

Profintern Asks I. W. W. to Send Delegates to 3rd Congress

SAMMY GOMPERS SPUTTERS ABOUT LABOR'S ISSUES

"Unspeakable Soviets" Paramount, He Says

NEW YORK, June 1.—"The question of Communist propaganda, coupled with the movement to extend recognition to the unspeakable Soviets," is listed as third of the predominant issues confronting labor as croaked thru the trumpet of the New York "World" by the old frog Sammy Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Thinks He's "Voice of Labor." The immigration question; taxation problems; League of Nations situation, "brought to the front again by the death of Woodrow Wilson"; the national farm policy and program; railroad legislation "that will result in service to the people and in the abolition of the Railroad Labor Board"; and the matter of super-power "to result in service without profiteering, and in such a manner as to prevent monopolistic and autocratic control," are the other issues over which labor shows concern, according to Sammy, who is always glad to proclaim himself the "voice" of labor in America.

Polite Interest in Scandals. Samuel admits that labor is interested in the "shocking Teapot Dome scandal," but tries to take the honor for first calling for investigations of the oil land leases. He does not mention any interest in the greater rottenness being exposed in the Teapot Dome capitol now.

The "unspeakable" Soviets, about whom Sammy speaks a lot, "have organized a veritable net of destruction in our country," blats Sammy in the "World" columns. "They have sought to infest and poison our unions, our civic organizations, our literary life, our schools and churches, and even our sports." But Sammy doesn't offer a shred of evidence to support his remarks.

"History has no parallel for the infamous plotting and scheming of the so-called Soviet government. Its iniquitous work has already brought to us effects which we shall not be able to clear away for many years," said Sammy, showing how little he knows about history and admitting how weak his own organization is to combat intelligence in the working class.

Plasterers Strike For \$14 Per Day; And 44-Hour Week

(Special to The Daily Worker) WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1.—A strike of over 500 union plasterers was called here today when building operators refused the union demands of a \$14 day and a five-day week in place of the \$12 day and 44-hour week.

That scabs are to be imported to break the strike is announced by representatives of the Builders-Operators' Association. Because of the high degree of skill needed in the operations of plastering, it is unlikely that the bosses will find many men who can be trained quickly enough to do effective scab work.

Plastering is known as one of the most strenuous jobs in the strenuous building industry. Besides being hard and dirty work, it is highly seasonal.

Labor Man Beats Realtor. SAN JOSE, Cal., June 1.—William J. Bigger, union carpenter, defeated a real estate shark in the race for alderman in the city council.

Executive Bureau of the R. I. L. U. also invites the General Executive Board of the I. W. W. to authorize one or more delegates to present its views to the Third Congress of the R. I. L. U., which will convene July 5 at the city of Moscow.

Fraternally,
HARRISON GEORGE,
MIKE NOVAK,
W. R. RICHARDS.

The above appeal is published for distribution by The Red International Affiliation Committee, 1514 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Membership of the Industrial Workers of the World:

The executive bureau of the Red International of Labor Unions has appointed the following fellow workers to act as the Red International Affiliation Committee in its relations to the I. W. W.: Harrison George, Mike Novak and H. R. Richards.

The failure of the fifteenth general convention to authorize delegates to the third congress of the Red International of Labor Unions, which will convene at Moscow in July, 1924, has been a matter of regret to the executive bureau of the R. I. L. U.

This failure to respond to the cordial invitation extended by the authorized spokesmen of the R. I. L. U. who addressed the convention, is, however, but one of a series of incidents which we shall not now recount, showing the need of information of the aims, methods and structure of the R. I. L. U. among the membership of the I. W. W. The efforts of the Red International Affiliation Committee, then are to establish a definite and constant contact between the I. W. W. and the R. I. L. U., and by dissipating misunderstanding and circulation of authentic information, to bring about affiliation of the I. W. W. to the Red International of Labor Unions.

Class Struggle is International. We believe it is a duty of the I. W. W. to affiliate internationally. The matter of international affiliation is of vital consequence. It is only the most backward members of the working class who do not conceive the elementary fact that the class struggle is international. It is only those of provincial minds, or those that wish to avoid responsibility to the international proletariat, as does Gompers, who opposed internationalism for the working class.

We do not ascribe either of these motives to any considerable number of the I. W. W. Its very name, its efforts over a period of nearly 20 years to extend itself internationally, its joyous greetings of international solidarity in the California boycott by Chinese and Philippine workers, among other things, all show that any statements, such as made by the past G. E. B. Chairman Russell in the general office bulletin for January, to the effect that international affiliation does not matter, runs counter to the whole trend of I. W. W. ideology.

International Affiliation Inevitable. Any organization which, extending itself from local jurisdiction with local viewpoint to national scope and national outlook, is compelled by those realities the workers must face as a class, to accept some sort of international affiliation and some sort of international perspective. Gompers, until recently, maintained the A. F. of L. affiliation to the Amsterdam International, and even now he is aiding with funds the traitorous leaders of the German trade unions to expel the adherents of the R. I. L. U. and to wreck the resistance of the German workers to the Fascist dictatorship. Gompers and Morones have their Pan-American international of imperialist variety. Frank Hodges, traitor to the English coal miners, visits the A. F. of L. convention and approves of Lewis, traitor to the American coal miners, unseating a delegate (Dunne) who is an adherent of the R. I. L. U. Everywhere the united front of the labor lieutenants of capital with the oppressive forces of capital itself, exists against the workers. The problem, therefore, is not—"shall workers have international affiliation or no international affiliation?" But, "what international affiliation is best?"

"Absorption" Plan Means Isolation. That the I. W. W. is itself the International is an idea of some fellow workers. Yet any objective examination shows it to be no more than a fantasy. There are approximately 40,000,000 workers already organized in unions throughout the world. The membership of the I. W. W., as shown by the average per capita paid during a period of twelve recent months, is about 40,000. By what means are the 40,000,000 to adhere to the 40,000? Upon what program shall we expect 40,000,000 to come to the 40,000? The answer of those who conceive the I. W. W. itself to be the International, is the whole fanciful program that the 40,000,000 should abandon their present organization and be "absorbed" individually by the 40,000 in the I. W. W. upon personal acceptance of every item in the I. W. W. program. We contend that any worker with a serious purpose for revolutionary progress will perceive that such a program if insisted upon, will doom the I. W. W. to isolation and sterility. International organizations inevitably, and even national organizations occasionally, are formed by affiliating existing organizations; and if, as we think, it is a logical conclusion that the I. W. W. cannot expect to maintain isolation nor to reshape the minds of the bulk of the workers of the entire world to its special program, then an affiliation to the existing international which has the most points in common and the least differences, is in order as a duty to all workers, including the members of the I. W. W.

There is an International at Amsterdam, but it would be, we think, a mis-

conception of the ideology prevailing in the I. W. W. to believe that it would even consider affiliation to the Amsterdam International, the sole function of which is to befuddle workers with reforms, betray them by class collaboration and to obstruct every revolutionary movement. So we will waste no words upon that.

Berlin Group Not Industrial Unionists.

There is, also, an insignificant anarcho-syndicalist group at Berlin (I. W. M. A.) which profanes the name of the First International of Marx, whose Science they despise and ignore, but it is not conceivable that the I. W. W., altho recently swayed by an intriguing anarchist element which has traduced the Marxists in the organization and maneuvered it into a discreditable position of hostility toward Soviet Russia, will ever ally itself definitely to the Berlin group. The Berlin group cares nothing at all for industrial unionism as a structural form, its philosophy of individualistic anarchism carries with it decentralization, craft autonomy, splits in the economic front of workers facing struggle with bosses, confusion covered with revolutionary phraseology, and it remains a schismatic and impotent handful of anarchists whose sole claim to attention is a negative position—an opposition to everything symbolized by the Soviet power of the Russian workers. Against the ever more united and more murderous international bourgeoisie such instruments are a danger in place of an aid.

The Red International of Labor Unions, with headquarters at Moscow, is the International to which the I. W. W. should affiliate in harmony with its own best interests. The R. I. L. U. unites approximately 13,000,000 workers of forty-two countries, and bases its struggle upon revolutionary industrial unionism in an international of vigor, action and disciplined effort thru democratic centralization. It aims to unite all revolutionary workers in the world for a joint struggle against capitalism and the building up of a Communist society thru the historically necessary period of transition. During a transition period the proletariat will become the ruling class and will compel all capitalist and counter-revolutionary elements to submit to its class dictatorship. In every country the R. I. L. U. strives to bring about as close organic unity as possible in the ranks of economic organizations which are fighting separately against a common enemy. In cases where, for reasons of organizational or ideological differences, obstacles exist to organic unity, the R. I. L. U. strives to bring workers' organizations into a united front of coordinate action upon specific programs of defense and offense toward capitalist conditions.

R. I. L. U. for Industrial Unionism.

The R. I. L. U. feels that its program, structure, aims and tactics have an especial appeal to the revolutionary workers of the I. W. W. Recognizing that all unions under the present imperialist stage of capitalist rule must transform themselves from organs of defense into organs of attack, the R. I. L. U. considers the industrial form of unionism as the one best fitted to the need. The R. I. L. U. brings about industrial unionism as circumstances may dictate, either by formation of new organizations or by amalgamation of the old ones. The R. I. L. U. bases these unions on the point of production in factory and job committees and their combination in workers' councils to control production. What program is more near to the I. W. W. than this?

The R. I. L. U. does not share the syndicalist prejudices toward a revolutionary party of Communism. The structure of unions, which must include workers of backward ideas equally with the most advanced types is insufficient during the now-opened historical epoch of capitalist decline which must lead to the revolutionary overthrow, because such structure does not conform to the function of incisive inspiration and disciplined direction in the developed and open fight for power of the workers as the ruling class. Victory in the fight for power will come only when the varying layers among the masses of the workers are united and permeated with Communist spirit, which unification and permeation can only be performed by workers of the most advanced layer organizing themselves in an exclusive, disciplined body united to the last man on the idea of

realizing the revolution; that is, by organizing a Communist party. To argue that the industrial unions can overthrow capitalism without the revolutionary party, or vice versa, is to set the anvil quarreling with the hammer as to which is the more important.

Nevertheless, the R. I. L. U., in wishing to attain unity with the sincere syndicalist workers of the world who yet have failed to distinguish a Communist party from the despicable "socialist" reformists of the Second International, severed the organic connection which, before the second congress of the R. I. L. U. united it to the Third (Communist) International, and the present relationship between the two internationals is now simply one of "militant co-operation and concerted action" of defense and offense against capital; a condition which we think the I. W. W. would approve of as necessary.

"Liquidation" Talk Plain Lie.

This removal of mutual representation between the R. I. L. U. and the Third (Communist) International resulted in the affiliation of the large French and Spanish syndicalist unions, and should also result in the same step being taken by the I. W. W. But a pernicious intrigue by anarcho-syndicalist elements (Williams' report, Sandgren's and Payne's policies) in practical alliance with the Berlin anarchist group, has shut out of I. W. W. papers of general circulation any correction and refutation of the lie that the R. I. L. U. seeks to "liquidate" the I. W. W. and leave in its place only out-of-date craft unions. We officially declare such statement to be a falsehood, and point to the practical application of the R. I. L. U. program as proof. There are, besides the I. W. W., other industrial unions in America which have affiliated to the R. I. L. U. and are independent of the A. F. of L., and of those so affiliated, where is one which has been "liquidated"?

A perusal of the resolutions and decisions of the Second Congress of the R. I. L. U. (published in America by the Trade Union Educational League) would counteract the lie concerning "liquidation," and would explain the R. I. L. U. plan of keeping the militants in influence over and in contact with the masses. By maintaining membership and activity in conservative unions, the R. I. L. U. adherents merely used a tactical variation of the practical tactics used by many members of the I. W. W. who are also members of conservative unions. The R. I. L. U. takes all genuine unions as it finds them and tries to give them greater strength by industrial, international unity. Also, the R. I. L. U. program provides for variation of tactics according to situations existing in different countries. It is wrong to claim that the R. I. L. U. is either "dominated by Russians" or by "Russian tactics." The American program is adapted to American conditions, as publication of it in the I. W. W. press would prove to the membership. If there are differences held by the I. W. W., the I. W. W. should contend for its point of view as an affiliated body; just as an industrial union fights for its program in a general convention of the I. W. W.

Serious Purpose Demands Unity.

In the task of uniting millions of workers from all lands, a serious revolutionary purpose demands that solidarity upon the basis of common interest takes precedence above division upon sectarian differences. At the coming congress the program of the R. I. L. U. will be laid upon the table for critical consideration in the light of objective developments of the struggle. Delegates from the I. W. W. who are competent to present and to assimilate the arguments which will arise, should be there to take up points of difference and endeavor to arrive at such unity as will result in an accord between the I. W. W. and the revolutionary minority in the A. F. of L. and with the independent unions already affiliated to the R. I. L. U. This minority and the affiliated independent unions are together waging a long but successful fight to transform the reactionary, craft unions into revolutionary industrial unions, and hostility between the I. W. W. and these two bodies of sincere, fighting workers is deplorable. Likewise, the expulsion of those members of the I. W. W. who have tried to bring unity between these forces is a discredit to the I. W. W. which

should be erased by unconditional reinstatement.

To the class conscious workers of America, and even to those who are yet selfish and backward, unity with other and wider organizations will become ever more pressing. The "normalcy" of the pre-war wage slavery is never to come again. America has been, since the war, in a more favored economic position than other countries, and its workers' better material conditions are the cause of their indifference to the call of the world class now fighting against starvation by capitalism in a revolutionary struggle for power. Also, these conditions are the cause of the incomprehension of the growing need for the United Front, the only hope of the workers when confronted by a bloodthirsty bourgeoisie which feels itself pressed to the final struggle.

Soviet Interests Are Workers' Interests.

The R. I. L. U. points out that capitalism is in a historical state of decline, but that it dies slowly and fighting murderously against the rising rule of the workers. The great Russian revolution is the first victory of the proletariat in establishing itself as the ruling class. The victories of the revolution, consolidated in the Soviet power of the Workers' and Peasants' Republic, constitutes a fortified outpost of proletarian revolution in a world of capitalist oppression and opposition. If this outpost were destroyed, a tidal wave of white guard butchery would sweep the whole world and crush even the mildest reformist unions. Even the reformists recognize this fact. Hence, a primary task of the workers in the R. I. L. U. has always been to defend the Soviets against all enemies. But it is calumnious to state, as some have stated, that the R. I. L. U. favors Russian governmental interest as against the interests of the world proletariat. The two interests are the same, and no worker can make an intelligent distinction, neither can calumniators offer plausible proof of any divergence in the interests of Soviet Russia from the interests of the world proletariat. That growing bodies of workers everywhere, faced with stern reality in the fight for life and power, recognize the Soviet republic as a towering symbol of proletarian revolution, is testimony to the strength of the R. I. L. U. position.

The ferment which today you witness in Europe, is coming ever nearer to America. Unemployment and crisis will become chronic as in Europe. Unions will crumble and be crushed by the capitalists who are already preparing to eclipse all past oppression with ruthless butchery if need be to extend their lease on exploitation. The minute men of the Constitution, the American Legion, the Ku Klux Klan, the Four L's, and other fascist elements are being openly armed and encouraged by the government.

Unity or Defeat—Which?

These forces are united to crush the I. W. W. and other militants. The blacklist is beginning to thin the ranks of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union and the Marine Transport Workers' as well. The growing bankruptcy of the poorer farmers has sent nearly two million of these impoverished farmers into competition with migratory and other wage labor as unorganized workers. Repressive laws, as in California and Michigan, and white guard violence as in Centralia, have made the prisons into internment camps for proletarian prisoners of the class war. Communists and militants of the left wing in the craft unions are sharing with the I. W. W. the wrath of reaction. In Los Angeles raids are made simultaneously on the I. W. W. and the Communists. In the crisis which is coming, in the great strikes and defensive battles which are already upon us, can the heroic members of the I. W. W. find no other bond between themselves and the workers who adhere to the R. I. L. U. but the handcuffs of the police and the jailer's key?

Delegates Invited to July Congress.

The Executive Bureau of the Red International of Labor Unions is certain that there is a better and a nobler answer. It invites the whole membership of the I. W. W. to cooperate with the militants in the trade unions and the Communists in the Workers' Party on the specific point of defensive and aggressive struggle in a united front against reaction. The

clubs are not the idle luncheon clubs they seem.

Judges Against Union.

The electrical workers brought suit. They hired an attorney to file a bill asking damages for libel and asking a temporary injunction restraining further attacks until the suit could be heard on its merits.

The first judge issued an order to the Citizens' committee to show cause why the temporary injunction should not issue. But none of the circuit court judges wanted to hear the arguments. It was passed from one to another and back again. Judges looked upon as friendly to labor were as worried as the others by the imposing array of organizations supporting the Citizens' committee. Finally a judge threw out the temporary writ.

Union Will Appeal.

The union will appeal to the Michigan supreme court.

It is recalled that Judge Arthur J. Tuttle in the U. S. district court here gave a sentence of four months in the house of correction to Edwin R. Cornish, editor Workers' Voice, Saginaw, for contempt after Judge Tuttle had attacked the railroad shop workers for picketing during their 1922 strike.

It all depends on who makes the charge.

The U. S. circuit court of appeals, however, reversed Tuttle in the Cornish case. It remains to be seen how the supreme court will rule in the matter of slanders against the organized electrical workers.

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