

NEEDLE TRADES SECTION OF THE T. U. E. L. CALLS ITS NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SEPTEMBER 10

NEW YORK CITY, July 20.—The Needle Trades Section of the Trade Union Educational League has issued the following call for its fourth national conference to be held in New York City from September 10 to 12, inclusive:

* * *

Fellow Workers!—In the last two years the left wing in the needle trades has become a power to be reckoned with not only by the bureaucracy, but by the employing class in the entire industry.

We have seen year by year the bureaucracy of the needle trades—once considered among the most progressive in the American labor movement—moving far to the right into the camp of the Gompersite officialdom and degenerating into aids and "labor specialists" of the employing class, as exemplified by modern Hillmanism and Schachtman's role in the last Furriers' strike.

But while in the rest of the American labor movement the decadence caused by the corrupt, class collaborationist, \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year bureaucracy, is still in strong dominance, causing the loss of nearly two million members in the ranks of organized labor, among the organized garment workers strong sections, under the leadership of the left wing, are once more emerging in fighting array to give battle to the employers in order to regain control over conditions in the industry and secure improvements.

Has Learned to Fight.

Thus, fighting unionism once more makes its appearance in the needle industry. The struggle of last sum-

mer in the I. L. G. W. U., headed by Locals 2, 9 and 22, combined into the Joint Action Committee, shows that the left wing has learned how to fight the old bureaucracy successfully. The stubborn struggle of the Furriers proves that the left wing has learned a great deal as to how to fight, and WIN, against both the employers and the bureaucracy even when they are combined.

Our setback in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America has shown the importance of strengthening our national organization. For the next decisive struggle against the bureaucracy will be a struggle on a national scale. Considerable of the reserves of the bureaucracy are outside of New York, and we must learn

(Continued on page 2)

Needle Trades Section of T.U.E.L. to Meet in Conference, Sept. 10

(Continued from page 1)

how to concentrate our efforts for the conquest of the centers outside of New York and of the national union machinery. In this connection the struggle for amalgamation will play a great role and must be undertaken with renewed vigor.

The Strike.

The cloakmakers' strike raises before the left wing some of the most complicated problems of the industry, chief among these the problem of the establishment of union control over the jobbers. The successful prosecution of this strike is now the chief problem, and every ounce of energy and ability must be concentrated upon this decisive struggle. The national conference will have to serve as a rallying center to mobilize support, moral, financial, organizational, for the fighting cloakmakers.

The conference has to take into consideration basic and important changes in the industry, consolidation of the employers organizationally and financially, new production methods and machinery, changes in tendency and composition of the various union bureaucracies, experience in strike methods and strategy, new aspects of the united front policy in the light of our experience. All this must receive revaluation and crystallization at this conference.

Must Organize Ourselves.

The Needle Trades Section, T. U. E. L., which has acquired tremendous moral influence amongst the needle trades workers, has, however, not yet succeeded in organizing all of its adherents, due to the impression among many workers that the league is only for Workers Party members. We must make clear that the Trade Union Educational League is an organization based upon a progressive platform and all workers who agree with its simple program, irrespective of party affiliation or sympathies, are welcome into its ranks.

For a Party of Labor.

The role of the capitalist government, local, state and national, and the collaboration of the bureaucracy with the capitalist parties to defeat

the left wing in internal union and economic struggles, raises before us not only the question of tactics and methods to minimize these dangers, but the political problem of developing political working class ideology and its organizational crystallization into a labor party instead of the unions remaining a kite to the capitalist political machines.

On the basis of the foregoing, the following agenda, subject to amendment by the conference, is submitted for consideration and discussion by all the groups:

1. Jobber-Contractor Problem.
2. Amalgamation as an Immediate Task.
3. Struggle for a Forty-hour Week.
4. Strike Strategy in the Present Period.
5. Organization of the Unorganized.
6. Class Collaboration, Political and Industrial.
7. Wage Reductions, New Machinery and Methods of Exploitation.
8. Right Wing Opposition.
9. Shop Delegate System.
10. Centralization Tendencies Among the Employers.
11. Labor Banking and Insurance.
12. Broadening the T. U. E. L.
13. Labor Party.
14. Finances, The Needle Worker, Labor Press and Propaganda.

The conference will be held in New York City on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 10, 11 and 12, 1926.

All members are expected to contribute 50 cents, receipted by a stamp, to defray the expenses of the conference.

Representation.

Representation will be on the basis of one delegate for each group of 10 and one additional delegate for each additional ten members or major fraction thereof, provided that no group shall have more than 10 delegates. Credentials should be sent to the secretary of the national committee and the delegates report to the league headquarters. All resolutions or articles pertaining to the subjects on the agenda will be printed in the Needle Worker and the left wing press, and should be forwarded to the secretary.

National Committee Needle
Trades Section, T. U. E. L.

Joseph Zack, Secretary,
108 E. 14th St., New York City.