

# Unity of All Labor, Aim of International

By ARNE SWABECK

(Delegate of the Trade Union Educational League to the Second World Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions)

How the Amsterdam Trade Union International crowd collaborated with the capitalist offensive in launching a violent campaign of expulsions of militant unionists, and the locals supporting them, was illustrated by the report of the Executive Bureau of the Second Congress of the Red International Labor Unions.

It was substantiated by the delegates; with particular references to those dastardly schemes in their respective countries. "The enemy is to the left", was the battle cry adopted by this attacking crew, who simply feared that the inevitable social development would sweep them out of their high positions, and thus resolved rather to sacrifice the labor movement. While they had been extremely inactive in resisting the capitalist offensive, they became insolent, aggressive and energetic whenever the issue was to fight the revolutionary workers. Clearly it could be seen that these attacks were essentially nothing else but a reflex of the social battles between capital and labor.

The Amsterdam International being on the other side of the barricade is training its heavy guns at the labor movement. However this policy is a logical deduction of their position; for any other policy would make it difficult for them to save the capitalist system.

The Amsterdam attack upon the trade unions is not limited to national boundaries. At its last congress in Rome, held jointly with the secretariats of the international industrial federations, it adopted a resolution to the effect that revolutionary unions must have no place in these industrial federations. This resolution has since been rigidly carried out. During the last year the Russian Unions were either expelled or refused admittance to the international federations of their respective industries. The formal motive for the expulsions was that these unions are connected with the Red International of Labor Unions. The real reason, however, is that they have been actively participating in the upbuilding of a Workers Republic, that they are connected with the Soviet Government, that they are permeated with the spirit of Communism and constitute the basis of

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# Trade Union Educational League Is American Representative of Red International of Labor Unions

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the Soviet State and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

Wherever the revolutionary minorities, within the old unions, lined up the rank and file members behind their concrete policies and thus promised to capture the leadership of the organizations, immediate expulsion would follow. In France for instance, in 1920 when the unions were still strong and the revolutionary syndicalist councils gained mass support, the old standpatters began their campaign of expulsions and provocations. Also it must be admitted that some of the militants when facing such serious situations lost their head and became too easily provoked. Finally in December, 1921, and January, 1922, this method culminated in the expulsion of a whole block of unions, thus forcing the split. The division was about in half, approximately an equal number going to each side.

A serious obstacle in the road of the arrogant-French imperialism had been removed and it could freely carry out its ruthless policy of strikebreaking and abolition of all the gains won by the workers thru their organization. All attempts since made by the revolutionary group (C. G. T. U.), which adheres to the Red International, to form a united front of all organized workers to resist the capitalist offensive have been rejected by the reactionaries. The congress approved of the united

front tactics in France and appealed to all French workers to bring about trade union unity in spite of their reluctant leaders.

The reports showed Germany to be the only country which had not lost in trade union membership. However, this need not necessarily be ascribed to any greater potency of the unions or better leadership. It was mainly brought about by two factors.

First, the great pressure upon the workers by the terribly increased exploitation brought about by the process of depreciation of the currencies, the constantly decreasing real wage and the increased cost of living. The workers were compelled to remain in the unions.

Secondly, by the judicious application of the tactics of the Red International by the German militants. When the German capitalists, after the war, again attempted to regain their equilibrium the yellow socialist trade union leaders made their compact with them to rebuild the old imperialist structure upon the ruins brought about by the war and the Versailles Treaty, at the expense of the workers. All obstacles had to be removed and a campaign of expulsion of Communists was launched, often leading to expulsions of whole unions who supported them. However, these expelled members immediately began a struggle for reinstatement. No dual unions were allowed to be established, nor were the expelled unions allowed to disband.

They refused to recognize the expulsion and appealed to the rank and file over the heads of the officialdom for reinstatement.

These tactics were a great success. Most of the expelled unions have been able to force their way back into the mass organization in this manner and also to check the campaign of expulsions. But it has become a great lesson to the rank and file and greatly strengthened the Communist militants thruout the German trade union movement. At its last congress the metal workers industrial union, numbering 1,800,000 members, definitely went on record against expulsions.

The extent to which the Communists have gained support within the German trade unions can best be illustrated by the movement for the establishment of workers' control in the industries. This movement is expressed by the shop councils (Betriebsräte) and led by the Communists. It has been given especial impetus by the glaring inefficiency of the trade union bureaucracy, as it is a distinct rank and file movement in opposition to the policies of the reactionaries. These shop councils held a national congress in Berlin, almost simultaneous with that of the Red International in Moscow. About 1,500 delegates attended representing 4,000,000 organized workers, despite the fact that the bureaucrats had threatened to expel all participants as well as their supporters.

In Czechoslovakia, when the

Communists were elected to the important trade union offices, all the reactionary machinery was set into motion. The Chemical Workers and Wood Workers unions, comprising a total of 110,000 members, were expelled in one day, the result being two national movements with the majority following the militant policies. In Italy the employers used extensively the method of blacklisting all militant workers and close the factory gates to them. This the yellow leaders, working hand in hand with the Fascisti murder brigands, were not slow to take advantage of by the process of simply dropping all such members from the books for inability to pay dues. In this manner about 400,000 workers have been eliminated. Similar experiences were related at the congress from most of the European countries.

Only in Soviet Russia the trade union movement is making great strides forward, strengthening the morale, discipline and understanding of the tremendous tasks of their members. They are working energetically to build and perfect the economic structure of the country, for only there is it possible for the workers to better their own conditions by increasing production.

Under the slogan of political neutrality, which in reality would mean nothing but neutrality in the class struggle, even the standard bearers of petty bourgeois ideas, the anarcho-syndicalists joined in the general onslaught upon the Communists

who were active in the unions. Ideologically their furious attacks became linked up with that of the yellow reformists and the capitalists, despite the fact that these revolutionary phrase-mongers at the time of the organization of the Red International adhered to it and professed full support to the Russian revolution.

Against these dastardly betrayals of the trade unions, the Red International congress held forth the slogans of the united front and trade union unity. By practical plans these slogans were worked out to fit the realities of the movement. The congress again went on record against the immediate formation of new international federations, despite the fact that the doors of the federations controlled by the Amsterdam crowd have been closed to many unions thruout the world. However, it decided to strengthen the international industrial propaganda committees so they may work for the realization of complete unity on the international field.

No secessionist tendencies were tolerated at this congress. Irrefutably the fallacy of such methods were brought home to the delegates. The strengthening of the existing mass unions was considered as the first duty of the militants; thereby strengthening the working class and the social revolution. Yet it was made clear that the revolutionary workers before unity can be realized must be guaranteed at least a minimum of

protection. And the congress stated its readiness to realize trade union unity on condition that the liberty of propaganda be guaranteed to the minority, reformist or revolutionary, on the basis of strict discipline during actions against the capitalists.

The question of relations between the Red Trade Union International and the Communist International was solved to the satisfaction of all, by a resolution offered by the delegates of the French C. G. T. U., practically the only opponents of the former organic relations between the two Internationals. Henceforth these relations are to be of a voluntary character.

Many special problems peculiar to the various countries had to be settled at the Second Congress and where conflicts between certain tendencies prevailed they were handled firmly and decisively. All adherents of the Red International in the United States, whether being minorities within the larger unions or organized in the smaller independent unions, were told to do their utmost to strive for harmony of all revolutionary trade union activities. According to the program of trade union unity it was pointed out to these independent unions that the campaign of amalgamation could only become complete when they enter actively in the struggle for unity of all unions and attempt to re-enter the A. F. of L. as organized groups. When some of their advocates held that

this body was too conservative for them and could not be reformed they were told: "If that is true merely indicates that you must give up for the time your hope of social revolution, since without the masse in the trade unions the revolution is impossible."

That the Trade Union Educational League has become a real factor in the American labor movement was acknowledged at the Second Congress. Its work was highly commended. Altho no shortcomings were overlooked, it was pointed out that its policies were correct and a militants and revolutionists, including those in the independent union were urged to put their shoulders to the wheel and make an ever more aggressive campaign for the complete realization of its policies. The league was made the official representative of the Red International of Labor Unions in the United States.

On the great fundamental principles there was no difference of opinion at this congress. It adjourned with unanimous decisions on all important points. The delegates from Japan, China, the Dutch Indies, America and the European countries departed pledged to work for establishment of real unity of all workers against the growing capitalist exploitation and to re-invigorate the existing trade unions with a true spirit of understanding of their mission—the liberation of the working class.