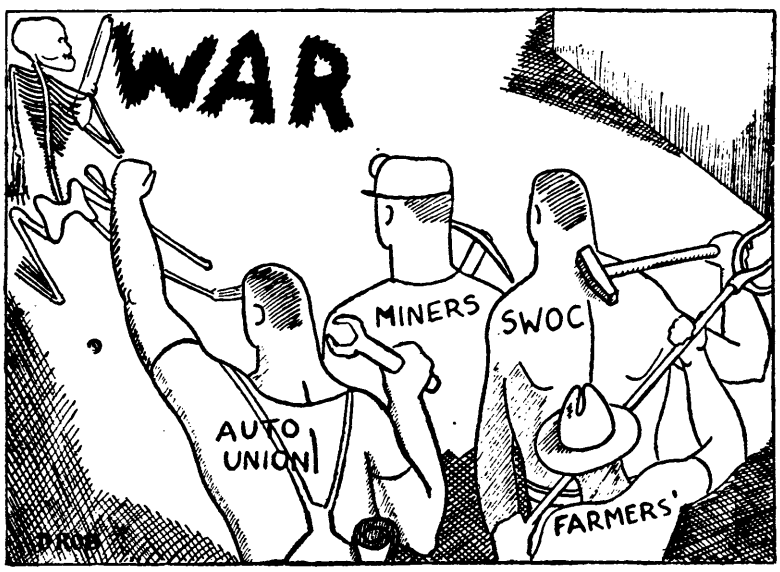
Anti-War Congress Rallies Mass Labor, Peace Forces

LABOR AGAINST WAR



F.D.R. FOR "REVISION" OF WAGNER LABOR ACT

Labor Must Unite To Defend Its Rights

President Roosevelt's intention of urging revision of the Wagner Act by restrictive legislation on the trade unions, was clearly revealed last week as it was announced that he was naming a commission to investigate the operations of the act in connection with a survey of recent British trade-union law. The President had hinted at such legislation several times in the past.

In a press statement made after the rumor of his intentions had become public, Mr. Roosevelt admitted that he was appointing a commission to study and report upon British labor legislation. This group, it was understood, would include a number of big-business spokesmen, such as Gerard Swope of General Electric, Robert E. Wood of Sears-Roebuck and Charles E. Hook of the American Rolling Mills Co. Originally the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. had also agreed to name representatives on the commission, under the impression that it was simply a question of making a survey of British trade-union legislation for the information of the Labor Department. As soon as it was discovered that the Wagner Act was involved, John L. Lewis publicly withdrew from participation and Mr. Green was apparently contemplating the same step.

Despite formal denials, it is obvious that preparations are under way for a Presidential message to the next session of Congress urging "modification" of the Wagner Act. The President is represented as being "dissatisfied" with the way the Labor Act is working out and is said to be lending a sympathetic ear to the contention of certain employing-class spokesmen that it has had an "adverse effect upon business" and has "greatly contributed to the present recession."

The move to undermine the Wagner Act and force regulatory legislation upon the trade-union movement, restricting its independence and perhaps even its right to strike, is a grave menace to organized labor. It is necessary for the trade-union movement, divided tho it may be at the present time, to put up a solid front in defense of its fundamental rights.

ESSIVE LEADERS ..P.er AT BANQUET

Columbia University; Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, New York Post columnist; Lewis Corey, author and economist; and Chas. S. Zimmerman, vice-president of the I.L. G.W.U. Jay Lovestone will be chairman.

The reception, which will take place at Hotel Victoria, 7th Avenue at 51st Street, will be in the form of a symposium and dinner at which the subject of "World Labor Cooperation" will be discussed from various angles.

Tickets for the banquet at $1.50 each are obtainable at 131 West 33rd Street, Room 707.

y Evening, June 23, at 6:30 o'clock

DINNER FOR ROBERT EDWARDS OF I.L.P.

HOMER MARTIN, NORMAN THOMAS, CHAS. S. ZIMMERMAN, COREY, DOROTHYDUNBAR BROMLEY. JAY LOVESTONE, chairman.

TORIA, 7th Avenue at 51st Street, New York City.

1000 Delegates Map Vigorous Campaign

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

TWO significant congresses were held in this country over the Decoration Day week-end, one in the nation's political, the other in its financial capital. They did not directly address each other, nor did they, except by a chance word, give sign of awareness of each other's sessions. Yet each of them was keenly conscious of the other and of the deep contrast of purposes that had called them into being. In New York, the Center Hotel was the headquarters of the national convention of the Communist Party, that party whose activities in recent months have well earned it the title of the "get America into war" committee. At that very moment, in Washington, D. C., the Rialto Theater housed the first national congress of its polar opposite—the Keep America Out of War Committee. In programs and purposes, the two conventions joined fundamental issue.

The aim of the Washington Congress was to meet the national emergency created by the President's Chicago address, by the Panay incident, by the super-navy and industrial-conscription bills, by the national front from Landon to Browder which is whooping up a violent war fever. To this end, trade unions, peace societies, social and civic and political organizations opposed to war, sent delegates to the National Anti-War Congress in the nation's capital. Poorly and hurriedly prepared, little advertised, silently boycotted by the press, lacking in funds and amidst a desperate depression, the delegates astonished each other as they did observers by assembling over a thousand strong from places as far apart as Massachusetts, Florida and California, supplying reassuring evidence by their presence that the great masses of the American people are beginning to be stirred by the perils which confront them and to fight back against the attempts to militarize them and plunge them into war.

Trade-union organizations are notoriously slow in acting upon communications—which must pass thru executive boards and wait for general meetings—yet, in a matter of a few weeks, 97 national, state and local organizations of the labor movement sent 235 delegates to the congress as official representatives. There were state federations like that of Connecticut, International Unions like the United Automobile Workers of America, joint boards such as those of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the I.L.G. W.U., and locals unions of the A. F. of L., the C.I.O., as well as a scattering of independent unions. Edward Keating, editor of Labor, was one of the speakers at the congress.

No less impressive than the trade-union delegation was that representing peace societies (including such organizations as the National Council for the Prevention of War, the Fellowship of Re-

(*Continued on Page* 3)

Anti-War Congress Plans Peace Drive

(*Continued from Page* 1)

conciliation and the locals of the Keep America Out of War Committee) with 254 delegates, and the delegation representing political organizations such as the Socialist Party and the I.C.L.L. with 193 delegates. Churches sent 93 representatives, and groups like the Workers Alliance, fraternal organizations and parents associations, accounted for most of the rest. Roughly the congress was one-third trade union, one-third political and one-third peace societies, with a scattering of farmers and other types of representation. The astonishing thing about this diverse gathering was the harmony in which it worked, the genuine united-front character of the sessions—agreement on the six points of common effort which called the congress together and mutual respect for each organization's right to carry on, beyond the limits of agreement, its independent activity for its full program.

There were differences of course, and profound ones, but no one was there who did not accept the common ground of the stirring and significant six points, and no one was trying to put anything over on any one else. As far as possible, differences were ironed out in a presiding committee in which all major forces at the congress—peace groups, veterans, trade unions, churches, socialists and anti-war communists (I.C.L.L.)—were represented; but, even at the hectic closing session with resolutions shooting thru with belt-line speed and commissions reporting at the rate of one almost every half hour, problems arose, were discussed and solutions arrived at in a spirit of mutual respect and honest recognition of differences that America has not seen since the Stalinites poisoned the institution of the united front.

Elsewhere on this page, the six points themselves, clarified, reformulated and brought up to date, are published. Everyone who opposes America's entrance into war should clip them, learn them by heart, act on them, spread them far and wide thruout the land, for they are the common answer of the congress delegates to the immediate emergency, the minimum program of all those who honestly and seriously oppose militarism, imperialism, fascism and totalitarian dictatorship, and who favor keeping America out of war, the platform on which the congress will continue its existence and activities.

"It is understood," reads the plan for continuing organization, "that this is a minimum joint program, and that groups and organizations affiliated have the right to develop outside of this minimum their own full programs for opposing war . . ." No stooge "liberals" pretending to accept the full revolutionary program on paper; no pseudo-"revolutionists" surrendering their full program so as "not to scare away the middle class," which the hand-picked stooges are supposed to win and represent!

Whereas the Communist Party arranges its Charlie McCarthy conferences with everything cut and dried, even the canned speeches and synthetic enthusiasm, this congress, leaning over backward with no one trying to "capture" it, had nothing prepared at all. One of the miracles of the three hectic days was the way a commission on "national defense," with Jeannette Rankin and Tucker Smith as chairman and secretary; on "building a warless world" with Stephen Raushenbush and Philip Bernstein as chairmen and Lewis Corey as secretary; on "domestic alternatives to armament economics" with J. M. Weis and Joel Seidman; on the "United States as 'Good Neighbor,' with Brent Dow Allison and I. Zimmerman; on "neutrality" with Devere Allen and Jesse McKnight; on "war propaganda" with Ross Stagner; on "education of children against war" with Walter Ludwig—and each of these with a score of authorities or experts and hundreds of delegates attending and participating—were able to bring in a generally splendid series of reports, resolutions and programatic documents in the space of three days. Space forbids us to attempt a summary of their contents in the present issue of our paper; we can only urge the reader to note the last sentence of this report, to watch the columns of the Age, and to get the printed reports of the congress when they are issued.

The high spots of the congress, aside from main sessions, were the meetings of two autonomous sections representing those who will suffer most from war and who can be counted on by their temper and position in society to fight hardest against it, the Youth Section and the Labor Section. I think most of the delegates scarcely realize even now the profound historic significance of the formation of an autonomous and powerful labor council against war, affiliated with the congress. It is new in the history of this country. In the last war, the organized labor movement as a whole was tied to the war-machine. But new winds are stirring in American labor. The high spot of the congress was Homer Martin's rousing speech, but I wonder if all the delegates appreciated its full significance: a trade-union official, head of an auto (including tanks) and aircraft union not whooping it up for preparedness but pointing out the trap concealed therein for labor, and speaking authoritatively of the determination of these 400,000 strategically placed working men to fight against war and war fever with all their might! And steel and aluminum and marine and

(*Continued on Page* 6)

Six-Point Program Against War

1. The immediate removal of American ships and Marines from belligerent zones and the evacuation of American nationals who, if they stay, stay at their own risk; opposition to every expression of American imperialism.

2. No increase in the Army and Navy budget; work toward reduction of the present excessive military machine.

3. The democratic right of American citizens to vote on a declaration of war.

4. Abandonment of all existing plans for industrial mobilization and defeat of all new plans for universal conscription and regimentation, thus warning our militarists that the American people will not tolerate war abroad and war-dictatorship at home.

5. No alliance or joint action with any nation or group of nations for war, or which is likely to lead to war, declared or undeclared, under any name or any pretext.

6. At home, concentration on the struggle against injustice, unemployment, bad housing and poverty, and a determination by means of that struggle to seek out prosperity rather than to find it in war trade. Abroad, increasing solidarity with the people of all nations in the struggle to abolish economic injustice and colonial oppression, and to remove the causes of dictatorial militarism.

bringing Japanese finances to the brink of inflation with its additional devastating consequences.

An additional headache for its ruling class has been Japan's unfavorable balance of trade. With the huge mounting national debt due to war borrowing, the continuance of this unfavorable trade balance would further cut down the supply of mobile capital in Japan, which is insufficient as is for the prosecution of the war. In 1937, for instance, almost a billion yen of gold flowed out of Japan to cover her adverse trade balance. Stopping this flight of gold has been one of the chief concerns of the Japanese ruling class. This it has attempted to accomplish by a rigid cutting down of imports, month by month, trying to keep the total down to exports plus newly

with the assurance that the "China affair" will not necessitate its invocation, for ". . . the bill is a preparation for a war that might break out in the future."

Article I of the Act admirably summarizes it as a whole:

"The national general mobilization referred to in this law is the control and utilization of personal and commodity resources to display most effectively the entire force of the nation for the purpose of attaining the object of national defense in time of war (including incidents of the nature of war)."

The next two articles enumerate the industries and goods that may come under the government's control. They include military supplies, food, clothing, beverages,

(*Continued on Page* 5)

Peace Meet Maps Drive

(*Continued from Page* 3)

shipbuilding were other war industries represented!

The national committee elected by the congress to carry on its work for the coming year consists of Dr. John A. Lapp, chairman; representatives to be named by each of the peace organizations; Theresa Durlach, Dorothy Detzer, Dorothy Dunbar Bromley, Rose Stein, Harold Fey, Devere Allen, Tucker Smith, John T. Flynn, Rabbi Philip Bernstein, Rev. Allen Chalmers, Fred. Taylor representing the farmers, Norman Thomas, Bertram D. Wolfe, three from the Youth Section (Al Hamilton, Frank Litell and Minnie Lurye,) and a number from the Labor Section (Homer Martin, A. Philip Randolph, Charles S. Zimmerman, John Edelman, Murray Baron, a representative of railroad labor), and one or two other persons whose names are to be announced later.

Neighborhoods and localities and organizations are now getting reports of their delegates and preparing their future work. This brief chronicle does not begin to do justice to the achievements and significance of this historic congress. Members of the I.C.L.L. and friends and sympathizers are invited to hear a fuller report from the writer of the present article at Rivera Hall on Friday night, June 10, at 8 p. m.