

This was brought about in more than one way. Expulsions, disfranchisements, and ruling off the ballot, were not good enough. One other effective means used was the systematic organization of a large flock of small, new locals, just before the convention, and the flooding of the convention with delegates from them. Thus, from New Jersey alone, from territory hitherto unorganized and from locals of 25 to 100 members, came 60 delegates, representing less than 1,100 members altogether. At the same time the 16 delegates unseated represented locals totalling more than 25,000 members. Even if the unseating had not taken place, even if the ballots had not been tampered with, even if the expulsions had not occurred, even if the great locals with the majority of the membership had been allowed to elect the left-wing delegates who really represent them—still the administration gang would have succeeded in disfranchising the majority, retaining their control by this contemptible gerrymander.

And what did they do, these corrupt bureaucrats, when they had the convention in their pockets? Did they demonstrate how much more "practical" they were, how much more concerned with the every-day needs of the workers, than the "impractical" and "idealistic" left-wing. No, not at all. Their practicality is exhausted when they secure control of the treasury. For the workers in the garment industry they have nothing practical at all to offer. They are completely bankrupt. For 11 days of the convention they did not deal with one single matter of interest to the broad masses of the workers. They were so busy expelling delegates, and making laws to convert the union into their own private property, that they had no time or energy for anything else. Only in the last two days of the convention was any other business transacted at all, and then in only the most perfunctory and hasty fashion, not a single measure being presented to meet the critical situation confronting the industry.

#### Left Wing Only Constructive Force

There is not time to prepare an exhaustive analysis of the convention proceedings and results for this issue of THE LABOR HERALD which goes to press just as the convention is concluding its sessions. Next month we will have complete reports and summary, with the proposals of the needle trades militants as to how this serious and critical situation is to be met and overcome.

The left-wing in the I. L. G. W. U. cannot know any defeat, in spite of all the obstacles

and set-backs that present themselves. It cannot know defeat because, first, it represents the majority of the membership, and the masses of the workers will ultimately rule, overcoming all bureaucratic machinery that holds them. And second, it must go forward to victory because its program represents the only possible path for all the workers to protect themselves against the exploitation of capitalism.

In Boston the left-wing presented a program that emphasized (1) consolidation of locals in each branch of the industry, to make possible workers' control; (2) unemployment insurance; (3) employment bureaus controlled by the union; (4) abolition of overtime work; (5) economy in the administration of the union, with a maximum wage for officials of \$75 per week; (6) proportional representation of local unions in joint boards, to do away with the present minority control; (7) the shop delegate system; (8) the labor party; (9) amalgamation of all needle trades unions into one powerful organization; (10) reinstatement of all expelled members, unity of all elements in the industry, no discriminations and cessation of expulsions against the left-wing.

#### On With the Fight!

As against this constructive and vitally necessary program, the gang in control set up a new constitution, which centralizes all power into their own hands, gives power to take over the administration of all local unions and joint boards, delivers every individual member to the mercy of each whim of the G. E. B., and makes this petty group of bureaucrats a self-perpetuating little autocracy. The I. L. G. W. U. has been turned, insofar as it could be by this gang of trade-union freebooters, into their own private property. They have killed the workers' democracy.

The workers in the ladies' garment industry are faced with the most profound crisis in their history. To solve it will require the utmost of energy, determination, courage, and intelligence. The whole future is the issue of the struggle. There is no room for weakness, pessimism, or despair. Those who fight for the program of the left-wing, fight with all the forces of history on their side. The reactionaries are in their last desperate struggle before they go into a shameful oblivion. While the present may be dark in the I. L. G. W. U., it is up to the courageous and intelligent militants to make it but the darkness that precedes dawn. On with the struggle for the vital needs of the working class! That is the slogan of the militant garment workers.

## Socialist Reaction Rules Furriers

By S. C. Cohen

The Sixth Convention of the International Fur Worker's Union of the United States and Canada, held in Chicago from May 12th to 17th inclusive, attended by 50 delegates from 18 local unions and five joint boards, was the most reactionary since the A. F. of L. Convention. But as it was not entirely a "labor-faker" body as the A. F. of L. Convention was, the only explanation for its shameful behaviour is the fact that the rank and file of the Furriers' were robbed of any expression at Chicago. It follows that the only hope is that the rank and file learns to resist suppression by any and all means and make its voice heard and its rule effective.

The Kaufman-Cahan-Hillquit gang which rules by force over the Furriers today is a little picture of the German socialist-Fascist dictatorship with its arms elbow deep in workers' blood. Just as the workers of Germany are turning in disgust from the "socialists" to whom the Fur Workers' Union contributed \$1,500 last year, so will the "Forward" gang meet its deserts soon or late. Just as the New York "Leader" died expensively of jaundiced "socialism" in spite of \$5,000 donated by the Furriers, so will perish, ultimately, the yellow-socialist-gangster control over the workers in the union. But just now the gang seems to have learned nothing from these lessons of history.

The Kaufman machine made sure work of it. The new Constitution provides for an absolute monarchy. The G. E. B. will act as the Credential Committee for further conventions. The Constitution is now amended to provide that anyone who attends or takes part in a protest meeting or an unauthorized meeting against the union or the officialdom of the union, or one who will "slander" or "libel" the union or the officialdom, is subject to suspension or expulsion.

Secure in its future autocracy—or so it thinks—the machine cancelled any hope of membership control. The Convention rejected the proposal that G. E. B. members be elected by referendum, rejecting also any referendum on assessments. It continued the present G. E. B. in office, adding one man to take the place left vacant by the impeachment of Tenth Vice President M. Suroff, the New York leftist, who dared write articles for the Freiheit.

#### T. U. E. L. Measures Carried!

Over 100 resolutions were suddenly jammed through in five hours. The resolution for Russian recognition proposed by Delegate Steinberg from Local 40, was at first opposed on the ground that "the facts were not right," but Meyer London opportunely spoke up for "self-government" and so another resolution favoring recognition was adopted.

In the face of a foreign-born membership even the Kaufman gang had to endorse a resolution against the Johnson Bill and in protection of the foreign-born workers, despite the fact that these measures originated and are urged by the T. U. E. L. This is the one bright spot on a dismal background. Nor could the Convention do more than sidetrack the mass demand for a labor party. It rejected St. Paul and sent three delegates to the C. P. P. A. at Cleveland.

Charges of B. Gold against Sam Cohn, President Kaufman, A. Soifer and others for the murderous assault upon him last December 19th, in Local 15, were tabled and Gold was forbidden attendance even as visitor at the Convention. Likewise tabled was Suroff's appeal. After these acts and Kaufman's threat last December against the New York members that "blood will run!"—the Convention blandly adopted a resolution condemning Fascism or any "dictatorship!" Likewise, a resolution demanding that the A. F. of L. sever friendship with the American Legion was defeated on the ground that everyone has a right to belong to any organization he chooses, except, of course...?

A resolution against the "propaganda" of the T. U. E. L. was introduced by Delegates Currie and Holsworth, who never heard of the League until they entered the convention, which accepted the motion by the same vote with which it had approved of the T. U. E. L. "propaganda" in protection of the foreign-born! Thus vital is the T. U. E. L. program!

The most indecent and despicable act of the Kaufman gang was the appropriation of \$100 for the "political prisoners" of Soviet Russia, while at the same time referring to the G. E. B. an appeal from Sigman for aid to Sacco and Vanzetti! After this, who can "slander" the officialdom of the Fur Workers? But the membership—that is different!