workers as well as to dirt farmer. "From brakeman to railroad president." "From dirt farmer to millionaire"—is the familiar cry. Let us analyze the situation from the farmer's viewpoint.

In February 1924, a month of heavy sales, July corn sold for about 80 cents a bushel. Forced by the demands for credit at this season of the year, the farmer is forced to sell at the current figure. Neither the banks, the equipment trusts, the tax collector, nor the grain buyer are interested in "faith" or "patience" as far as the farmer is concerned. They are interested solely in cold cash. The farmer is "help-up" at the pistol point of necessity by the financial pirates and he is forced to deliver the goods.

This corn costs him an average of 68 cents a bushel, and nets him a return of 13 cents per bushel. Having lost 3 cents on his oats and 25 cents on his wheat, the farmer is still 15 cents behind on each bushel of grain.

Cutten, on the other hand, has netted a profit more than 40 cents per bushel. He has pocketed this sum not as a result of superior "patience" or "faith," but rather as a result of his unlimited credit facilities. It is this powerful weapon in the hands of the grain gamblers, which is causing the ruin of many thousands of farmers thruout the nation. This state of affairs will continue, the farmer will continue to toil and be mulcted, only so long as he continues to tolerate the capitalist system of exploitation under which he groans in common with the industrial worker.