

Special Edition on AFL Convention - Features and Articles

See Pages 2, 4 and 8 For More Detailed Information On The A.F.L. Convention

Western Worker

WESTERN ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, U. S. A.
(Section of the Communist International)

What Are You Doing to Put Over the \$12,000 Western Worker Drive?

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MARINE STRIKERS DEBATE WITH SHIPOWNERS Need To Prevent A.F. of L. Split from Spreading is Serious

REUNITING OF LABOR MOVEMENT NEEDED

Reinstatement of C.I.O. Unions and A.F.L. Referendum on Industrial Unionism Should Be Demand
(Statement of Central Committee, Communist Party, U.S.A.)

The Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor, by its endorsement of the Executive Council's illegal suspension of the unions affiliated to the Committee for Industrial Organization, has greatly deepened the already serious split in the American trade union movement. This action by the convention in no sense represents the will of the great mass of the membership of the A.F.L., who in recent months in many international unions, state federations, local central bodies, local unions, etc., voted overwhelmingly against the suspension of the C.I.O. unions and for trade union unity. The Tampa splitting decision is the work of the clique of reactionary trade union leaders who dominated and controlled the convention.

The Cause of the Split

The responsibility for the menacing disunity in the ranks of organized labor lies squarely at the door of the reactionary leadership of the Executive Council of the A.F.L.—Green Frey, Hutcheson, Wharton, Woll, etc. It is the final result of many years of

A MESSAGE TO CALIF. UNIONISTS

From WILLIAM Z. FOSTER
(Famous Trade Union Leader, National Chairman of the Communist Party, U. S. A.)

The growing trade union movement in California, and splendid maritime union movement on the West Coast readily see that the blame for the threatened split in the organized labor movement rests squarely on the shoulders of the die-hard reactionary officials of the stripe of Green, Woll, Frey, Wharton, Dan Tobin, etc.

They have always gone out of their way to stamp out any expressions on the part of the A.F.L. rank and file which have been in any way progressive and which have corresponded to the burning needs of the American working class.

GOVT. FORCES, LAND AND AIR, WHIP FASCISTS

Spanish Militia Rout 6000 Fascists, Kill 1000

MADRID — After two air bombings which cost the lives of many non-combatants, women and children, in Madrid, Fascist bombers were repulsed on their third attempt to bomb the city, when government planes drove them off, shooting two huge planes of foreign manufacture crashing to earth.

On the ground, the Fascists took another severe beating when they attempted to attack workers' militia positions in the University City and Usera sectors with three columns, estimated at 6000 men.

Approximately 1000 Fascist troops were killed in the rout administered by the government defenders.

Catalonian Army Created
BARCELONA—The first Catalonian army in hundreds of years was created by decree of the government of Catalonia, providing for 20 regiments whose soldiers are to receive four pesetas a day, of which they pay two and one-half pesetas for food.

Families of soldiers are to receive six pesetas a day. The government also announced it would soon issue its first money in Catalonia in more than 300 years.

GIBRALTAR—Italian Fascist black shirts numbering 2500 landed at Algeiras, Spain, to join the Spanish Fascist forces, an eye-witness reported here. They landed from a large, new ship, which carried no flags or markings, he said.

ANTI-WAR MEET THIS WEEK-END

SAN FRANCISCO. — Organized labor was getting behind the State Conference Against War and Fascism, to be held here at the Building Trades Temple, Guerrero and 14th Sts., next Saturday and Sunday, December 12th and 13th, last week as preparations went forward.

Feeding the Maritime Pickets



SCENE IN SAN FRANCISCO STRIKE KITCHEN

AFL Convention and Agriculture

The Tampa Convention of the A.F.L. referred all resolutions petitioning for an international charter for the Agricultural and Cannery Workers to the Executive Council. Resolutions to this effect had been endorsed by several state Federations of Labor Conventions, including New Jersey and California.

This action of the Convention may have stopped action by the A.F.L. Executive Council for national organization until the 1937 convention because judging from past records nothing can be expected from the Executive Council.

The resolution from the California State Federation of Labor also petitioned for a State Charter, pending the issuance of an international charter. This also has been referred to the Executive Council, and will meet the same fate as the demand for the international charter.

The agricultural workers in California can only renew the drive more intensively, in their respective areas, by applying for federal charters. Moves are already being made to work towards the setting up of a State Council of Agricultural and Cannery Workers. Resolutions to this effect have already been adopted by the Agricultural Locals in Sacramento and Stockton.
(Cont. on P. 2, Col. 8)

Conner Denies Any Guilt in Frameup

OAKLAND.—Two statements of Frank J. Conner, one of the defendants in the framed trial for the killing of Chief Engineer George Alberts on the S.S. Point Lobos last March 22, were read into the record at the Friday and Saturday sessions of the trial before Superior Court Judge Frank M. Ogden.

The statements denied any complicity in the killing, and disavowed the "confession" which Conner is said to have signed after two days of pressure from the District Attorney's office, while copped up under guard in a Berkeley hotel. Herbert Resner, attorney for Conner, is seeking to keep this forced "confession" from being made a part of the trial record.
(Cont. on P. 2, Col. 1)

Open Letter to Communist Voters and Western Worker Readers

You have given us your support! You read our press and our literature. You come to our meetings and applaud our speakers. More than 25,000 people like you showed a keen understanding of the real issues at stake in the recent elections, when you cast your ballot for nominees of the Communist Party. You agree with our program and our principles, because you realize that they represent you. Perhaps you even call yourself a Communist.

REVOLT GROWS AGAINST RYAN ON EAST COAST

One of Largest I.L.A. Locals in East Goes on Strike

BOSTON—The three International Longshoremen's Locals here which have refused to pay attention to Intl. President Ryan's orders to work ships struck by the sea-going crafts are 799, 800 and 805.

Local 800 is one of the biggest longshoremen's locals along the Atlantic Coast. The three locals struck rather than load scab-manned ships.

HOUSTON, Tex. — Enraged over the shooting of Johnny Kang, 35-year-old striking seaman, by a reactionary I.S.U. official, 300 strikers rushed the headquarters of the I.S.U. and taught some of the reactionaries a severe lesson.

Wilbur Dickey, business agent of the Marine Firemen, and his assistant, named Hopkins, were among those whom the seamen went after.

COPELAND ACT IS POSTPONED

WASHINGTON. — The Copeland Act, with its blacklisting continuous discharge book and other objectionable features, will not go into effect as scheduled on Dec. 25.

Mass pressure not only from maritime unions has forced Secretary of Commerce Roper to postpone application of the Act for at least 90 days.

This will give the unions a chance to seek amendments nullifying the dangerous features of the Act.

Tom Mooney's 53rd Birthday—20 Years Behind the Bars

SAN FRANCISCO. — Tom Mooney observed his 53rd birthday on Tuesday, in San Francisco County Jail.

DOES THIS PAPER DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT?

You who are reading the Western Worker for the first time. Do you agree that it deserves to continue and improve its coverage of news on the labor and progressive movement?

Although this is a special issue with increased circulation, it is a fair sample of the Western Worker's 104 issues per year.

We would like to tell you now that it is supported by those who read it. The large advertisers do not want it. But the workers started it and kept it going for five years with steady improvements. Now they are raising money for the next year's expenses, including improvements.

A drive for \$12,000 is going on, part of which will go to the Daily Worker and Sunday Worker, national organs of the Communist Party.

If you like the Western Worker, help us sustain and improve it. Send a contribution, as much as you think you can afford, to the Western and Daily Worker Committee, 121 Haight St., San Francisco.

Tunnel Workers Show Unity Need

By BOB GRAY
Since the days of Molly McGuire and the Knights of Labor the object of every sincere labor leader and labor organization has been to increase the effect. You ask, how can this be done? And we answer, that the common action of all progressive groups, of every democratically minded man and woman, expressed through a people's movement is the only force strong enough to guarantee the liberties which are so dear to

BIG SF PUBLIC MASS MEET; PEDRO MARCH

Outlook for Pact With Steam Schooner Owners Hopeful, With Eastern and Foreign Lines Following Suit

Thomas G. Plant, for the shipowners coast committee, has notified the strike committee in San Francisco that Roger D. Lapham, president of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Co., will appear at the Tuesday public meeting to debate the strike issues with Harry Bridges.

SAN FRANCISCO—Chief of Police Quinn said the maritime strikers would get no permit to march last Saturday. The strikers marched.

Approximately 25,000 striking maritime workers, their manners telling the public why they strike, paraded up Market Street from the Embarcadero to Civic Center Saturday.

BIG SOUTHERN CALIF. DRIVE TO AID STRIKE

Go To Public For Stoppage of Ship Subsidies

LOS ANGELES—Maritime union strike leaders have begun a concerted drive to have federal subsidies cut off from the shipowners until the just and basic demands of the unions are met.

The campaign will be carried out to all unions and to the entire public.

Business men of Southern California will be asked to send telegrams to President Roosevelt urging holding up of subsidies.

Nearly 3000 strikers met in Wilmington Bowl last week at a huge mass meeting.

Hope For Steam Schooner Pact

With resumption of negotiations between the Masters, Mate and Pilots and the steam schooner (coastwise) operators seen as a probability at any moment George Charlot, president of the Masters, said, "I look for the differences to be straightened out before the end of the week—we are quite optimistic."

(Cont. on P. 2, Col. 3)

