

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

OCTOBER 13, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

FOOD: Truman Plan Wont Feed Europe or Lower Prices

Stalin "Revives" His International In Reply to U. S.

By ALBERT GATES

The announcement of the "revival" of the so-called Communist International in a meeting held somewhere in Poland and attended by representatives of Russia's puppet states, plus the leaders of the French and Italian Stalinist parties, was treated sensationally in the press.

Although recognizing that this was one of Stalin's weapons in the imperialist conflict so sharply manifested in the UN debates, the capitalist press reacted as though Stalin deceived his former allies in re-establishing a troublesome organization which was previously "dissolved" in order to create a better understanding among the war allies. In this sense, the press reaction was typical: this is the resurrection of the old Communist International, with its revolutionary traditions and its socialist doctrines.

The New York Times, however, was on the right track when it said that the Polish meeting was a far cry from the old Comintern of Lenin and Trotsky. It produced no appeal to the proletariat of the world and no affirmation of the struggle for socialism. There is only an appeal against imperialism and war in behalf of another imperialist power.

The Stalinists of the world seemingly do not attach great importance to the whole business. They assert that the meeting was for the purpose of establishing an "information bureau" and to coordinate the activities of the several Communist Parties of Europe. If the Stalinists of the world do not feel that anything has been "revived" it is because they

know that the Stalinist International was never dissolved—as indeed it never was—but they do understand that the meeting in Poland was of singular importance.

STALINIST LINE

If Stalin's International was never dissolved, why then was this meeting held and why was such special importance attached to it by its Kremlin initiators? The answer to that lies in the nature of world political relations, the daily increasing antagonism between the Russian and American blocs in the UN and the conviction of Stalin (as of the United States) that there is no possibility whatever of reconciling the conflicts between the two imperialist camps.

The Polish meeting was held to give dramatic effect to the coming line of the Stalinists in Europe, to create a more formidable bloc of the puppet states against the U. S. and to put the Stalinist parties in France and Italy on an offensive against the existing governments, which are either the creation of or are maintained by the United States.

It was interesting indeed to note that there were no formal representatives from Austria, Germany and Great Britain. This would seem puzzling at first, but we believe there is a logical explanation for that. The British Communist Party is too small and unimportant in that country to warrant the difficulties that would be created for it in England had it participated in the conference. Germany and Austria are occupied countries with grave internal conditions created by intense poverty and the unbridgeable conflicts between the occupying powers. The astute politicians of the Kremlin undoubtedly realized that the presence of the German and Austrian Communist Parties at the conference would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on Russian strategy in those countries.

But really, what need was there for their presence? The Stalinist leaders of the Stalinist parties in those countries will just as slavishly carry out the decisions of the Polish

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Detroit Flash

Herman Benson, WP candidate for mayor, received 4,637 votes in primary election of total vote for all candidates of 265,000. Lerner, SWP candidate, received 4,469. Full report next week.

Score Philly Judge; Rally Asks Write-in Vote for J. Rader

By FRANK HARPER

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 4—The failure of Republican Judge Harry S. McDevitt to render a decision on the Workers Party's appeal to be reinstated on the ballot forges another link in the conspiracy of the two capitalist parties to bar the ballot to I. Jack Rader, the WP's councilman candidate in the Fifth District.

Since September 26 the notoriously anti-labor head of the Common Pleas Court has failed to act on the evidence presented by Defense Attorney David H. H. Felix in behalf of the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party. Felix's verbal testimony at the hearing last Friday, protesting the high-handed procedure of the Philadelphia County Board of Elections in ruling the two working class groups off the ballot without hearing testimony from the candidates or affiants, was reiterated in written briefs filed this Monday.

Despite the prompt and detailed presentation of the Workers Party's position, Judge McDevitt has not rendered his decision even though two weeks ago the same authority needed but a few moments and very little evidence to sentence the two parties' candidates and affiants to 30-day jail terms for contempt of the Election Board.

Last night the Workers Party campaign manager, Joseph Davidson, announced publicly to the voters of the Fifth District that the Rader for

City Council drive would continue even if the use of the ballot is denied.

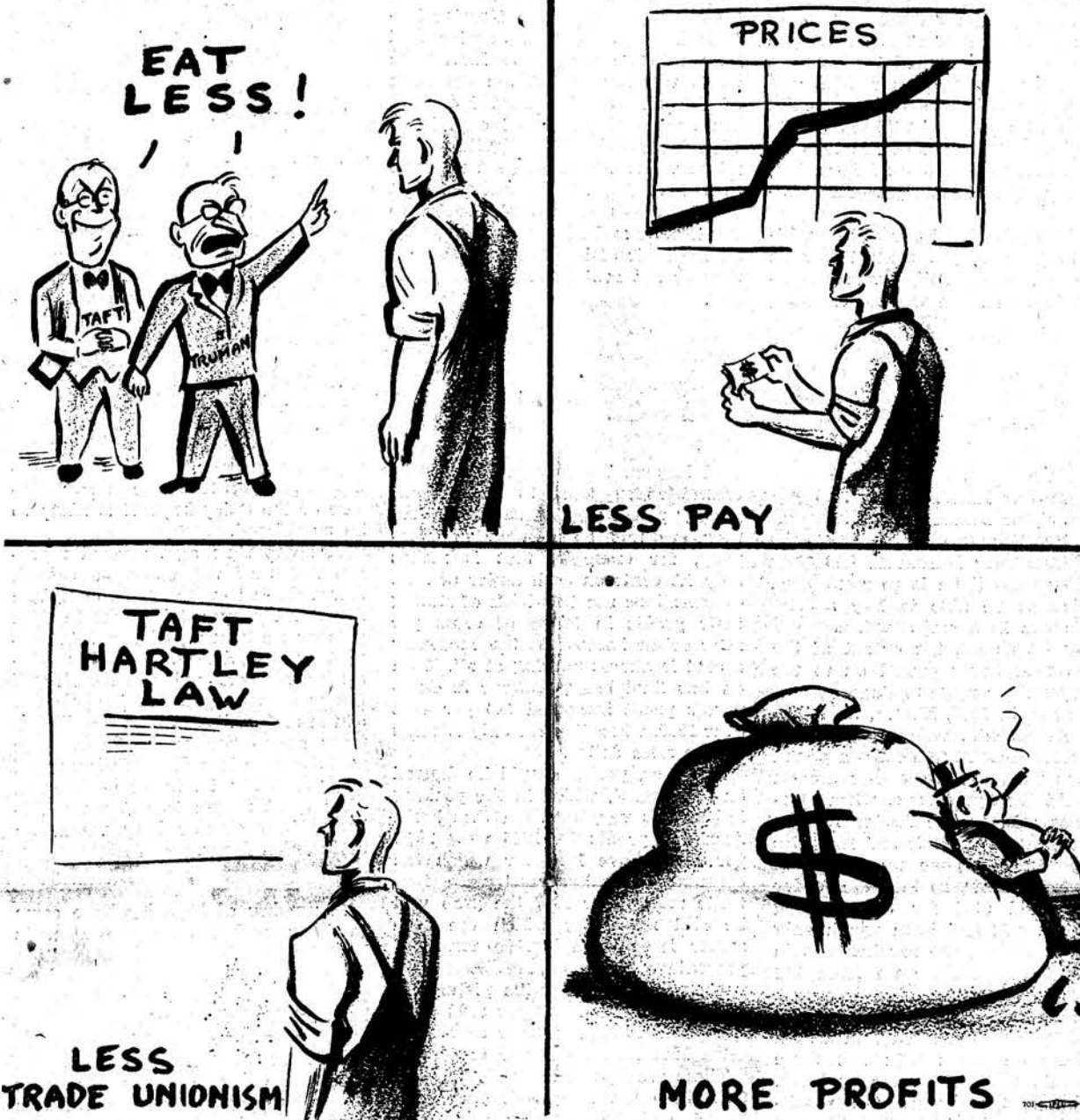
The Workers Party will carry on its election campaign advising the voters who favor independent and labor candidates to write in the name of I. Jack Rader at the polls on November 4. Continuing his address to the Workers Party members and friends attending a social and political rally at Labor Action Hall, Davidson said that the Workers Party urges the working people to vote for a socialist program of peace and plenty for all, of ownership and management by those who work in the factories.

Candidate Rader, emphasizing the program for social change on which he is running, explained that it could only be carried out by a determined and organized working class. That is why the campaign efforts are being directed not so much toward placing Rader in the city office, but in building the Workers Party, in increasing its membership. No race equality, no security is possible for the common people until they own and control the factories and farms.

The candidate extended an invitation to all voters in the election district, who are tired of paying tribute year after year to the rotten, decadent Republican and Democratic ward heebers and their bosses, to join the Workers Party, to be ac-

(Continued on page 2)

Addition and Subtraction



Meat Starts at 5 Cents, Reaches \$1.10 a Pound

By SUSAN GREEN

When those of us who can afford it sit down to a piece of steak for which the price ranges from 90 cents to \$1.10 a pound, we do not stop to think that that bit of meat originated with a little calf on a Western ranch who was worth maybe five cents the pound to the rancher. Between that five cents a pound and an average \$1.00 a pound, between that little calf and the steak, are arrayed five or six different private owners, all out for PROFIT to the tune of what the market will bear.

Readers of LABOR ACTION are acquainted with the program of the Workers Party for cracking the eternal problem of the cost of living. The fight for rationing and price control, says the Workers Party, is a good fight, provided the neighbor-

hood committees of workers and consumers will be the ones to see that these regulations are carried out. But even this type of people's control would not strike at the root of the giant beast of high prices. The root is production for profit in privately owned enterprises, and the root solution is to socialize the food industries under workers' control, so that production for use can replace the profit system.

Today the prices of meat are the most inflated of all. Let us follow the various stages of the production of meat from the little calf to the steak, and see the profit-taking at each stage. Unprecedented profits at every point are responsible for the unbearable prices to the consumer, and show how imperative it is to put food production on a new basis.

The meat we eat today comes from a two-year-old steer who staggered into this world in 1945 as a promising calf on a Western ranch. Kenneth Koyen, imaginative reporter for the New York Herald Tribune, gave the story of a Nebraska steer from the mother's womb to the consumer's table, and interesting indeed are the facts revealed. Mr. Koyen's steer, whom he called Hector, went from rancher to feeder farmer, to slaughterhouse packer, to wholesale jobber, to retailer, to consumer—and the consumer paid for the profits taken all along the line.

According to Mr. Koyen, one pound of Hector cost each of its respective possessors as follows:

Rancher	_____ .05
Feeder	_____ .16

(Continued on page 2)

Chicago Meeting Demands Hickman Freedom

Resolutions Lash City Officials for Criminal Neglect in Housing and in Enforcement of Fire Regulations

CHICAGO, Sept. 29—A mood of genuine human solidarity filled the Metropolitan Community Church yesterday afternoon as a thousand Negro and white men and women, old and young, liberals and radicals, gathered to demand "Free James Hickman!"

The audience and speakers acknowledged that the man to whose defense they had come had actually killed his landlord, David Coleman. But they understood, as well, that ALL guilt in this case lay not on Hickman but on the society in which we live. Underlying this was the tragedy of the four Hickman children burned alive in their tenement attic, innocent victims of the vast social injustices known as "housing crisis" and "greedy landlordism."

From the opening remarks of Preacher Evans, each speaker brought forth his indictment of the vicious society which makes possible

a "Hickman case." Hugh Will, member of the National Planning Commission of the American Veterans Committee; Richard Rober, star of the play, "Call Me Mister"; M. J. Meyer, one of Mr. Hickman's attorneys; Michael Mann, secretary of the Chicago CIO Council and Illinois CIO director—all arraigned the housing shortage and those responsible for it. Henry McGee, president of the Chicago branch of the NAACP, denounced the restrictive racial covenants which so cover Chicago that Negroes may live only in 25 of its 155 square miles, which means that new disasters such as the fire that ravaged the Hickman family are a daily threat. In closing, he demanded that "society no longer bother the Hickman family" by depriving it of its father.

GUILTY—OF DECENCY

Greatest interest of the meeting was centered in the talks of actress

Tallulah Bankhead and author Willard Motley. Miss Bankhead, attending the meeting although ill, was given a standing ovation that brought her to tears on reaching the pulpit. Her excellent talk, viewing both the Hickmans and Colemans as victims of a social tragedy, wherein the setting is poverty and discrimination and greed, ended on the clear-cut note: "I find James Hickman guilty of no crime but a sense of decency."

Willard Motley, author of the new best-selling novel, "Knock on Any Door," a book about the responsibility of ruling society for juvenile delinquency and crime, commented that he, in similar circumstances, would do what Hickman had done. He found that justice is not an abstract question for small people, the liberals and radicals and progressives. In contrast, said Motley, Marshall Field, multi-millionaire and publisher of the Chicago Sun, was a liberal

Prices are high; proper food in adequate quantity and quality is beyond the reach of many people here in the United States. Europe and Asia desperately need food.

In this situation the President's Citizens Committee on Food labored and labored and labored... and brought forth an insult.

With all the resources of this country at their disposal, what are presumed to be the slickest brains available to the government, the Committee and the President, after probing into the situation, were able to produce nothing more than: EAT LESS.

Reporters, notorious for their cynicism, and some of them as reactionary as they come, gasped in astonishment at the conclusion of the first press conference called by Charles Luckman, head of the Citizens Food Committee. The kindest of them observed that Luckman, who is the much-publicized head of Lever Bros., multi-million dollar soap concern, would hardly try to sell Lux by the same feeble methods.

Stalemate Still Governs NMU Convention

By B. RIPLEY

NEW YORK, Oct. 7—The NMU convention, meeting now in New York, continued to be stalemated as this week drew to a close. The contending factions, one led by the Stalinists and the other by President Curran, continued their sparring and the convention has thus far accomplished virtually nothing.

The most serious delay at the convention was caused by the demand of the Stalinists that each of the vice-presidents be permitted to make a separate verbal report. In previous years these reports were incorporated in the president's and secretary's reports. This year, Curran refused to incorporate the report of one of the Stalinist vice-presidents, McKenzie, since it conflicted with his own position. The Stalinists accused Curran of trying to gag them and demanded and obtained the right to present separate verbal reports. Curran, however, pointed out that the reports of each vice-president had already been mimeographed and circulated among the delegates. In spite of this, three sessions of the convention were spent boring the delegates while these already circulated reports were read into the record. The rank and file supported the demand of the Stalinists to be heard in order to prevent the least non-democratic shadow from passing over the convention.

Every proposal that Curran makes is met with suspicion and further delay from the Stalinists. They seek to distort, in typically Stalinist fashion, his every remark. They are endlessly prolonging the convention by lengthy discussion of every minor point, by procedural actions and by abuse of parliamentary privilege.

VOTE DOWN AMENDMENT

On the other hand, the Stalinists accuse Curran of delaying the convention by utilizing the time between committee reports to read communications and receive greetings from fraternal delegations. While it is true that omission of these points might speed up the convention somewhat, the procedure is in accord with the actions of previous conventions.

By this time it is clear, however, (Continued on page 2)

None of them could believe that the Committee could conceivably have so little to offer. Rumor has it that the Committee members recognized that they had nothing to propose and wanted the press conference, as well as the Truman radio address, postponed, but that Luckman insisted on going through with it.

MONSTROUS FRAUD
Think of it: the food situation, both as it affects the majority of the people in the United States through out-of-reach prices and as it affects millions of Europeans and Asiatics through painful want, requires urgent measures of control, supply and distribution. In this situation, the President and the Luckman Committee and the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce and others propose that we eat a slice of bread less a day, that restaurants serve butter and bread only on request, that Tuesdays be meatless and that Thursdays be egg-and-poultry-less.

There is no hint here we cannot produce enough; there is no hint here that profits are the real cause of inflated prices. All they have to say is: the whole thing is YOUR fault. You, the people, eat too much. You eat meat, and eggs and poultry every day of the week. And if you will but substitute fish or cheese or something else on those days, if you will eat poultry on Tuesday instead of Thursday and meat on Thursday instead of Tuesday—then we will have enough wheat to feed the hungry, and prices will somehow come down.

Complete and utter trash! They are judging the people by their own filthy, millionaire standards. Everybody admits that the majority of people are already eating LESS, certainly of meat and butter and eggs. We know that the meat packers, who keep pretty much abreast of these matters because it concerns their sales, hence their profits, estimate that most people NORMALLY have one or more meatless days a week (and that does not include

(Cont. in edit. col., page 3)

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions were passed condemning the city officials for criminal neglect in the housing shortage and neglect in enforcing fire and sanitation ordinances, and demanding the unconditional freeing of James Hickman.

The Hickman Defense Committee, chaired by Willoughby Abner, vice-president of the CIO Council, will continue its efforts to build up support for Hickman's freedom by visiting Mayor Kennelly with its demands and stimulating further interest in the case locally and nationally. Those individuals interested in aiding the committee should send their names to the Hickman Defense Committee, 4619 S. Parkway, together with any funds collected.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Rent Control "Hot Potato" in Detroit

DETROIT, Sept. 28—With Election Day fast approaching, city rent control has been a "hot potato" in Detroit's Common Council for the past six weeks.

On August 17, Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel Paul T. Dwyer presented an opinion to the Common Council that the city had no authority to control rents or evictions.

counsel to draw up a local rent control ordinance, Jeffries succeeded in winning over Councilman Edwards from his resolution by pointing out the fact that "it is very debatable whether a legal municipal control law could be passed."

legislation. He is absolutely opposed to passing a rent control law in September without enabling legislation.

Philadelphia Rally -

(Continued from page 1) tive in the campaign, to attend the WP forums, socials and rallies and the membership meetings on Wednesday evenings, 8:00 p.m., at 1139 West Girard Avenue.

for Negro rights, drew a parallel between the ballot discrimination shown to the Workers Party and the discrimination shown to those of the colored races.

And he categorically refused to put rent control on the agenda of the special session of the Michigan State Legislature called for Monday, September 29.

On suggestion of the Greater Detroit Tenants Council, Jeffries said he would be willing to investigate as to whether or not the landlords of the city deserve rent increases.

The Workers Party, which is composed of and which represents the working men and women, invites all of you to attend its regular weekly membership meetings.

Activity of the Philadelphia branch continues to be based not only on its legal defense on the denial of the ballot and on the court contempt charges, but also on weekly forums and door-to-door contacting and distributions in the election area.

Jeffries said that he would be willing to pass a rent control law in January if the situation was desperate then and there was no enabling

well known. The congressional subcommittee supposed to be "investigating" prices may be satisfied when they are told by Armour & Company, for example, that it makes only 1.8 cents on each dollar of sale.

With the Workers Party

All readers of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class lectures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY.

- AKRON Write to Box 221. BALTIMORE International Fellowship House, 21 West Preston St., 2nd floor. BUFFALO 639 Main St., 2nd floor. CHICAGO 1501 W. Madison Ave., 2nd floor. CLEVELAND WP Branch meets Sundays, 8 p.m. DETROIT 6341 Gratiot, Room 10. LOS ANGELES 3214 So. Grandd Los Angeles 7. LOUISVILLE Write to Robert Durant, Box 1181. NEWARK 248 Market St., Newark 2. NEW YORK CITY CITY CENTER: 114 West 14th St. BRONX BRANCH: Thursday, 8:15 p.m.

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\$1.10 a Pound - -

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Packer .455, Jobber .57, Retailer .69, Consumer 1.10.

Now let us see the extent of the profits thus being passed on to the consumer from stage to stage. At birth in 1945, Hector, an Aberdeen Angus calf, weighed less than 100 pounds and at five cents a pound he was worth to his owner around \$5.00.

These are figures calculated by the CIO from the company's own published statements. The company's percentage for 1947 will soar even higher—the dollar-a-pound meat testifies to that.

Therefore, a \$99 mark-up on each yearling sold to the feeder farmer was not a bad profit for the rancher, not at all, especially when he got only 10.5 cents a pound for the same yearling and in 1947 is getting 25 cents a pound for him—almost 250 per cent above pre-war.

This story of profits as the cause of exorbitant prices can be carried through from the packer to the wholesale jobber, perhaps through a retail jobber to the retailer—but the plot is the same: PROFITS as high as the traffic will bear.

When Mr. Koyen got to the stage when the packers take over to convert Hector into a carcass and prepare him for distribution, his reporting was not as clear-cut as up to that point. He seemed to slide over the profit-take at this point. But the profits of the packing industry are

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Notes on West Coast Labor Movement...

By WILLIAM BARTON SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 3—In their most concerted move to combat the West Coast maritime unions for a long, long time, the Waterfront Employers' Association has completely shut down the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach this week.

penters. To the average worker these maneuverings are not too important in themselves. But they do reflect different approaches to the Taft-Hartley Act, likely to be the most important issue at the convention.

The employers have not only refused to meet with the union but have even refused to consider any government arbitration, as provided in their contract with the longshoremen.

It's amazing how one never stops being amazed. A little item recently appeared in the local press that really adds a new twist to the housing crisis.

The housewives of San Francisco are seriously in revolt against high prices. The lead has been taken by a group of women in the Sunnydale Housing Project who have organized a Council of Shoppers with the immediate plan of staging a one-week boycott of all dairy products.

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Operators Press Speed-up In Coal Mining

By GERALD McDERMOTT The speed-up system is coming to coal mining. Known and hated by factory workers, the time-study system, with the threat of piece work and rate cutting, is being introduced into the coal fields of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky.

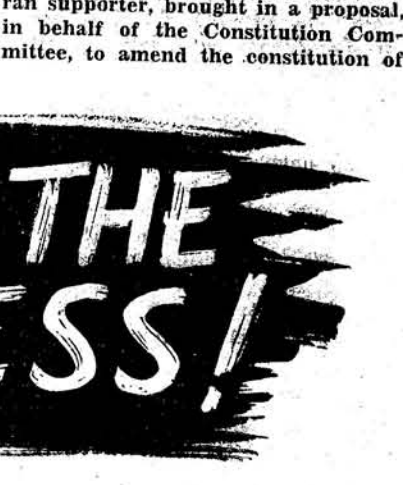
This "efficiency" drive has begun to bring into the coal mines, for the first time, the time-study man and his stop watch. Cutting, loading and other operations are being timed by men who know a lot about getting more work out of workers but know very little about coal mining.

So if the bosses have their way, the great dangers of mining will be increased by making men work faster and faster, when any mistake can mean disaster. Already bosses in some Pitt Consol mines are offering prizes to crews that break production records.

NMU Convention - -

(Continued from page 1) that the onus for delaying the convention rests with the Stalinists. They undertake these actions in the hope that the rank-and-file delegates, unaccustomed as they are to the tedious sessions of the convention, will become disgusted and return to sea, while their own forces, held together by the CP machine, will remain at the convention.

the union to bar "religious, political or any other organization" from interfering in the affairs of the NMU. The resolution was defeated by a vote of 372 to 314.



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BY IRVING HOWE 5¢ In Bundles of 25 or More, Three Cents per Copy Order from: WORKERS PARTY PUBLICATIONS 4 Court Square Long Island City 1, N. Y. (All Orders Must Be Prepaid)

However, the Constitution Committee has brought in a number of proposals that would serve to extend the democratic base of the union by giving policy-making power to a rank-and-file referendum of the union.

Today Curran, in a surprise move, shocked the convention by proposing that an election for all national offices be held immediately following the convention, and that all national officers tender their resignations as of that date.

All the activity at the convention thus far has indicated that there is a large group of rank and filers standing between the contending factions and seeking a positive solution of the present stalemate.

