

Chicago Labor Officials Join "Red Baiters"

By ARNE SWABECK

ADOPTING one reactionary policy after another, dictated by its leadership (official and unofficial), the Chicago Federation of Labor has now descended to the level of the red baiting labor fakers who go the capitalist errands. Even a resolution to organize the unorganized met defeat under the flimsy pretext that those who had

Y. W. L. CAMPAIGN AMONG MINERS IS MOVING FORWARD

Progressive Clauses in Union Constitution

By BARNEY MASS

National Industrial Organizer Y. W. L.

In going over carefully the constitution of the United Mine Workers of America, we discover many progressive clauses favorable to youth labor in it. However, John L. Lewis and his gang have made no effort whatsoever to enforce their own constitution.

In article two, under the title of the object of the organization we find the third clause provides for the following: "To provide for the education of our children by lawfully prohibiting their employment until they have reached at least sixteen years of age."

What Has Lewis Done to Carry This Out?

In article XVIII, District 12 constitution, under the heading of "initiation fees," the following clauses are in it effecting the young miner. Section 4, "A member's son from 16 to 17 years of age shall be admitted free." Section 5, provides for "The initiation fee for a member's son from 17 years of age until he has reached 21 years of age shall be \$10." Section 7, "Sons of widows whose husbands were members at the time of their death shall be admitted free provided said son is under 17 years of age; if he has attained his 17th year and has not reached his 21st year, he shall be admitted according to section 5 of this article." Section 10, "The initiation fee for boys not provided for otherwise and who have not attained their 17th year, shall be \$10 and shall be allowed to go to the face of the coal as per state mining law. Such boys who are 17 years of age, or over, shall be admitted as inexperienced bottom laborers as per Section 6, of this article." Sec. 11, "No boy shall be admitted to membership in any Local Union who is under 16 years of age."

There Must be No Discrimination

The Young Workers League of America raises the slogan of free ad-

introduced the question "were not on the square."

For the rank and file workers, who used to take pride in the progressive leadership given by the Chicago Federation of Labor a few years ago, now nothing but a pleasant memory is left. Following the initiative given by William Z. Foster, the Chicago Federation of Labor, became the sponsor of two momentous organization drives—that of the stockyard workers and the steel workers. It even took the first definite steps in leading the working class toward independent political action.

The complete change which has taken place, from a commanding progressive position to a status of submerged identity under the thumb of capitalist politicians, will become clear to the rank and file workers when the present fervor in chasing empty political bubbles passes away.

Non-Partisan Politics Aids Bosses.

The political neutrality policy adopted immediately after the Chicago Federation of Labor had helped to defeat the movement for independent political action by the workers, in dissolving its own creation—the Farmer Labor Party of the United States, became the beginning of a series of logical sequences. The policy of political neutrality is by no means accidental but a definite effort by the leaders who are lackeys of capitalism to divorce the working masses from their class interests. It is no neutrality at all but policies in support of capitalism, the capitalist parties and the capitalist government. It can only lead to a reactionary attitude to all other issues of vital interest to the workers. And so it is but natural that one reactionary policy should follow another.

The political chaos within the labor movement due to these efforts of the labor leaders to blur the class lines is, of course, general thruout the country. In Chicago and the state of Illinois, however, the effect of this political trading has become a classic example. While the official labor bodies endorsed LaFollette, Wheeler and Small, the latter endorsed Coolidge and Dawes. While some labor officials endorsed Sprague, the democratic candidate for United States senator others endorsed Deneen, the republican candidate. While some labor leaders endorsed Igoe, the democratic candidate for state's attorney, others endorsed Hope Thompson, an independent candidate for the same office, and while the Illinois State Federation of Labor made endorsements of 108 different candidates for the state senate and house of representatives, there was but one lone socialist in the bunch and no working class representative.

It is quite clear that such political neutrality is nothing but politics of

the worst kind for the support and maintenance of capitalism. That it adds confusion and division to the working class ranks is of no concern to the labor leaders. Their object is accomplished. If they win in the gamble and their candidates become elected they are in on the division of the spoils, and, at any rate, giving support to ambitious capitalist politicians is generally considered worth something; furthermore, no matter how it turns out, the most important object—that of keeping the workers politically divided is accomplished.

Attack Communists to Shield Own Impotency

To effectively shield these efforts to divert the attention of the rank and file workers from their real class issues and line them up for support of the system of wage slavery the pre-election maneuvers of these labor leaders had to include a vicious attack upon the Communists. Hectic red baiting became the order of the day both in the Illinois Federation of Labor and the Chicago Federation of Labor. When the Workers Party entered the election campaign, making working class power the outstanding issue, the attack became intensified.

When at its last session three resolutions were introduced in the Chicago Federation of Labor coming from Painters Local 275, the resolution committee recommended non-concurrence inasmuch as the resolutions had once been introduced by three Communist delegates, J. W. Johnstone, Arne Swaback and Andrew Overgaard and were tabled. The resolution committee reasoned in its recommendation that such resolutions were presented by ulterior motives for the purpose of furthering Communist propaganda, to harass the labor movement and promote chaos. The committee's recommendation was adopted by Secretary Ed. Nockles speaking in favor dragging the red herring across the trail. Resolutions Offer Practical Solution.

The resolutions were the following: No. 1 pointed to danger of the rapidly developing American imperialism thru the conquest and exploitation of weaker nations; the acceptance of the Dawes plan to enslave the working class of Europe, and the race for new armaments. It called upon the American Federation of Labor to employ all the power and influence of the organized labor movement to compel the American government to withdraw all its military forces now stationed in foreign countries. It also called upon this body to bring the question of American imperialism to the attention of the convention of the Pan-American Federation of Labor for the purpose of uniting all labor forces of the continent for a concerted struggle against the imperialist domination of the American capitalists.

Resolution No. 2, called attention to

the menace of the Ku Klux Klan and called upon the American Federation of Labor to endeavor to secure the support of all international unions and city central bodies to arrange a series of mass meetings and demonstrations for the purpose of condemning the Ku Klux Klan.

Resolution No. 3 called upon the American Federation of Labor to endeavor to unite all its affiliated organizations for a great organization drive in all localities and industries in order to finally bring within the protecting folds of organized labor the masses who still remain outside. Stagnation Prevails Within A. F. of L.

Ed Nockles contended that all these matters had already been taken care of by the American Federation of Labor. However it is a well known fact that it has never done anything to oppose the imperialist efforts of American capitalism, on the contrary it has rather aided these efforts. True it has gone on record to oppose the Ku Klux Klan, but never lifted a finger to actually fight it. And although the American Federation may have several platonic statements to its credit for the organization of the unorganized no efforts have been made to conduct a concerted drive for this object. On the contrary, the domination of the dead hand of Samuel Gompers and the other impotent, stupid international officials, the absolute out of date and ineffective methods of struggle and forms of organization has during the last three years brought constant loss to the trade union movement. At the 1921 convention the secretary reported a loss of membership of 710,893 and at the 1922 convention a loss of 269,167 members. Surely no live trade unionist is in doubt about the need of such organization drive.

The rank and file workers will not be fooled very long by the red baiting activities of the labor officials. They will soon recognize that the Communists are actually leading the way out of the present empty political bubble chasing and toward working class political action. They will soon realize that the Communists are today the only elements fighting actively for the building up and strengthening of the trade union movement and by actual experience it will be demonstrated to them that there is no other solution to the labor problem than the working class revolution.

ROOM FOR RENT FOR A GIRL

Steam heat, all conveniences; reasonable. In a family of comrades. 917 N. Washenaw Ave., 1st floor. Dobrow.

FOR SALE CHEAP!

MERCHANT TAILORING
CLEANING & DYEING SHOP
With Hoffman Pressing and Single Motor Sewing Machine.
D. BLUESTEIN
1123 So. Western Avenue