

WILL THE BRESLAU GANG SAVE THE SITUATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SIGMAN MACHINE?

By BENJAMIN GITLOW

The war in the American labor movement between the rank and file and the reactionary officialdom is shaking the very foundations of organized labor. The climax has been reached in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Three locals with a combined membership of 30,000 workers have been expelled from the organization.

The officers of locals 2, 9 and 22 have been suspended because in the International and particularly in the New York joint board they have been conducting a fight against the betrayal of the workers interests and against the disruption of the organization.

The policy of Sigman machine backed by William Green president of the A. F. of L., the socialist party with its Jewish Daily Forward, the bosses and an army of hired gangsters and gunmen, is to rule the organization or ruin it. When the capitalists are combining and merging their interest the reactionary officials of the American labor movement are doing everything in their power to prevent the unification of the workers by proceeding methodically and in a high handed manner to disrupt and split the unions.

No Broken Ranks

The 30,000 members of the expelled locals have clearly demonstrated where they stand in the fight that is now going on in the International. They stand solidly behind the left wing and the suspended militant leaders of the rank and file. Every attempt by the use of gangsters and police to break their ranks has failed. The mass revolt that is sweeping the International Ladies Garment Workers Union is indicative of what will soon take place thruout the American labor movement.

When this mass revolt will become general and will have the spirit and determination of the revolt now sweeping the International, then the reactionary officialdom with its policy of class collaboration and craft unionism will be defeated and driven out of the unions.

Wrong Move Hinders

The eyes of the entire American labor movement is focused on what is now taking place in the International. A wrong move on the part of the workers now will greatly hinder the progress of the movement for the rebuilding unification and strengthening of the unions. The Sigman gang of disrupters has so far failed to make a dent in the ranks of the workers who are militantly and aggressively fighting against his disruptive tactics.

This makes it all the more necessary for the workers to guard against any insidious attempt on the part of the reactionaries to fool them into a position where their ranks will become demoralized and their fight dissipated. If this takes place it will result in the reactionary leaders again dominating the organization with their policies. Vigilance and more vigilance is now required of the workers.

Breslau Favors Sigman

Such an insidious attempt on the part of the International machine to fool the workers is the attitude of Breslau, the czar of Local 35. Workers are being fooled into the belief that Breslau does not favor the expulsion policy of President Sigman. This is rather strange. Only a few months ago Breslau, who has the wholehearted support of the Forward, the champion of a thoroughgoing expulsion policy, was opposed to Sigman because he was not aggressive enough in expelling the left wing.

There were many militants who, correctly estimating the Breslau group in the joint board as one of the blackest forces, were inclined to favor Sigman at the time. To expect such a dyed in the wool reactionary labor official to oppose a militant policy of expulsion against the left wing is the high of folly. Breslau is and will continue to be a bitter opponent of the left wing.

Playing a Double Game

While some workers are putting hope in the attitude that Breslau is assuming, Breslau, like Sigman did before, is playing a double game. While maintaining an attitude of hostility to Sigman, his elements in Local 35 are valiantly supporting Sigman in his fight against the militant workers who are being driven from the shops in the desperate attempt of the Sigman machine to defeat the rank and file.

Breslau is a menace and a danger

to the organization and particularly to the fight that the rank and file is now conducting against the attempt to split the organization. Breslau typifies the blackest elements in the labor movement. His methods have been a blot on the record of the International. The workers should not forget his methods of terrorism against the rank and file. He is the tool of the infamous socialist sheet, the Forward.

Give Breslau the upper hand in the International and he will outdo Sigman in a campaign of terror and expulsion against the rank and file. There is not a spark of progressivism in Breslau. He is a craft unionist to the core. To him a union is not a fighting organization for the members who are exploited in the shops but a

TRI-DISTRICT MINE CONVENTION AND LEWIS' DEALINGS THEREIN, PUT UNDER ANALYSIS BY MANLEY

By JOSEPH MANLEY.

Now that the Tri-District (Anthracite) Convention is over and the last echos of the speeches of Lewis and Kennedy are but a memory, one can begin to examine what really happened. In comparison with the last Tri-District Convention held two years ago, where the writer and several companions seated in the gallery of the convention, were made the issue by Lewis to side-track the progressive spirit that was developing alongside the factional fight between Brennan and Cappellini, the convention just held may be rated as having taken some steps along the road to progress.

But as to what kind of progress and what kind of road the miners are being asked to follow under the leadership of John L. Lewis, this convention and what happened therein and in connection with it may prove a guide.

After watching this convention for four consecutive days most of which were consumed by speeches by Lewis of Kennedy, the thot persists—Is American imperialist capital fastening a strangle hold upon the trade union movement? Is its plan to have Lewis, as the secretary of labor in the cabinet of Coolidge, while Green, the servant of Lewis is the President of the A. F. of L.?

Lewis Moralizes.

Lewis, in his speech to the convention on the opening of the second days' session went over the story of the breaking of the Jacksonville agreement. He referred particularly to the repudiation of the agreement by the Consolidation Coal Company and the Pittsburgh Coal Company. Speaking of the former he mentioned John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in the following words:

"A captain of industry in our land, a gentleman of many fine traits of individual and social character, a religious, God-fearing man if you please, namely John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mr. Rockefeller is a large stockholder in the Consolidated Coal Company, and yet, as a stockholder in that company and wielding a great influence, he joins with Colonel Watson in the tearing up of the contract with the United Mine Workers of America. What a great contrast between the private morals and the business morals of a great American citizen."

Of Mellon, he said, in part: "Mr. Mellon is a fine, upstanding citizen, has many admirable traits and qualities, and without question is, perhaps, the greatest secretary of the treasury since the days of Alexander Hamilton. Yet he permits his coal company, the Pittsburgh Coal Company if you please, to violate a contract with the United Mine Workers of America without, in so far as I know, any protest on his part. What a remarkable difference between the private and the business morals of a great captain of industry."

Fine Words About Shut Down.

Almost at the close of his speech Lewis declared: "I have cited the instances and I have named the names of the men responsible for this action, (the breaking of the Jacksonville agreement) and if this situation continues it may be necessary, later on,

business organization that must collaborate with the bosses at the expense of the workers.

A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing

Breslau is coming to the cloakmakers and the dressmakers in false garments. He is a wolf disguised in sheeps' clothing. Once he will be able to fool the workers he will discard his false clothing and show his teeth. Breslau and Sigman are one against the rank and file. The workers must fight them both.

Cloakmakers and dressmakers and militant members of the rank and file of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union should stand loyally by the expelled locals. They should keep up the militant struggle. They should win every shop for the rank and file. It is their duty to get rid of the Breslau-Sigman-Schlessinger disrupters of the union. They should have nothing but contempt for the Jewish Daily Forward and should combat its campaign of calumny and abuse against the fighting members of the International.

By so doing, they will defeat the attempt of the reactionaries, the Forward and the gunmen to disrupt their organization and to throw the workers at the mercy of their exploiters. Their slogan should be: March Forward to victory for a stronger, better and militant International!

to authorize a national shutdown of the mines of this country while the government and the coal operators and the representatives of the mine workers discuss the question of whether the Jacksonville agreement is going to be carried out."

The only fighting note in his speech was for "full recognition of the union and no reduction in wages." This means of course the checkoff.

Following on the heels of this speech made by Lewis at Scranton on Tuesday, a Scranton paper on Wednesday carried a dispatch from its bureau in Washington which indicated that the government was optimistic concerning the coming negotiations on the anthracite scale and that the administration placed "great faith" in Lewis. Parts of this dispatch are worth quoting as they indicate how closely American labor is being bound to the wheels of heavy industry as expressed in republican party politics:

Lewis Is the "Horse" for Government.

"It is understood here (Washington) that the president had practically tendered the post now held by Secretary Davis to John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, and that the latter would now be a member of the cabinet had it not been for the unusual situation developing in the industry in which he is an influential element. Secretary Hoover is declared to have taken the position that it would be unwise to "swap horses" while the operators and the miners were in midstream.

"President Lewis is counted upon by the administration to be a restraining and compromising factor in bringing together the conflicting demands of employers and employees. To a greater degree than perhaps any other labor leader he enjoys the confidence of the white house and members of the cabinet, and the feeling prevails here that he will do his best to have peace maintained in the industry.

Lewis, Confidant of Coolidge.

"While administration spokesmen are extremely reticent in regards to their view of what is a fair compromise of the wage issue, it is expected here that the policy to be pursued by Secretaries Davis and Hoover will follow the program which they urged upon the bituminous miners in April of last year. . . . A tie up at an-