

Dist. 1 Miners Ask Convention

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The general body has been meeting at this time for several weeks in District 1 and considering the grievances of the miners and trying to get a special district convention in District 1 for the miners. The miners in District 1 must not allow this present date for the special district convention to be set aside as was done previously when the convention was set for April 16. The miners must also realize that there is a difference in the groups which want the convention. Nobody can deny that the group led by Brennan, Harris, McGarry and McCrone has been the ruling group in the general body.

Where Brennan Stands.

Nobody can deny that the majority of the miners in District 1 are for a special district convention, yet the Brennan group has seen fit to postpone the question of a special district convention from April 16, in order that they may appeal to John L. Lewis. In fact they have tried to have John L. Lewis recognize the special district convention despite the fact that they know what John L. Lewis' attitude is towards the rank and file.

We also know that they have so far not put out a concrete policy on where they stand, on what program they advance.

They have been up until now using the sentiment against the district officials. They have continually been fooling around with board members of District 1 in trying to make a deal with them as in the case of Boylan. They have even gone to the extent of being ready to support Boylan for district president. The only reason that they did not do it is because Boylan kicked them in the face and refused to have anything to do with them.

Yet they tried to spread this idea among the miners in District 1. The Brennan group has also been and is afraid that it will violate some work or part of the construction which we miners know is only framed up for the one that is in power. Yet the district machine led by Cappelini has violated every constitutional provision.

The constitution provides "that special conventions of the district shall be called by the president upon the written request of five local unions who shall state the object of the convention in their request." Over fifty local unions have demanded a special convention, but Cappelini and his district executive board, including Mr. John Boylan, have refused a convention and have threatened to expel every man who supports or does anything to help this convention along.

The Brennan group has also never said anything openly on the question of the contract system. Whether they favor a fight to the finish against the system thru a strike or otherwise, they do not say. They have said very little about other grievances in the district. They have said nothing on the question of the crisis in the

soft coal. They have never made their stand on Lewis clear and in some cases they have supported John L. Lewis. They refuse absolutely to connect up the struggle of the soft coal miners with the anthracite miners despite the fact that we miners know that the struggle in our district is a struggle of the miners in the soft coal district and that their struggle is ours. Brennan refused to have introduced into the general body a resolution on Lewis. He refuses to go on record as to where he stands on this question. One cannot be sincerely against Cappelini if he is for John L. Lewis. Brennan must come out openly and state on what side of the fence he is. He even went so far as to speak in his own local union against the Save-the-Union movement which is led by John Brophy, Pat Toohey, Tony Minerich, John Watt and Powers Hapgood. Does he want to divide the anthracite miners from the soft coal miners?

There have been some rumors that this is the policy of the Brennan group. If this is so, the miners must watch very carefully and not permit him to do this as this will divide the miners and play into the hands of John L. Lewis, Cappelini and his henchmen and to the coal operators who are the same, who own the coal mines in the soft coal as well as in the hard coal region.

We miners in the anthracite must also ask ourselves why he makes a special request that the death of Frank Agati be investigated. We all know how Frank Agati died. We all know that he was a contractor, a thug, and not an active union man as the Brennan group tries to put him in their resolution.

Convention Must Be Held May 21.

We must tell the Brennan group, "You either are going to give us your policy and come out openly and state what you are going to do or we will fight you as we are today fighting Cappelini, John L. Lewis, Kennedy and the rest." No deals with Lewis! The convention must be held on May 21 whether Lewis likes it or not, whether Cappelini likes it or not. We miners want the convention and it must be held. The miners must not allow Brennan to postpone the convention again, no matter what the promises of Lewis or his agents are. The convention must go thru. The delegates to the convention must be elected on a program. The membership must demand that every chance should be given it to express itself before anybody is elected as a delegate to the special district convention on May 21.

We must also instruct our delegates on how we want them to act. We must ask them where they stand on John L. Lewis, on Cappelini, on the individual contract system, on the soft coal strike, on Bonita, on the expulsion of our brothers from the union and on other very important questions.

Brennan must be made to understand that he either is going to do what we, the miners, want him to do or he will be dumped overboard as Cappelini now is being dumped overboard.