

Balance Sheet of Membership Meetings: Overwhelming Endorsement of C. E. C.

By JAY LOVESTONE.

At this moment when the Party is discussing the problems confronting it, it is especially in order to give an estimate of the recent membership meetings held throughout the country.

First of all, some general features: The total number of members attending these meetings was far larger than in any previous Party gatherings of this character. This is true not only absolutely but also relatively. A larger proportion of the membership was present at the meetings. This is true despite the fact that in a number of cities like Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago, the attendance was lowered thru the absence of active Party comrades being away to the Needle Trades Amalgamation Convention. This broader participation is even more gratifying in the light of the interference with maximum attendance at these meetings by the last moment postponement and shifting of dates because of the protracted Plenum deliberations.

Compare the total attendance figures of 1928 with those of 1927. A year ago there participated in the membership discussion meetings 2863 comrades. This year the total present reached 3877.

Also, in this year's discussion more comrades participated. The debate was on a higher level. The proportion abstaining from voting was lower.

The Opposition was given equal time and equal opportunities in every respect in the presentation and refutation by principal speakers as well as in the discussion from the floor.

Membership Supports Central Committee.

The membership meetings showed that no previous Central Committee of our Party had as much support as the present one. In 1927, the Central Committee received 1661 votes. This year the number endorsing the Central Committee's policies rose to 2614. This is an increase of almost a thousand. Last year the Opposition vote was 1130. In the recent membership meetings it was 1154, or an increase of only 24 votes for the Opposition. While the Central Committee increased its absolute vote 57 per cent the Opposition vote remained stagnant. Relatively the Central Committee's proportionate vote increased from 58 per cent of the total in 1927 to about 70 per cent today. At the same time the Opposition's proportion declined from about 40 per cent of the total in 1927 to only 29 per cent this year.

One must not overlook the fact that the Opposition mobilized its maximum strength in the membership meetings. In the units as a whole, thruout the country, the Opposition is even weaker. Besides, a number of the most industrial sections of the country, like the hard and soft coal fields of Pennsylvania where the support for the Central Committee is nearly one hundred per cent, have not had membership meetings. Particularly instructive and welcome is the fact that in the great industrial triangle of Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Detroit—the most proletarian districts of our Party—the proletarian backbone of our Party—the Central Committee had a higher proportion and the Opposition a lower proportion of strength than in the Party as a whole; namely, 75 per cent for the Central Committee and only 21 per cent for the Opposition. Note the trend. A year ago the Central Committee received only 65 per cent of the total membership meeting vote and the Opposition 35 per cent in this proletarian section of the Party. Within the year the Central Committee's relative proportion rose ten per cent while the Opposition's declined 14 per cent.

Let us delve a little further into the social composition of the voting at the membership meetings. It is precisely in those Party districts where the social composition of our Party organization is poorest and ideological level is lowest, that the Opposition is strongest. Take for instance the fact that the Opposition carried the New Haven meeting by 19 to 11 and San Francisco by 47 to 41. An analysis of the social composition of the Opposition's vote in all the membership meetings only emphasizes still more firmly the fact that the overwhelming majority of the proletarian forces of the Party are fully supporting the Central Committee.

The primary conclusion to be drawn from these voting results is that the Party is today more consolidated and unified than ever before, that the Central Committee has a broader base of support and firmer roots in the membership than any of the preceding Central Committees in our Party.

Issues Debated.

Now, to sketch briefly the issues before the membership meetings. In general, the decisions and policies of the Sixth World Congress of the Comintern and the December Plenum of the Central Committee were examined. Such basic problems as the estimate of the present world position of American imperialism, the immediate economic situation, the extent and degree of radicalization in the United States, particularly in the light of the presidential election results, the task of fighting the main danger before the Party—the Right Danger—the necessity for annihilating Trotskyism, the Right errors of the Central Committee and the Party as a whole, the Right errors of the Opposition, especially the theory of partial disarmament advocated by Comrade Bittelman, the political leader of the Opposition, in his slogan "Against

More Cruisers." Special emphasis was placed by the Central Committee's representative on the dangerous Right line manifested by the Opposition, firstly in its underestimation of the poisonous influence of the social reformist and outright bourgeois ideology on the working class on our Party; and secondly, in its underestimation of the War Danger as a result of its analysis based on the separability of inner and outer contradictions and the erroneous conclusion of the primacy of inner contradictions in the present world situation.

It is particularly enlightening to note that since the membership meetings the Opposition has partly seen the error of its ways on the important issue of Trotskyism as evidenced in its declaration appearing in the Daily Worker of January 7th. In the membership meetings only a few days ago the Opposition vehemently rejected precisely this criticism leveled against it by the Central Committee representatives.

Great stress was laid by the Central Committee spokesmen on the need for the convention giving the most decisive push to the proletarianization of the Party and its leadership from top to bottom, on the basic importance of strengthening the Party organization, and on the urgent necessity of achieving unity of all Communist forces on the basis of the unreserved acceptance of the decisions of the Communist International—in order to wage a successful struggle against the Right Danger and Trotskyism, in order to mobilize the full forces and energies of the Party for the fight against the imperialist war danger, and for the building of new unions.

An especially important feature of the membership meeting debates was the enthusiastic and decisive support given to the Central Committee's call for the acceptance of Comintern decisions without reservations. It was made clear to the membership that despite all of its formal acknowledgments of acceptance of Comintern decisions, the Bittelman-Foster Opposition still pursues a policy of entertaining reservations towards Communist International decisions on important phases of policy. For instance, the hammer and tong blows of the Central Committee representatives to remove the Opposition towards a rejection of the following reservations, amongst others, on the Theses on the International Situation and the Tasks of the Comintern, made by Comrade Johnstone in behalf of the entire Opposition at the Sixth World Congress of the Communist International:

"The section fails to emphasize sufficiently the growing contradictions confronting American imperialism, the increasing radicalization of the masses and the increasing prospects for mass struggles, and the failure of the majority of the Central Committee to see these new developments and adopt policies in accord with them.

"The section does not clearly repudiate the Right wing line of the majority leadership which has systematically magnified difficulties and minimized the possibilities of struggle."

In view of the fact that exactly the same, the above, criticism which the Opposition makes against the Comintern World Congress Theses, it is making against the Central Committee, the representatives of the Opposition took Comrade Johnstone's declaration of disagreement with the Communist International as its platform in the struggle against the Central Committee. Likewise, the plea of the Central Committee spokesmen for the Opposition to accept without reservation the Comintern Policy Secretariat's decision of September 7th, which said that the charge that the Central Committee is a Right wing committee is unfounded, fell on deaf ears. So persistent was the Opposition in its attitude of reservations towards Comintern decisions, that not a single one of its representatives at the membership meetings would unreservedly endorse the Communist International Policy Secretariat letter of November 21st, criticizing in part, very properly, the Central Committee for the mistakes it made in its declaration of October 2nd.

Features and Lessons of Membership Meetings.

To summarize: The lessons and outstanding features of the recent membership meetings are:

1.—The general increase in attendance, the larger number participating in the debates, and the higher ideological level.

2.—The overwhelming support for the Central Committee by the membership, particularly marked by a substantial increase within the last year. The present Party leadership has a broader and deeper support than any of our Party leaderships had.

3.—The special strength of the Central Committee support in the most proletarian section of the Party—Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit.

4.—The emphatic demand of the membership that the Opposition drop its policy of reservations towards Comintern decisions.

5.—The categorical rejection by the vast majority of our membership of the Opposition's persistence in maintaining a caucus machine, a factional apparatus to perpetuate the factional struggle in the Party.

6.—The unmistakable desire of the membership as a whole, to put an end to the cursed "two-party" system of groups in our Party.

7.—The whole-hearted endorsement of the Central Committee's campaign against the Right Danger

Our Shortcomings in Negro Work

At the Sixth World Congress of the Communist International the question of the Negro Worker in America has been discussed to a large extent.

During that discussion it has been brought out that we have many shortcomings in our Party, in regards to the organization of the Negro workers. The comrades of the Foster-Bittelman Opposition in the Central Executive Committee are trying to prove from anything and everything that the C. E. C. is a right wing leadership.

At the Communist International Congress the Central Executive Committee has been charged with "advertising itself" concerning its work in the field of the Negro masses. The comrades of the Minority of the delegation have tried to create the impression that the C. E. C. of our Party has been giving only lip-service to the C. I. and that nothing definite has been done in regards to the organization of the Negro working masses.

True, there is noticeable in our Party a certain degree of white chauvinism—an outgrowth of the bourgeois ideology of "white supremacy." But this is shown not only by comrades supporting the C. E. C. On the contrary, in our district (Detroit) this has been shown by comrades who are the most ardent supporters of the Foster-Bittelman opposition group in the C. E. C. Not only are they supporters, but they are the leaders of this same minority in our district.

A few months ago a leading member of the Foster-Bittelman group in Detroit, member of the District Political Committee, was in charge of the Miners Relief work. A dance had been organized for the relief of the striking miners in the Graystone ballroom. When a Negro comrade with his friends wanted to go in the management objected. The comrade in charge of the affair did not protest, because the "hall was donated." What's more, one of the Party members, being at the door, told the Negro workers that "this is a dance for whites only."

The District Political Committee had to take drastic disciplinary measures against the comrade in charge of the affair in censuring him, notifying all Party units and Negro workers, and expelling the comrade who was attending the door.

In another instance, a few months later, the District Political Committee again had to take drastic disciplinary measures and expel a comrade, again an ardent adherent of the Foster-Bittelman opposition, for his behavior at a mass meeting.

At this meeting it came to an argument between a Hindu worker who had come to hear Comrade Foster and the comrade mentioned, in which she used expressions against this Hindu worker, a language like "you black son of a b—" and "your skin is black, but your heart is more black," etc. All this was said in the presence of a number of Hindu and Negro workers at an open mass meeting.

Charges have been brought against her and she was expelled from the Party. Comrades supporting the opposition group in the C. E. C. voted against her expulsion. Some of them recommended that she should be only censured because "of being inexperienced in the movement," although she had been in the Party for a number of years. Opposition supporters proposed that she should be suspended for three months, and threatened with an appeal to the C. E. C.

These two cases show that the Foster-Bittelman opposition is using as the main danger and the swift energetic measures taken against Trotskyism.

8.—The sharp rejection of all tendencies of pessimism manifested by the Opposition in its minimizing or even totally neglecting to mention the Party's achievements or the need for Party unity.

9.—The enthusiastic response to the plea of the Central Committee for a bigger and better Party, for a broader and even more representative leadership for the proletarianization of the entire Party and all its leading committees, for merciless self-criticism of the errors of the Central Committee and the Party as a whole, for strengthening the Party organization, for intensification of the Negro work, for a sharpened fight against the influence of social reformism, and for an energetic Communist campaign against the imperialist war.

10.—Last but not least, the overwhelming majority of the membership is earnest, insistent, and determined to complete the unification of the Party on the basis of the acceptance of Communist International decisions without reservations. The demand for Party unity made by the Ford factory nucleus of Detroit is especially encouraging.

This is the balance sheet of the successful discussion membership meetings just closed in our Party. The Party members, thru their unmistakable, decisive voice of support of the Central Committee policies have taken a real forward step towards Communist unity and mass work. This is only a prelude to the still stronger impetus which the shop and street nuclei will lend to the unification of our Party and towards its establishment as a mass Communist Party to lead the workers in the United States, under the banner of the Communist International, to the overthrow of American capitalism.

Full Freiheit Chorus Will Perform at Lenin Memorial

Paving the way for the greatest working class mass demonstration ever held in Greater New York, the arrangements committee for the Lenin Memorial meeting, Saturday evening, January 19, announced last night that the Freiheit Gesangs Verein will appear in Madison Square Garden in full force for the first time in its history. In the past, only one or two sections at a time took part in Garden programs.

The present arrangements give assurance that fully 250 members of the singing society of New York and Paterson will be heard in a revolutionary recital. Rehearsals for the memorial meeting, which will emphasize the imperialist war danger, have been under way the past several weeks under the leadership of Lazar Weiner.

A feature number by the chorus will be "The Red Draft" in keeping with the revolutionary spirit of the occasion. Through this ballad surges the wholeheartedness and satisfaction with which the revolutionary youth takes his stand in defense of the Soviet Union. The song rings with a sharp contrast to the days when Russian workers and peasants were dragged into military uniforms to give their lives for the czar and for the continuance of proletarian oppression. All that is past, "The Red Draft" heralds to the world. The Russian workers will fight together with the rest of the world's proletariat for the Communist International and the very gates of hell will not prevail against them. That is the spirit of "The Red Draft."

Another selection distinctly appropriate to the occasion will be "Our Leader" by Schaefer. This pays tribute to Lenin, the founder of the Communist International and the leader of the first workers' and peasants' republic. Other numbers will include "Workers! Brothers!" which carries an appeal for working class solidarity and "Forward Comrades" which calls for the march to emancipation from wage slavery.

In addition to the singing recital, there will be numbers by Jascha Fischermann, noted Soviet pianist, and a Soviet sports spectacle by the Labor Sports Union. Among the speakers will be Jay Lovestone, executive secretary of the Workers (Communist) Party, and William Z. Foster. Tickets for the event may be obtained at the Party's District 2 office, 26 Union Square.

GILBERT SEES MORGAN CHIEFS

Figure on Bonding of German Debt in U. S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Fresh from a conference in New York with Dwight W. Morrow, a Morgan partner until his recent resignation to become ambassador of U. S. in Mexico, S. Parker Gilbert, agent general of reparations, comes to Washington to confer with Mellon, another Morgan man, and with Coolidge and Hoover.

To Bleed Germany.

He will return soon to Germany to watch over the council of experts, who are to meet in April to modify the Dawes plan.

Gilbert's negotiations in New York and Washington seem to be to get orders from Wall Street as to the amount of total reparations to force from Germany, and to arrange for floatation of German bonds to cover them.

WORKER INVENTS LOCK-POT

LONDON (By Mail).—A Kilmarnock worker has invented a pot to prevent scalding accidents in steel works. When the pot is knocked over the lid automatically locks.

DETROIT (By Mail).—The Sign and Pictorial Painters' Union reports a 200 per cent increase in membership in 4 years.

Reactionaries Sign Pact

Primo De Rivera, dictator of Spain (left) is shown affixing his signature to the trade treaty with Czechoslovakia. The Czech regime, in line with the other reactionary governments of Europe, is now engaged in a reign of terror against the Communist Party and the militant workers and peasants. It is also involved in the anti-Soviet war bloc.

Army to Practice for Next Great World War

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The U. S. army will conduct extensive military games in May in Ohio. Two hundred airplanes and officers from the regular army, as well as national guard and reserve officers from a number of states, will participate.

This preparation for the real thing is intended to train officers for higher command and for work in close co-operation with the air forces of that territory. The seriousness of these "games" will only be realized by the masses of workers when the next world war, for which it is a sort of local dress rehearsal, breaks out.

Youth "Responsible"—Has Good Market Value

The New York State working youth is a sane, responsible individual, the Industrial Education Bureau of the State Education Department reports smugly in its study of the "progress" of several thousand boys, ranging in age from 14 to 17, employed in various capacities thruout the state.

In its report, the bureau indicates the nature of the "scholastic" training given the young men in the continuation schools. "The schooling the boy receives in the upper grades," the guardians of the youth state, "gives him a market value which enables him to secure a better job when he leaves school."

Pension Not Enough for Christmas Meal

NOTTINGHAM, England, (By Mail).—Forced to exist on a meager pension of ten shillings a week from a grateful state, William Walker, 107, the oldest man in England, secured his "Merry Christmas" by selling the only book he owned.

"I think I ought to have double the ordinary pension," Walker declares, "for I am more than twice the age of the Minister of Pensions."

"The Party is the highest form of the class organization of the proletariat," Lenin. Attend the Lenin memorial meeting, January 19, in the Madison Square Garden.

BRUCE WAR-LIKE IN PACT DEBATE

Compromise Plan Fails and Argument Goes On

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Debate on the Kellogg treaty was resumed in the senate this afternoon by Senator Bruce, democrat, of Maryland, while off the floor "reservationists" tried again to reach an agreement with treaty advocates.

The "reservationists" merely wish to make the treaty more obnoxious to rival imperialisms, particularly Britain, by including a frank statement that the United States will not submit the Monroe Doctrine questions to the decision of any international body, in effect, that U. S. imperialism maintains a sphere of influence in Latin America.

Bruce took up the discussion after Senator Borah, republican, of Idaho, who is leading the ratification fight, had consented to let Senator Edge, republican, of New Jersey, discuss his bill for a survey of the Nicaraguan Canal, while negotiations for a compromise proceed.

Leading Silk Barons Talk "Stabilization"

Mergers, trustification, and the forcing out or buying up of little competitors by the big men of the silk industry are some of the means whereby key silk producers will seek to "correct overproduction" at a meeting, the exact date of which has not yet been announced. Bankers will be asked to give their "advice" in the near future.

A change in the management and ownership of one of the largest silk manufacturing concerns in the industry is expected which will ultimately "leave the trade in a stronger condition" at the end of the year. What part wage cuts, speed up and longer hours will play in the race to the "stronger condition" has not yet been divulged.

Indict Woman Who Sent Sex Book Thru Mails

Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett, of Astoria, Queens, pleaded not guilty yesterday to an indictment charging her with sending obscene matter through the mail. She was held in \$2,500 bail for trial Jan. 15.

The indictment charges Mrs. Dennett sent the book, "The Sex Side of Life," through the mails.

LENIN

MEMORIAL MEETING



Sat., Jan. 19

DOORS OPEN AT 7 P. M.

Madison Sq. Garden

49th Street & 8th Ave.

Speakers:
JAY LOVESTONE
WM. Z. FOSTER
and Others

SOVIET SPORTS SPECTACLE
By Labor Sports Union

Symphonic Brass Band

Admission:
50c and \$1.00

Auspices: Workers [Communist] Party, 26 Union Square

Trades Workers to Fight Longer Hours

Edinburgh, (By Mail).—The Scottish organized building trades workers have declared their determination to fight the plan of the Scottish Building Employers' Association to increase their hours from 44 to 46 1-2 a week. There are 60,000 workers in the Scotch building trades.

The Workers (Communist) Party fights for the enactment of 100-hour, 5-day week.

"Singing Jailbirds" to Reopen Tonight at the Grove Street Theatre

Upton Sinclair's labor play "Singing Jailbirds," which concluded a very successful month's run at the Provincetown Playhouse, reopens tonight at the Grove Street Theatre, 22 Grove St., for an indefinite run.

Sinclair's play has proved popular with labor audiences and decision to continue the play followed the demands for blocks of tickets by militant labor unions.

Organizations desirous of running benefit nights are urged by the New Playwrights Theatre group to communicate with Nicholas Napoli, business manager of the organization.

Judge Forced to Free 11 Workers Jailed at Balbo Demonstration

So ridiculous was the "evidence" submitted by police against the 11 anti-fascist workers who were arrested at a demonstration against Italo Balbo, fascist emissary, Friday night, that Magistrate Jean Norris, in Fourth District Court, 152 E. 57th St., was compelled, much against her will, to dismiss the cases against all the workers.

The workers were charged with disorderly conduct, a policeman testifying that they had broken a window in the Italian consulate at 22nd St., near Fourth Ave. But the policeman inadvertently also testified that he arrested them at 22nd St. and Broadway. Jacques Buitenkant, representing the International Labor Defense, which had bailed out the workers when they were arrested, immediately pointed out how impossible it would be for them to break a window near Fourth Ave. when standing at Broadway.

The magistrate, though she interfered with the defense as much as she could, had to concede the point and discharge the workers.

AFGHANISTAN ORDERS ARREST OF LAWRENCE

ALLAHABAD, India, Jan. 6.—Afghan authorities have ordered the arrest of Col. Thomas E. Lawrence, famous British spy, adventurer and army officer, for assisting rebels in the present uprising, according to advices received here tonight.

Lawrence, known as "Lawrence of Arabia" because of his operations there, tricking Arab tribes into positions where they fell prey to English imperialism of the world.

Photographs of Lawrence were distributed among Afghan army commanders.

His Near Border

Lawrence was last definitely located in the little state of Swat, ready to go into Afghanistan. The revolt of the Shinwari and other Afghan tribes developed immediately after his arrival in Swat, and the tribesmen, loudly proclaiming their hatred of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, with which the Afghan government has a treaty, tried to seize power. They were equipped with British artillery, rifles, and transport material.

The armies attacking Kabul, presumably under the general direction of Lawrence, were fighting ostensibly against reforms in the status of women. Their aim was to place in ruling positions the most reactionary clerical elements, the Mohammedan mullahs, with Britain exercising a protectorate and securing an airport against the U.S.S.R.

Lawrence capitalized on his Arabian treacheries by writing a book, of which the first ten copies were sold for \$100,000 a piece. A later abridged edition was put out to fleece the general public, at a much lower price.

"Insurrection"
Revolutionary Program by the Noted Pianist JASCHA FISCHERMAN

Freiheit Gesangs Verein