Bill Dunne's Speech at Portland

In response to the hundreds of calls for this speech in a more permanent form, the Trade Union Educational League has published it as a pamphlet. It is the most effective kind of educational work to distribute this week. Every laborer will want to read it and pass it on. It should receive the widest circulation through the country.

15 cents, paper cover, 10 cents, paper cover. 50 cents, cloth binding. 100 copies, $1.00. 1,000 copies, $10.00. THE TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE
1113 W. Washington Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois
Union Educational League, since it is not in line with their demands. Nevertheless, it registers some gains, such as unemployment insurance funds and minimum wage, etc. But the extent these will mean to the workers will depend on the strength and determination of the union administration, the officials' willingness and ability to exercise proper union control, which was lacking before the strike. While the T. U. E. L. renews its original demand, it also insists that nothing gained in the present struggle be lost.

The Betrayal of the Cloakmakers

Since the reactionary program of the "socialist" officials of the I. L. G. W. U. began, of expelling the left wing, especially the members of the Trade Union Educational League, the Siigman gang felt it necessary to counteract the great revolt of the rank and file which spread all over the country. So they lifted the ten demands originally formulated by the Trade Union Educational League and with great ceremony made them into a sort of program known as the "Ten Commandments." But this did not mean, of course, that they wanted these demands granted or intended to fight for them, abided by the strike. The T. U. E. L. warned the membership that the officials would not fight for these demands.

Under the present leadership things have been going from bad to worse. Thousands and thousands of cloakmakers have been unemployed for many months. The so-called "social shop" has spread like wildfire. Working standards have become a thing of the past while the only thing visible of the I. L. G. W. has been the iron hand of the Forward gang chocking every progressive and critical voice.

The time arrived on June 1, when the agreement with the bosses expired. For 4 months the officials carried on conferences with the employers. Finally the members were called upon to cast their ballots, and by referendum they voted 31,000 to 500 in favor of a strike for the "Ten Commandments," originally the demands of the T. U. E. L.

During this period negotiations were still going on, and the leaders at every conference on their own terms were cutting down the demands, without consulting the membership. The T. U. E. L. prophecy that the Siigman gang would not fight for these demands proved true. In the bosses' blanketing, the bosses kept refusing even the modified demands. The bosses knew these "leaders"; they knew that they made "deals" before with these officials of the union— with the workers always the losers. The bosses understood that the diplomacy carried on at present by the leaders was really not for the demands at all, but was merely grand stand play.

So it happened that instead of calling a strike, the officials called for arbitration from the Tammany governor of New York! The governor called all factions together and after some deliberations the employers asked for mediation instead of arbitration. Again the yellow socialist Siigman gang surrendered without even referring it to the membership.

Again came a grand stand play by the officials before the commission to mediate. The officials made plans that carried nothing for the workers since they had already surrendered the original demands in the previous conference. Again came the closed-door diplomacy and the decision against the demands of the workers by the governor's Commission. The only thing left in the decision was phrases and phrases. Before the results of the Commission were given out the Siigman gang met and decided at once to accept the recommendations as a great "victory." But the employers were not so hasty, and knowing the kind of "leaders" they dealt with, they refused to agree even to these ridiculous recommendations.

The Mountain Brought Forth a Mouse

So the great "strike for the ten demands" has been led into a blind alley. As the T. U. E. L. claimed, no strike was intended. But with the refusal of the bosses to grant even this practical defeat to the union, the workers were called out of the shops on "stoppage." A stoppage, a strike, to enforce a virtual defeat for the workers! A fine goal, indeed! It is nothing but staged camouflage to make possible the collection of dues, since the old treasury has been bled white by the gang which knows how to maintain it but not how to build one. There has been no strike, there will be none and the ten demands are farther than ever from realization.

In the meantime conditions of the Cloakmakers are becoming worse daily. But the betrayal has opened their eyes. Many who were blind are now seeing, while some of the ostracized Siigman gang, from the dollars to the left, will for sure stand up for the workers, the bosses hold back as if they don't want to lose the workers, the bosses hold back as if they don't want to lose the workers which is quite understandable.

Journeyman Tailors Face Clear Issue

By John Dorsey

URING August and September the members of the Journeyman Tailors' Union of America will decide whether their union is to forge ahead upon a militant progressive program which will build the union and benefit the tailors, or continue to lose members and weaken the union just as a new "open shop" drive is about to begin, by continuing the present programless reactionary policy. The question of progress against reaction is symbolized by the conflict for General Secretary-Treasurer between Max J. Sillinsky, the Cleveland progressive, and the reactionary Tom Sweeney who is now in office and wants to stay.

Sweeney is an example of the incompetent leech which hangs onto the body of organized labor. For ten years he has held down both the office and the tailors, inefficient and unpopular, but maintaining himself by unscrupulous use of a machine. He was assistant to the former secretary, Brace, and when Brace resigned Sweeney took advantage of his position as assistant, and maneuvered himself into the office. He has stuck in office ever since.

Sillinsky, on the other hand, has a record, not only of lip service but of action and definite policy, to mark him as a real progressive. His program, upon which he runs against Sweeney, definitely declares for amalgamation, protection of the foreign born and recognition of Russia, besides the necessary demands of the trade.

Sillinsky's platform substantiates his program may be seen from the fact that he is the only candidate for the Portland Convention of the A. F. of L., he was one of the very few who voted against the unseatting of the Siigman gang. The same convention Sweeney proved to be a reactionary follower of Gompers and voted with the Gompers machine whenever called.

This is a sufficient measure of what the two men stand for, but in the everyday fights of the workers we see again that Sweeney is incompetent and indifferent to the needs of the low paid against the justified indignation of the rank and file, both leaders must go. The workers now in the I. L. G. W. have a problem to solve, and there is no one but themselves to solve it. They must see that the Siigman-Frank gang go and that new and revolutionarily leaders take control.