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"NEW" TRUMAN FOREIGN POLICY- OPEN WARFARE AGAINST OPPRESSED

The "new" foreign policy of President Truman is nothing more nor less than open, direct, and brutal counter-revolution. Wherever the masses of any country revolts against tyranny, Wall Street's dollars, Wall Street's army, and Wall Street's supplies will be there to help fascism and other forms of reaction AGAINST the hungry masses!

There is nothing new in this policy. Uncle Sam has given other aid to France against the Indo-Chinese people, to Chiang-Kai-Shek against the Chinese people, to Holland and Britain against Javanese people. American dollars and military forces are giving aid to reaction against the people of Germany, Austria, Italy and innumerable other spots.

The Truman proposal of giving aid to Greece and Turkey to stop the "Communist menace" merely means that America will now carry out its counter-revolutionary policy openly—nothing more. Since it can no longer depend on the help of Britain, which is itself in dire straits, it will police the world by itself.

GREECE AND TURKEY

The focal point for this new policy is Greece. Wracked by internal and external crises British imperialism is being compelled to give way before U. S. dominance in Greece. As in all struggles of predatory imperialism, the Greek issue is being palmed off by Vanderberg as one for freedom and independence. Both Greece and Turkey are strangers to civil liberties for the broad masses of workers and peasants. The reactionary regime of King George is carrying on a persistent Civil War (using artillery, tanks, airplanes) against armed peasant partisan groups. The jails are filled with peasants and workers; thousands have been exiled to the Aegean Isles. The fact that the cost of food prices are soaring fantastically contributes to the growing rebelliousness of the Greek masses. While city show-windows display a variety of foods, clothes, house furnishings, etc., virtually thousands are grubbing for food in garbage cans. In the villages peasants are attempting to allay the pangs of hunger with grass.

The Greek monetary standards have until recently been supported by Britain. Now that Britain is compelled to withdraw, the U. S. and the Stalinist bureaucracy are rushing to fill the economic, political, and military vacuum left by Britain.

To win Greece is of enormous importance to U. S. imperialism since it is, together with Turkey, of strategic importance in any future move by either side in the near East. Mindful of Britain's critical and increasingly untenable position in Palestine, Egypt, Arabia, India, etc., the U. S. is attempting to assure itself of bases in that area for political-economic and military maneuvers in the coming struggle which U. S. anticipates—armed conflict with the Soviet Union. While this is not inevitable it is a very likely variant.

Britain has spent \$156,000,000 on the Greek army and in stabilizing the drachma. She has also cancelled \$160,000,000 of Greece's wartime debt as well as paid for the maintenance of 16,000 British troops. All to no avail! The growing internal crisis compels her to bow to the superior strength of U. S. imperialism and to whine like a beaten dog for U. S. help.

U.S.—G. B. FIGHT

Paul Porter, head of an American economic mission, made a trip to Greece. His purpose was obviously to prop up the tottering economy. The so-called help to Greece will come in the shape of money spent for arms, equipment, and organization of the Greek army and police force to prevent the workers and peasants from taking matters in their own hands. Just as in Greece, U. S. imperialism will relegate Britain to a secondary role in Palestine, Germany, Austria, Italy and Asia. While we will hear quite a bit in certain quarters about "the folly of U. S. carrying the burdens of the world", U. S. capital-

NOT ONE MAN NOT ONE DIME FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Hundreds of millions of dollars of American workers' money is earmarked by the Wall Street government for fighting against workers and peasants in Europe and Asia. Workers' money, worker-soldiers, will be used against our own class brothers.

We workers will be chumps if we let the government get away with this!

We must fight the policy of counter-revolution to the bitter end, since it only means cutting our own throats to spite our face.

Not one dime to support reaction in Europe or Asia!

Refuse to ship any materials to the fascists and other reactionary regimes abroad!

All aid to the working class revolutionaries! Down with capitalism and its wars!

For a world socialist revolution!

For peace and plenty under a workers council government!

ism is irrevocably committed to stabilizing world capitalism or going down in defeat by a new wave of revolutions and colonial rebellions.

Because of the role of hangman of world revolution which history has given to U. S. imperialism, history has at the same time placed enormous responsibility on the American working class. Without the increased intervention of the working class in the United States, the struggles of the world working class will be more protracted, more costly in lives. In fact the preservation of all that is best in modern civilization is at stake. Unless the workers in the U. S. become aware of their position, their role, the consequences may be a reversion to modern barbarism. The road to the opposite direction lies in the organization of a Marxist Party in preparation for the destruction of U. S. capitalism and the organization of a Socialist society.

Court Rules Against Miners

The Supreme Court decision against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers mean that the hated injunction, which smashed so many strikes, is now back with us. By a vote of five to four the senile gentlemen of the court voted that the Norris-LaGuardia act does not apply to government-operated industries. In simple Americanese that means that anytime a major strike takes place the government merely has to declare a "state of emergency", seize the plant and apply to future Judge Goldsboroughs to grant an injunction. Any striker then is liable to a jail term for contempt of court.

Lewis, able old capitalist stooge that he is, bowed meekly to the Court edict. He not only pays the fine but has again called off the miners' strike—this time to June 30th when the government must turn the mines back to the private operators. In the meantime, however, it is quite likely that Congress may vote the President authority to take over any plant or mine that "threatens the national welfare" — which would mean that unions like the UMWA, steelworkers or auto workers, could never strike.

The original mistake — read treachery — in this whole battle was when Lewis called off the strike originally. The arrogance of Judge Goldsborough and the Federal Government should have been met by SPREADING THE STRIKE TO THE STEEL, AUTO, ELECTRIC AND OTHER VITAL INDUSTRIES. A victory at that time would have already mounted into hundreds of millions of dollars in raises for the American workers.

As it was, the class collaboration policy of Lewis caused the working class to suffer

a major disaster. On top of it the other labor skates, Murray, Reuther and others, have added to the debacle by voluntarily extending their contracts for months. Thus more money is added to the coffers of the rich.

The policy of obeying the capitalist government is a policy of dis-obeying (betraying) the working class. Lewis, despite his shrewd propaganda campaign to make himself out a strong, silent militant, is actually capitalism's number one labor lieutenant. He has again given Wall Street yeoman's service.

The United Mine Workers of America is today ruled by an unbearable bureaucracy under Lewis. There has been no major revolt in its ranks since Alec Howatt and George Voyzey, although minor leaders like Ray Edmundson sometimes gives Lewis a headache. The miners, however, are an exceedingly militant lot. One of these days they will see through Lewis' sham militancy and start another rank and file revolt against its class collaboration leadership.

U. S. GOVERNMENT— STRIKEBREAKER

The capitalists don't need to hire strikebreakers anymore, it seems! All they have to do is sit back, let their employees starve, and then collect a juicy check from the U. S. government at the end of the year.

J. I. Case workers in Racine, Wisconsin were on strike for almost 15 months. On March 9th a settlement was made. A strike of the workers of the same Company in Rockford, Illinois,

(Continued on Page 2)

Socialist Party Suspends Chicago "Left Wing"

The National Action Committee of the Socialist Party on March 5, 1947 suspended the charter of Indiana-Illinois and then proceeded to grant new charters to all sections with the exception of the South Side branch in Chicago.

This highly bureaucratic action leaves the members of this branch as members-at-large, which means that they are under the direct orders of the National Executive Committee. Any former member of that branch can now be kicked out of the Party directly by the NEC without going thru the procedure of a Regional Executive Committee or a local branch.

"LEFT-WING" IN S. P.

Briefly, the POLITICAL background of this fight is as follows: Chicago has, for some time, been the center of the "left wing" of the S. P. The GENERAL line of this left wing group is politically the same as that of the Trotskyite "Workers Party". The disagreements with the Workers Party are purely organizational and subjective. The entire younger element of the Workers Party in Chicago are "graduates" of this faction in the S. P. The general ORGANIZATIONAL line of this group has been to "reform" the S. P. and make a "Revolutionary" party out of it.

This "left wing" group is made of three separate tendencies: the anarchist-pacifists who dream of a pure and bloodless revolution; the center composed of the pro-Trotskyite orientation; and to the left of this "center" in which there are hopeful signs. This latter wing is composed mainly of members of the YPSL who are groping toward a real Marxist program. They have already renounced Labor Partyism and Trotskyism in general. Aside from some confusion regarding the Soviet Union, Leninism, and the formation of a revolutionary party they stand close to a Marxist program.

FALSE PLAN OF ACTION

How does this "left-wing" fight? An INTERNAL letter by them sent to members of the S. P. and the YPSL says that "This action (on the part of the NEC) is similar to the action of the Comintern in over-riding the Lovestone majority of the communist Party in 1939 . . . All this must be viewed against a background of a rapid drying up of the channels of internal discussion and expression FOR SEVERAL YEARS, increasingly bureaucratic in practice . . ."

The resolution goes on to give a program of action for all S. P. members to follow. But what does this "action" consist of? It calls upon the same NEC to reconsider its decision. It would have us believe that the NEC was in "error" when it UNANIMOUSLY revoked the Chicago charter. It calls upon all S. P. members in the middle-west area to demand that the present leadership FORMALLY call a regional convention. This, it is obvious, the leadership will do everything in its power to prevent. The resolution fails to call for a convention INDEPENDENT OF THE LEADERSHIP. It calls upon all members to "communicate your views to the National Office". As if Thomas and Fleischman will be swayed by such letters!

The "program of action" presented by the "left-wing leadership of Chicago is ont a program on which to build, comrades of the S. P.! It is a program of capitulation! This leadership has neatly hidden the political differences that you have with the NEC under a pile of meaningless verbiage about "democracy". Your important differences are NOT ORGANIZATIONAL BUT POLITICAL. The left wing is being groomed for expulsion for political reasons, not because you are undemocratic or too democratic. But the left wing leadership has lowered the

plane of the struggle from the political to the organizational. This results in the purely opportunistic move of calling for support, not on the basis of political program, but on the basis of "democracy". The left wing leadership does not even present the skeleton of a political program in which to base one's support. Instead they call for support of a group of individuals. This is effectively isolating yourselves and laying yourselves open to direct attack individually, on a personal basis. And this is precisely what the SP leadership will do—attack you as individuals and throw you out as individuals.

All of these tactics are not "errors" on the part of the left wing's center leadership. This is a deliberate attempt to play along with the NEC and have the NEC do the dirty work by expelling the irritating Marxist grouping at the extreme left. At the same time the left-center will piously maintain its democratic purity by mouthing a protest against the NEC.

MARXIAN PLAN OF ACTION

We believe, on the basis of information at hand, that the center leadership and anarchist-pacifist tendencies in this "left-wing" will NOT be expelled. Only the extreme left will be expelled from the Socialist Party and the YPSL in Chicago and Milwaukee. We offer some suggestions to this Marxist tendency:

- 1—Study the program of the RWL and write your own program on the basis of those points with which you agree.
- 2—Participate in long range joint discussions with the RWL on those points where you have disagreements.
- 3—Prepare to split from the SP on political grounds. "You cannot reform the reformists"—get out before you are kicked out.
- 4—Prepare your split on a political, organized basis. Break with the "left-center" leadership.

Railroad Demands

Seven hundred general local union heads of seven of the twenty-one AFL Railroad crafts, meeting recently in Chicago, came out with the demand for a twenty cent increase. No other demands will be presented. There was general agreement not to seek a reduction in the 48 hour week at this time because the railroad companies are short of machinists. In addition these "representatives" of the railroad workers will not seek any changes in the special rules which the railroads and their government have devised to make second-class workers out of them. This is all well and good for the railroad capitalists, but too bad for the railroad workers.

It is not hard for the average worker to see just who these general chairmen represent. They outdo themselves with kindness towards the Railroad Barons and "forget" that the workers whose interest they are supposed to represent don't even get time and one-half for Saturday work, and work longer than all other industrial workers.

Railroad workers now receive 30c to 60c an hour less than workers doing similar work in other industries.

It should be clear to all railroad men that as long as they allow the present company-minded union leadership in power, all that they can expect are the present low standards. Only by building a militant rank and file progressive movement against the labor skates and for organization of one big united union will the railroad workers be taking the FIRST step to settle scores with the Railroad tycoons.

No Soap for White Collar Workers

Wall Street statisticians do not lie to their bosses; but the boss class has no such scruples when it comes to weeping on Susie the stenographer's shoulder about how he can't afford to give the office help a pay raise.

The figures tell amazing stories. Profits, AFTER taxation, were \$12 Billion for 1946 as compared to \$4.2 Billion for 1939. Expectations for 1947 are no less than \$15.5 Billion! That is what the Wall Street, and La Salle Street boys are putting into their socks.

What about the workers, the white collar workers who keep the books for the tycoons? They form a major part of the ones who have been forced to live off their past savings in order to meet the discrepancy between low wages and the high cost of living. Savings accounts in 1945 totaled \$33.1 Billion. In 1946 it was reduced to \$17.5 Billion. The average yearly salary of bank employees for 1945 was . . . \$2,013. Workers in brokerage houses (where the big money is made) are receiving as little as \$25 a week for girls, and \$30 a week for men.

CHEAP PROMISES

The alluring promise of bonuses were used by personnel when hiring; but as soon as profits showed any dip they were ruthlessly eliminated. All during the war the controllers of the capital of the U. S. A.; (and a large portion of the rest of the world) wept that salary raises were "forbidden" by government (their government) control. However when those controls were eliminated by law the pay raises still did not make an appearance.

Efforts by the UOPWA (CIO) and an Independent Union in New York to organize these ink-stained white collar workers have met with some small successes, and a large scale opposition from management. Manufacturers Trust Co. and the Irving Trust Co. are challenging the LEGAL RIGHT of bank employees, to join a union of their own choosing. Professional and clerical workers on the Atomic Bomb research department of the University of Chicago are being warned by the military authorities against joining the UOPWA or any union. A delegation of 200 union office professional workers who convened in Washington, D. C., in February were denied an opportunity to present the 80th Congress with their opinions on forthcoming labor legislation.

If the white collar workers want to buy soap to keep those collars white they will have to search for more than the soft-soap which is being handed around. The girls and men will have to get off their bended knees; and realize once and for all time, they are as much a part of the vast horde of the workers of this country as are the men who dig the coal and pour the steel.

Workers of all types, whether in linen jackets or overalls, have the same basic problem, the same class interests, the same class enemy, the same exploitation by their rulers. It's time they stood up solidly on their own two legs and fought for their democratic rights on the picket line where necessary, through organized Union activity!

U. S. GOVERNMENT—STRIKEBREAKER (Continued from Page 1)

ended after one year on December 9th, 1946. The Company's sales took an awful beating, and it took an actual loss in profits.

But the carry-back tax credit graciously given by the U. S. treasury turned an operating loss into a nice \$1,483,146 profit. In other words the government has subsidized the strike-breaking J. I. Case Company. We workers pay for the privilege of cutting our own throats, don't we?

War and Depression

The Moscow conference and President Truman's speech have marked the high tide in increasingly bad relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. The antagonism takes place against a background of increasing movements towards civil war and revolution on the part of the working class throughout the world.

There can be no doubt that war is inevitable between the Soviet Union and American Imperialism eventually. To take the view however, that this war will occur very soon, does not take into account numerous problems facing both forces which they must settle first. In various diplomatic squabbles over the Middle East, Asia, or Europe, one or the other force MAY find itself in such an uncompromising position that it may be forced to disregard all other considerations and go to war. But such an outcome is momentarily exceedingly unlikely.

The Soviet Union and its Stalinist leadership has numerous problems facing it, which impedes it from going to war immediately. It must first repair the damage wrought to the heart of its industrial and agricultural regions, the Ukraine and Crimea. It must satisfy the needs of a war-weary people, whose needs for consumer goods are tremendous. It must attempt to heal war wounds of nearly seven years standing. In order to carry out such a program less manpower and less money is being diverted to the military forces. The armed forces are to get an 18% slice in their budget. From an army of 20,000,000 men during the war, a standing army of 3,000,000 men is to be established. Occupation forces are being withdrawn from Germany, and Russian troops in Eastern European countries are being reduced.

DEBT AND DEPRESSION

American Imperialism likewise has serious problems of its own as well. First of all it is faced with a gigantic public debt. It is faced

with an economy which produces twice as much as it did before the war, and no war channels absorb the surplus. If there is no war it is faced with depression. This matter has been dealt with in some detail in the December issue of the International News in an article titled "The Impending Depression".

Two dangers face the world today, depression and war. Depression is developing within the United States. It can only be thwarted if American Imperialism goes to war with the Soviet Union now as an extension of its policy of intervention in Greece and elsewhere.

THIRD FORCE

Before that happens America must first set back the threat of revolution which hangs like the sword of Damocles over the head of world capitalism. It must prepare for war against the Soviet Union because Russia is now the second most important power and secondly — most important — because millions of workers throughout the world still look to the October Revolution of 1917 as a beacon to guide their present struggles.

Stalinism, on the other hand, will attempt to utilize this sentiment on the part of the masses as pressure against world imperialism. It does not have dollars to bribe the reactionary governments of Europe; it uses demagoguery and false propaganda instead. However, at the appropriate moment Stalinism will betray and undermine any genuine revolutionary movement as it did in Spain in 1936-39 and as it did in Greece a few years ago when it made a back-door deal with the British to liquidate the battle of the ELAS.

The two contending forces fighting in the world today are most concerned about the third and most vital force — the world proletariat. What this third force does will determine the fate of both.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

1. Capitalism can not be reformed. The profit system can only bring more misery, war and depression.
2. We are therefore opposed to all reformist parties, including the Labor Party, which strive merely to patch up the present capitalist system.
3. We are for independent working class action on all fronts, starting from strike action at the point of production and leading up to the revolutionary destruction of capitalism.
4. We are for full equality for all oppressed minorities, for the right of self-determination for all colonies.
5. Defend the Soviet Union. Reestablish a Marxian Party, Soviets, Trade Unions and Armed Workers Militias to accomplish the Political Revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy. Extend the October Revolution throughout the world.
6. For a Revolutionary Marxian Party in the United States and a New Fourth Communist International on a world scale.
7. For the establishment of workers control of production for use under a workers council government.

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PERMANENT MILITARISM

President Truman's speech calling for both military and economic aid to Greece, a military dictatorship akin to Fascism, traces the road American youth have before them. They will become the policemen of any foreign working class which threatens capitalist power. They will have the bright future before them of being militarized PERMANENTLY.

On the heels of President Truman's speech, Selective Service, which was to have ended March 31, immediately decided to keep his records and apparatus intact beyond that date. However, PERMANENT plans had been prepared long in advance, for the peacetime military training, even if the "emergency" had not been declared.

All boys between the ages of 17 to 20 would be forced to enter an Army six-month basic training course. After this the youth could have four alternatives: 1. remain in training for another six months; 2. enlist in either the National Guard or Organized Reserve, requiring a minimum number of hours of drill and study per week; 3. Join the ROTC in some College; 4. Take some engineering or scientific course. (The Army has already started a test camp in Fort Knox).

In other words, American Capitalism has organized PERMANENTLY for war. As capitalism continues with its wars every youth including female youth, will be militarized or be veterans two or more times. Capitalism in decay makes wars permanent.

Trotskyist "Unity"

The two Trotsky groups in the United States are about to unite. The Cannon and Shachtman factions, which split in 1940, are putting aside all their violent polemics under pressure of the international representatives of the world Trotsky movement. The air in which unity takes place, however, is exceedingly hostile. Cannon, head of the official American Trotskyites, writes in a letter of February 8th about Shachtman's "faults and weaknesses, and their mistakes which have often amounted to crimes — all of which from a political point of view, comes under the general head of centrism". For years Cannon has called the other tendency "petty-bourgeois", "revisionist" and other such pet names.

These political differences, however, are evidently no bar to unity now. Cannon will have a majority of the new organization and with his outstanding ability as a political charlatan he ought easily to relegate Shachtman's forces into the background.

Both groups actually have always had a common program. The essence of that program is to give unstinted aid to left bourgeois democracy. Support capitalist labor parties, vote for and support British Labor Party candidates who are the major prop today of British imperialism, call for left-capitalist governments (Blum-Cachin, Socialist-Stalinist, Caballero-CNT, etc., etc.), and a general "transition" program which bows to and incorporates all kinds of bourgeois penances and strategies into the Trotskyite program. The disagreement between Cannon and Shachtman over Russia (Shachtman says it is not a Workers State and Cannon

says it is) are important but do not outweigh their other general agreement. Furthermore both groups are committed to the "French Turn" — liquidation of their forces into reformist organizations like the Socialists. If Cannon and Shachtman could jointly enter the Socialist Party in 1936 (after first expelling the forces of the Revolutionary Workers League, which opposed both entry and the revisionist line behind it), why can't they now enter each other's group, unite?

We must be realistic about this unification. For some time to come it will sow confusion in the minds of left-wing American workers who will interpret this as a step toward genuine Marxian unity. Actually, however, this unification is merely a stopping off point for eventual liquidation into an American Labor Party. It is similar to the maneuver in 1934 by which Cannon absorbed Muste's Party, as a forerunner to liquidation into the Socialists.

It is to be hoped that in the course of the present maneuvers the revolutionists inside both groups will steer toward a Marxian course by building a genuine left wing and orienting toward a complete political and organizational break with Trotskyism.

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TWO UNIONS VOW TO FIGHT BOSS INSTEAD OF EACH OTHER

Chicago, March 21, 1947. — Two Unions last week decided to stop fighting each other and direct their blows against the boss in an unprecedented move resolving their jurisdictional dispute amongst two AFL retail workers Unions. Local 291 AFL, of the Building Service International, and Local 1515 AFL of the Retail Clerks International buried the hatchet, in what they hope will be the scalp of the State Street Council, which rules the affairs of the large Chicago Department Stores.

The agreement specifies which workers shall belong to which international. But it provides that organization and collective bargaining shall be conducted on an industrial basis.

Fulcrum of the organization campaign in the last half year for both unions has been the chain of ten Goldblatt department stores. The Company has been able to stall a labor board election for months merely by discharging employees for joining the union and sitting back while year-long Labor Board cases piled up. Until such cases are tried no election can be held, if either union objects. As a result the Labor Board has actually worked in opposition to the rights of the workers to organize. It has given no protection to tens of workers fired for joining either union; and it has delayed recognition of either or both unions. Under those circumstances considerable demoralization set in amongst the Goldblatt Bros. employees.

WILL DISREGARD N. R. B.

The agreement between the two unions, however, paves the way for completely circumventing the Labor Board. Both unions will now jointly confront the Company and demand immediate recognition. They have constituted themselves as the Joint AFL Department Store Committee and will — according to the present program — continue to work together.

The resolution of the jurisdictional fight is a big step forward for these 3,500 poorly paid

retail workers. However the rank and file will have to defend its own interests by constant vigilance of the leadership of the Joint Committee. Many elements in this group have an unsavory past. Others are very far removed from what might be called militants, although Local 291 has a few such elements in its ranks.

The new committee will mean something only if the rank and file participate in its activity and become the backbone of the organization drive.

Chicago Teachers Fight on Two Fronts

Teachers are beginning to be realistic about their roles in society. They see that they have to adopt the same strategies as other workers — strike action — in order to get raise increases. They have seen it work in St. Paul, Delaware and Buffalo. The teachers here in Chicago are also ready for action but the labor fakery in the American Federation of Teachers, Local 1, are trying every means at their disposal to sabotage this effort.

Once a month one delegate for every fifty union members is invited to a House of Representatives meeting, which have agendas so packed with irrelevant points that the Representatives never get the opportunity to express the views of the teachers they represent. However if the representatives could get the floor, they could do nothing important because they hold only an advisory position. The real force in the union is the Executive Board which are all handpicked by the President, Arthur Walz.

"WRITE POST CARDS"

At the last meeting the question of wage increases was brought up again, and again handled in the same fashion. The president's advice to the teachers is to bombard the legislatures in Springfield with post cards. When asked for the direct action which should be taken with the Board of Education, the answer was—do nothing, we are in the process of negotiations with them and you don't want to harm what is being done. Of course, he failed to add that the AFT have no contract with the Board and the Board really doesn't have to see the union delegates if they should so please.

Six weeks ago a few teachers got together and demanded a mass membership meeting for the purpose of discussing the wage question. Walz was violently opposed to this. But since the teachers got enough petitions signed to force such a move he reluctantly called the meeting — but not before the Executive Board poured over the constitution for hours to find a loophole for not holding this meeting. They will do everything in their power however to sabotage it. Again they plan to cram the agenda so that no one can get the floor. They are being crass enough to have the candidate who is running for presidency, John Fewkes, a reactionary faker, speak on the question of strikes! Robert McCann, the vice-president of the Union, told the House of Representatives at its last meeting that the union only allows \$450 for membership meetings for the year and that part of this sum is already allotted. He then lamented that now \$300 will have to be spent on this meeting for the rental of the 8th Street Theatre for March 28. Let it be known that \$70,000 annually is collected in dues and of

Move To Unite Railroad Crafts

This new year of 1947 has seen two movements afoot which are a step in the right direction for unification of the 21 craft unions of railroad workers. The first is the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen, for the consolidation of only the B. of L. E. and the B. of L. F. & E. into one Union to represent all enginemen, firemen, hostlers and helpers instead of present dual setup, of D. B. Robertson, the International President of B. of L. F. & E., and his rival buddy's outfit Alvanley Johnson, Grand Chief Engineer of the B. of L. E. union. The second is a move for the consolidation of all the 21 craft unions into one union.

Robertson and Johnson do not want consolidation. Loss of personal power and a good paying job, and many of other personal gains too numerous to mention, face them under such a plan. All unification plans are also in direct conflict with the policies of the rail barons, whose aim is to keep the workers divided and in that fashion rule more ruthlessly. It is easier to reject workers' demands for betterment of wages and working conditions when dealing with 21 unions separately than it would be if the 21 unions were unified or even if only the engineers and firemen were unified.

The second movement, that of unifying not only the 2 unions but all the 21 craft unions, is of a much broader nature. Approximately forty "workers" (either former officers, or present officers) of many different crafts and railroads were present at a meeting of the Chicago Committee for Railroad Unity.

MILITANT PROGRAM

The joint program of the Chicago Committee for Railroad Unity is very good and is a program that could fill the immediate needs of the rank and file railroad workers. It calls for a flat 30c per hour increase; an added 10c per hour differential for night work; seven paid holidays at straight time and double time if required to work; overtime for Saturday work; all future work contracts or schedules shall include the portal to portal provision; and standardization of rates of pay and working rules on all railroads, including short lines.

However, at the meeting of the Chicago Committee for Railroad Unity, the methods proposed by those present to achieve this program killed all chances of carrying it through. They attempted to enforce their program under the present craft union leadership which scabbed on the railroad strike last year. Furthermore this committee for unity is attempting to gain support for its program by fan mail to Washington instead of the organization of a militant rank and file movement. The program of the Chicago Committee for Unity would answer a crying need for all railroad workers. Such a program however can only be realized by independence on a militant rank and file.

That sum only \$450 is allocated for membership meetings.

It is little wonder that many teachers are questioning why they should join the union at all. The union has no contract with the city and for all practical purposes, no grievance machinery. With the present leadership it can expect neither in the near future.

Local 1 members should remain in the Local — not dissipate their energies in building splinter groups. But a progressive group is of vital urgency in the Local to clean the situation up and make Local 1 a real Union, rather than a pitiable legislative lobby.

"Labor Leaders" in Bourgeois Elections

How ineffective is the participation of most unions in capitalist elections was strikingly illustrated this month when the newspapers carried a story that 22 AFL local union leaders had endorsed the Chicago Democratic Party nominee, Martin Kennelly, for mayor. A day or two later the same papers carried the announcement that Sid Lens, organizational director of the militant AFL grocery Local 329, had been erroneously listed. He had not endorsed either Kennelly or any other candidate. Neither had his union.

EFFECTIVE participation in elections would involve democratic discussion amongst the workers in the union, leaflet campaigns, talks by the candidates to the union meetings, etc. Capitalist candidates, however, obviously can not stand such elaborate scrutiny by the rank and file workers. What they do therefore is merely call up the top labor skates and get them to give a telephone endorsement. The newspaper reader is then expected to believe that this endorsement also covers the thousands of members in the unions as well.

In the case of Lens even this was not done. Lens was not even consulted, since he was out of the city at the time the press release was given out. Furthermore both the Local and its organizers have a long history of refusing to endorse any capitalist candidates in any election.