

# Workers Age

A PAPER DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND FARMERS

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## C. P. GIVES INDIRECT AID TO ROOSEVELT

### Democrats Adopt Platform With Liberal Veneer

#### PLATFORM DODGES DEMAND FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Labor Clause Contains Loopholes To Avoid Any Commitment Of Party; Farley's Steamroller In Complete Control At Convention

By JAY LOVESTONE

(Special Correspondent Workers Age)

PHILADELPHIA.—For five days and nights Farley whipped his cohorts into the wildest and noisiest political convention ever held in this country. Cowbells kept the Democratic donkeys hopping, braying and doing everything but kicking. Sirens, pig-calling, crowing, light-flashing, organ-pealing, applause-meters, monopoly of the air, a furious brass band, Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Dizzy Dean, Lilly Pons, One-eyed Connolly, an Indian princess (pure blood), a live mule, Major Bowes talent, Harry Hirshfield, more than forty Senators, at least twenty governors, a special Mummies parade, prayers of all stripes, a battery of cabinet members, a horde of Yankee diplomats, and last but not most important—President Roosevelt himself—were all brought into play to perform in one way or another so as to sweep off their feet not only the eleven hundred odd delegates but the country as a whole listening on the air. It was to be a grand stampede.

Farley's Follies of 1936 had three tasks to perform, three stunts to put over, three grand notions to sell to the country in order to clinch the overwhelming re-election of President Roosevelt. These three jobs were:

1. To put over the idea that here was a living, virile, confident aggregation of Democrats in striking contrast to the sluggish, apathetic, floundering collection of Republicans steeped in passivism and panic.

2. To convince even the most

#### OFFICE WORKERS WIN STRIKE

A signal victory was scored by the Bookkeepers', Stenographers' and Accountants' Union (Local 12646) after a one day strike against the Metropolitan News Co., distributors of newspapers in New York City. The agreement, signed Wednesday, June 24, provides for the following: (1) Closed Shop; (2) A \$21 week minimum; (3) A 10% increase for all workers who had not received increases within the past year; (4) Time and a half for overtime; (5) Seniority rights; (6) Reinstatement of workers discharged in the Oct. 1935 strike.

The agreement covers fifty workers and is to run for one year. This victory, following upon the successful conclusion of agreements with the Jewish Day and the Jewish Morning Journal, marks an auspicious beginning for the new president of the BS & AU, Samuel Baron. Brother Baron headed the union negotiating committee. The successful settlement of the strike shows what a militant, constructive, progressive leadership can do even in this most difficult field of white collar workers.

cynical skeptic that all was milk and honey, the completest of harmony and homogeneity, in the Democratic fold. Only "Five Blind Men" took a walk and landed. . . .

3. To sell the great mass of workers and farmers, the great numbers of the middle class folks in the cities and towns the idea that in these hours of stress and strain the Democratic Party was a genuinely progressive party dedicated to the social welfare of the overwhelming majority of the country, free from all big business taint, and above all led by a miracle-maker, a super-human, sort of gift of god. To say the least, of course, this giant among giants was none other than Franklin Delano Roosevelt, now occupying the White House and to continue to occupy it for the next four short years.

Every decision arrived at on the convention floor, every syllable uttered in the convention hall, every camera clicking countless, every Klieg light torturing incessantly, every type of noise put on the air was dedicated to the achievement of these three goals. This was Farley's strategy. And to this strategy the platform, the keynote speech, the speech of acceptance were all subordinated—at least in so far as Farley could help it. And it would be silly to think of Farley not being able to help himself to anything and everything at the Philadelphia convention. Farley was the firm hand, Roosevelt, the charming voice.

To what extent did this strategy work? How far did Farley get with his plans? What is the real significance of the Democratic convention? What is the election outlook? What is ahead for the Democratic Party? What's class-conscious labor to do in this situation?

#### The Convention At Work

If noise-making, howling, shrieking, jumping, dancing, walking, yelling Waahooo—Wahoo, hand-clapping, parading and literally going nuts are to be considered yardsticks of intelligence and industry, of vitality and confidence, then this convention of nearly three thousand delegates and alternates was the epitome of genius and joy. Actually, everything was

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#### STEEL BARONS USE TERROR

Boss terror swooped down on the striking steel workers at Portsmouth, Ohio, resulting in a pitched battle between the armed strike-breaking thugs of the employers and the strikers. The strike pulled out 5,000 workers under the banner of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

One strikebreaker was killed when the company attempted to transport food from one section of the mills to another on a freight car. The strikers refused to let the car pass, whereupon the scabs jumped out brandishing guns, and yelling "Let 'em have it."

The sheriff has arrested a picket, James Sexton, on charges of murder. This action is a deliberate frame-up, since it is admitted that the scabs opened fire, and since the Sheriff's "evidence" consist of his word that he saw Sexton with a gun.

#### KNITWEAR UNION PLANS STRIKE

The eventuality of a general strike in the knitgoods industry when the present collective agreement expires on July 15th was provided for at a special joint meeting of the executive boards of the three locals comprising the Joint Council Knitgoods Workers Union, at Union headquarters on Tuesday, June 23rd. At this meeting it was decided that a General Strike Committee be established.

The meeting decided to call a conference between the Union and the knitgoods manufacturers to take up the question of the renewal of the agreement with the additional demands of the Union.

Realizing that the present attitude of the employers might not permit for a settlement through negotiations, the Executive Committee stressed the importance of proceeding with preparations for a general strike. To keep the membership informed of whatever transpires at the conferences and to have them ready for any emergency, the Executives decided upon the following meetings:

June 25th—Meeting of all helper crafts comprising the younger and most exploited sections of the industry.

July 2nd—Membership meeting of locals 155 and 2085 U.T.W.A.

July 14—On the eve of the expiration of the agreement a general membership meeting to give instructions to the Union membership as to the course of action to be taken on July 16th, the day following the expiration of the agreement.

#### NO PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN VOTE FOR ROOSEVELT, SAYS BROWDER

New Deal Platform Is "Progressive"; Minor In "Peace" Report Paves Way For National Defense; S.P. Hit As "Sectarian".

By M. S. MAUTNER

(Special Correspondent Workers Age)

The nominating convention of the Communist Party, assembled at Madison Square Garden, chose Earl Browder and James Ford as presidential and vice-presidential candidates respectively, running on the slogan of "A free, happy and prosperous America for all", emphasizing that this is possible under capitalism. The platform of the party includes demands for old age, and other security laws, unemployment insurance, the government's taking over and running closed factories and mines, nationalization of munitions, moratorium on mortgages and other immediate economic demands. On the field of foreign policy it calls for sanctions against nations that conduct a foreign war contrary to the provisions of the Kellogg Pact. The platform called upon the "people" to safeguard their "traditional" rights and demanded unconditional freedom of press, speech and assemblage. The issue of the election, it claimed, is democracy versus fascism, and therefore called for the defeat of Landon.

(A detailed analysis of the platform will appear in the next issue.)

The ninth convention of the Communist Party, U.S.A., met last week in New York, and delivered itself of a maze of contradictory analyses in most cases and glaring omissions of analysis in others. After seven years of crisis, seven years of "bolshhevization", seven years of "liberation from Lovestonism", the Party finds itself being "Americanized" by making the most vulgar opportunist concessions to the Democratic Party in the elections, to American imperialism on the war question. The line of the Seventh Congress was amplified and applied to the American scene, with dangerous results, on every important question facing the class-conscious workers.

The organization of the convention was a perfect example of the "new democracy"—by which the leaders explain to the membership. No speaker could get the floor without first having received permission of his state chairman. The state chairman then applied to the speakers' committee, who had to be told what "experience" the comrade wished to relate. Then and then only could he get the floor. A few of the higher-ups, Stachel, Hudson, Childs, and state leaders, "elaborated on" Browder's report—that is, touched on none of the questions raised therein, but reviewed general activities of the party in the trade union field. Rank-and-file speakers stuck closely to their appointed tasks, a recounting of the most recent strike in their areas.

#### Discussion Divorced From Reports

No one discussed the report of Browder or of Minor on the "peace question." After Minor had spoken the delegates dealt with the progress of the "united front and people's front" in their localities just as they had done after Browder. So obvious was this sharp division between the reports and the discussion, and therefore between the "role of the leaders" to explain,

and that of the rank-and-filers to accept and discuss the success of a line in the past which was just being "decided" now, that Browder was forced to discuss the glorious "unanimity" of "his" party in the summary. After all, how can it be that a group of workers, recruited from various sections of the country, some new in the movement, some old (and knowing better), should all not only agree, but be so crystal clear as not to even raise a single question or express doubt? (Especially considering the

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#### CHICAGO LABOR AGAINST SPLIT

The Chicago Federation of Labor has adopted a resolution demanding that the Executive Council withdraw its "ultimatum" to the Committee for Industrial Organization to disband.

This action swings into the camp of the industrialists the second largest city labor council in the country, and one which has a history of progressivism. It is today the basis of the soundest local labor party, the Chicago and Cook County Labor Party.

The resolution stresses the long existence of the problem of organization of the unorganized and states that "the action of the A. F. of L. . . . in serving an ultimatum . . . on the C.I.O. is provocative and gives the press of the enemies of labor basis for talk of 'split' and, . . . the entire approach to the problem thru emphasis on ultimatums is disruptive of labor solidarity."

Therefore the Chicago Federation called on the Council not to take action prior to the convention "which alone" has the right to settle the question.





## Edmondson, Anti-Semite, Linked To Hitler

Robert Edward Edmondson, the boss of Edmondson Economic Service, 80 Washington St., New York City, has been indicted on charges of criminally libeling Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, and the Jewish religion, in New York courts.

Daily there pours from 80 Washington St. New York, tons of anti-semitic literature to all parts of the United States.

### Self-Exposure

Describing the beginning of his "crusade", Edmondson wrote in his bulletin of Jan. 28, 1936, *The Patriotic Crusade Against Jewish Anti-Americanism*; "On March 27, 1934, I issued a bulletin headed: 'Bankrupt Leadership', declaring that Republican leadership had shown bankruptcy by refusing to reform anything, and that Roosevelt had indicated it by trying to reform everything. A prominent investment interest asked me why I had published this. I replied that it was a patriotic duty to expose bad political leadership. 'Is that all?' I was asked. 'Yes,' I answered. The questioner then held me spellbound for an hour. He and his associates had studied the Jewish problem for years. He unfolded a story of politico-economic subversion of France, Britain, Germany and Russia, producing historical suppressed records of fact and authority, largely Jewish, furnishing documentary evidence that Jewish leadership had caused the depression and was moving to take over the United States thru the Jewish-Radical Roosevelt administration.

"When he had finished I asked: 'What are we going to do about it?' He said: 'I don't know.' 'I do,' I declared. There is but one course. Pitiless publicity is the only cure for public evils, and I am going to broadcast Jewish anti-Americanism, and expose the plot. The Real Issue is: Shall a minority rule?"

"I immediately began the campaign, using several thousand dollars of my own resources to get it on a self-supporting basis by revolving receipts. I have circulated over five million pamphlets which have been reprinted and distributed by between 1,000 and 1,500 volunteer patriots. . . I have desk room in a printing plant of friends who have loyally stood by me. high European authorities have written me that my method of direct attack on the cause is the only effective way to defeat communism. . . German emancipation from Jewish communism points the way." (our emphasis).

### Swastika-Branded

Who is the "prominent investment interest" and "his associates" who are financing Edmondson? Who are the "High European Authorities" who correspond with Edmondson?

The outstanding sympathizer with Edmondson's ideals in Europe is the Nazi dictatorship of Germany. Edmondson gives the game away with, "German emancipation from Jewish Communism points the way."

Is Edmondson one of the Nazi American fronts?

## Mooney Greets C.P. Convention

"To you one and all I extend the hand of proletarian fellowship in militant solidarity. May your deliberations prove of great benefit in furthering the best interests of the working class. I give you my pledge to keep the working class flying until the end whether it will be within these gray walls or out there in the great fight with the rest of you. I greet you in your onward march to complete working class victory. I know you will let nothing prevent that working class unity which alone can win our every fight and defeat our every foe. I send you all my most affectionate comradely greeting from this fighting proletarian heart."

TOM MOONEY.

## "New Deal" Convention

(Continued from Page 2)

eralized a bit in its last secret hours in order to counteract the possible effects of that illegitimate offspring of the GOP—the Lemke-Coughlin racket.

The Democratic platform is more skillfully formulated and is far more rubberized. In the hands of a Farley and in the mouth of a Roosevelt it can be of any number of uses. It is so flexible in many respects that it is very difficult to violate it. This is especially true of the handling of the question of a constitutional amendment to enable the federal government to deal with the problem of social legislation. The platform grants the theoretical possibility of a constitutional amendment being necessary for such purposes, but it does not advocate such an amendment. What is still worse, in speaking of this issue and its relation to so-called states' rights and federal rights, the platform refers to "their respective spheres" and thinks of an amendment possible to keep "each within its proper jurisdiction." This is hollow hypocrisy, befogged evasion, deliberate dodging.

And while Senator Wagner was reading the extremely putty-like labor plank of the platform, officers of the United Rubber Workers were being treated in a truly Democratic fashion in Alabama and workers were picketing the convention hall in protest against Robinson's role in the Arkansas flogging. From the angle of evasion and omission, this section of the platform is especially significant.

As was expected, the high light and climax of the big show was the address of the President at Franklin Field. The writer has not seen such a massing of people at a political meeting in years—except in Nazi Germany. More than a hundred thousand jammed the arena in the face of intermittent showers and not very comfortable arrangements. Here one could see as clearly as possible how much Roosevelt stands head and shoulders above his partners in politics. The speech was well constructed, superbly delivered, and put over with solemnity and a more than usual varnish of sincerity.

But let no worker fall for all this drama. Lloyd George performed even more ably in his

Edmondson's poison literature is identical with that issued by William Pelley of the Christian Party, who has openly boasted of his Nazi connections and published the anti-semitic Protocols of Zion in the United States. Edmondson defends the Protocols and republished excerpts from the forgery in his pamphlet "The Hidden Empire".

prime when he battled for far more substantial social legislation. Of course, Roosevelt thundered against the "economic royalists."

So what? Did he say a syllable about what he or his party did to remove the "economic royalists" and the causes making for them? Of course not. And there was good reason for this: The very NRA itself served to strengthen the trend towards monopolization inherent in capitalism, organic with the very system which Roosevelt is striving to serve and save. Furthermore, regulation and taxation of monopoly are not in themselves antidotes to monopoly. At best they disturb some individual monopolists in the interest of the maintenance of the monopolist system as such.

There is the slimmest likelihood of Landon winning. The Liberty League and Hearst are allies of doubtful value to the Republican Party in the coming campaign. The Lemke fabrication may influence some Congressional seats but at a too high price in cold cash. The election will be hard fought. In spots it will be spectacular. The resulting relationship of forces in the House, the vote in the electoral college will very likely be closer than in 1932. But just now it appears that Roosevelt's popular vote will be at least as big.

From Browder to Hutcheson, labor appears tied in various ways and in varying degrees to the Roosevelt chariot of the Democratic Party. With the CP it is less frank, concealed and distorted.

The direction, however, is very definite. For its failure to put up a united labor ticket on an elementary but fundamental class basis in the 1936 elections, for its adoration and support of Roosevelt and his program this year, the American labor movement will pay a heavy price in the not distant future.

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## "Our Capacity To Produce"

By ECONOMIST

The inability to produce at full capacity reveals a basic flaw in the workings of the capitalist system. The fact that the existing economic organization is unable to utilize its own wealth and production is a challenge to all those who openly avow its superiority over all other economic systems. Since the economic structure of capitalism is supposed to have given more in terms of wealth and comforts for the peoples of the world, it is equally pertinent to question the tremendous unused capacity or the existence of idle plants during all phases of the business cycle. The Brookings Institution, in its publication "America's Capacity To Produce",\* is very conscious of this indictment, that challenges the very foundations of the economic justifications of the status quo. Its statistics, diligently compiled by their researchers and conservatively estimated, indicate a possible increase of 20% in production if the present economy could function at capacity. Their investigations have led them to conclude that "we could have brought the 16.4 million families whose incomes were less than \$2,000 all up to that level." Their grand conclusion shows that the 19% increase they estimated as the possible "added production . . . our industrial plant was technically capable of under the conditions prevailing in 1929." Translated into money it would mean an increase of 15 billion dollars in our national income, as of 1929, or an enlargement of the family budget of the nation to \$1500. This net result has been achieved after analyzing, in the industries and related trades of America, the inability of the industrial structure to produce at capacity in any of its parts. Capitalism thus falls far short of functioning at maximum capacity even during boom years when investments and profits have their throats wide open. A very uncomfortable dilemma for the national economy!

### Superior Capitalism!

It should be emphasized that the Brookings Institution starts with a very practical and empirical premise: the infinite superiority of capitalism over any other economic system, past, present or future. Its facts therefore are not to be accepted as the last word on the subject. They have used the most conservative basis for their statistics. Their methods of computation on productive capacity were founded on the assumption of the present economic system as it now functions. The time factor was not estimated on a 24 hour basis, assuming a three shift system, but adopted the "custom of local industry." Such an approach greatly reduces the actual productive capacity of many industries. This accounts for the low percentages achieved in the textile and other industries. Furthermore, the study assumed "seasonal production, shut downs in repairs, failure of power supply or

\* *America's Capacity To Produce*, by Edwin G. Nourse and Associates, published by Brookings Institute, Washington, D. C., 1934. 608 pp.

other unavoidable interruptions." These latter factors provide great leeway in reducing the actual percentages of unused capacity during the prosperity period. But what is greatly ignored in the study is the tremendous extension of present plants, the new developments of technology, and the restrictive nature of business enterprise on the introduction of further improvements in our industrial structure.\*\*

### Why The Failure?

The above leads to the all important problem which the Brookings' study raises at the end of their volume: "What was there in the organization or functioning of our economic system which caused us even in these favorable years to fail to attain it (maximum capacity), to say nothing of the margin four times as wide which we are failing today to make available to the satisfying of human wants?" This failure to satisfy wants flow from the opposite desire to satisfy the insatiable needs of profit-making under capitalist economy. The two facts are actually the reverse sides of the same medal: the under-utilization of production and the over-production of goods. Monopolist competition drives towards high operating and overhead costs; leading to higher investments with lessening returns to the sectors of consumption, especially the wage-earners; creating rigid market conditions; ending in glutted markets, unable to absorb the output at the quoted price levels. This reacts on industrial policy to the extent of curtailment of production in order to balance demand and supply factors in order to keep prices high. Business thus maintains solvency through the sabotage of production, maintaining rigid and high price levels. When these factors conjoin with other economic maladjustments, crisis results and adds to the already existing unused capacity (unused capacity has gone as high as 80% and 85% during the present depression in many cases, like construction and steel industries). In short, capitalism breeds its own irreconcilable contradictions; capacity to produce will and can be achieved with the replacement of capitalist economy by a planned Socialist economy.

\*\* Columbia University issued *Economic Reconstruction* which shows the tremendous possibilities of increased production—in some cases 200%. See also Harold Loeb's *Chart of Plenty*.

### WIGWORKERS STRIKE

400 wigworkers, a section of the Doll and Toy Workers' Union, have struck in 12 New York shops. The workers are striking for union recognition and against extremely low wages—from \$6 to \$10 for forty hours, being the wage in the industry. The union demands a \$16 per week scale.

The spirit of the workers, most of whom are youthful and new to the labor movement, is very high and militant. Mass picket lines are being thrown around the plants daily, and mass meetings, at which prominent labor leaders speak, are held at two o'clock daily at the Rand School.

### WORKERS AGE

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