

Mass Actions Herald Coming Crisis in Italy

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WALLACE CANDIDATE SWEEPS ELECTION

What Labor Must Fight For Now

An Editorial

The break in commodity market prices should alert American labor to the danger of depression.

We CAN say with certainty, however, that the drop in commodity market prices will bring no immediate significant fall in the cost of living.

As a matter of fact, certain food prices are still rising. Many fresh vegetables and fruits are now selling for two and three times the prices of a year ago.

Non-agricultural commodity prices are still up. Price boosts have been announced for many products, from automobiles to men's suits.

This all points to one thing: There must be no let-down in labor's drive to restore real wages to the level of the spring of 1946.

Hand-in-hand with the fight for higher wages should go an immediate drive for measures to protect the workers against unemployment.

Reports from all parts of the country reveal what the Wall Street Journal has called "creeping unemployment."

Several hundred thousand Detroit auto workers have suffered layoffs for weeks. Now 35,000 Ford workers face a layoff of at least three months because of model changes.

An estimated 14 million workers were unemployed for some period during 1947. This year, depression or not, many more millions will suffer periods of unemployment.

RIGHT NOW THE DEMAND SHOULD BE RAISED FOR THE 30-HOUR WEEK AT 40 HOURS PAY AND FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EQUAL TO TRADE UNION WAGES

Why should the hereditary billionaire Henry Ford II be able to lay off half his River Rouge workers whenever he claims he hasn't enough work for them?

Why should laid off workers be forced to exist on present unemployment insurance pittance? Let the jobless worker be assured a decent living standard by receiving unemployment compensation equal to his weekly union wages.

Dan Hoan Enters Mayoralty Race In Milwaukee

Boulton Denounces Turncoat Socialist

Interest in Milwaukee's mayoralty election increased with the announcement of Dan Hoan that he would bow to "popular demand" and become a candidate.

In a speech given the day after Hoan's announcement, James E. Boulton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, lashed at Hoan's record of betrayal of the working class.

The immediate loser because of Hoan's action will be Frank Zeidler, the last vote-getter left to the dying Socialist Party.

Because he is the only candidate endorsed by and responsible to a party organization, Boulton's campaign is meeting with great interest from thousands of Socialist workers.



Thomas B. McCabe, reactionary Republican Philadelphia banker and president of the Scott Paper Co.

Unemployment in Detroit



Thousands of auto workers jammed Detroit's Unemployment Compensation Commission offices to pick up jobless pay checks after many factories closed down because of a fuel shortage that followed the recent cold spell.

Steel Union Heads Give No Lead in Wage Drive

Philip Murray has informed the steel corporations that he is ready to accept any crumbs they may offer in wage negotiations.

That is the meaning of his demonstrative declaration on Feb. 16 that the steel union will not strike to enforce its forthcoming wage demands.

Murray emphasized that "we do not propose to abridge, set aside or undermine our collective bargaining agreement" which contains a no-strike clause operative until April 30, 1949.

Now Murray seems to be planning to make the same sort of deal, although it would take not less than a 30-cent an hour basic wage increase to compensate for the rise in living costs since the last contract was signed.

Murray's Executive Board, while previously calling for a "substantial" wage increase, has not specified

the exact amount desired. Murray has refused to intimate whether any specific demand will be raised in the "wage report" to be issued by the Wage Policy Committee after it acts on the Executive Board's proposals.

What the Steelworkers demand, how they go about getting their demands and what they finally accept will have a significant bearing on the wage fight of the other CIO unions.

Murray's pronouncement comes at the very time the Chrysler workers are entering negotiations for a 30-cent basic wage raise, plus five cents in welfare demands.

If the CIO workers are to make substantial wage gains, they will have to compel the top CIO leaders to adopt a unified strategy of militant action that will make the full power of the CIO felt in dealing with the corporations.

A New Kind Of Party

Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the Stalinist Party gives the low down on exactly what the Wallace third party is.

Murray Steps Up Attacks Against Stalinists in CIO

CIO President Philip Murray for the first time has made a public attack on CIO supporters of Henry Wallace—principally the Stalinists—and opponents of the Marshall Plan.

His open declaration of warfare was made in a vitriolic address on Feb. 10 to the Cleveland convention of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers.

Although, as is his custom, Murray named no names in his speech, there was no mistaking his target and intent.

Murray harangued against any third party "at this time" and accused the pro-Wallace elements of splitting and dividing the labor movement and paving the way for the election of reactionaries this November.

Murray also charged that the Marshall Plan opponents are "misrepresenting" his "purpose" in supporting the Marshall Plan.

Murray's choice of the IUMSWA convention as the arena for his first open attack on third party advocates in the CIO was not accidental.

The IUMSWA, down to a shadow because of postwar shipyard layoffs, is being built up as a catch-all for split-off groups from Stalinist-controlled unions and new unions that Murray wants under his own thumb.

The right-wing CIO leaders—and the top AFL leaders are no different—are acting as agents of American imperialism. They are slavishly following the guidance of the U. S. State Department.

They assail government direction of unions in Russia, but are themselves stooges of the Truman regime, attempting to tie the CIO to Wall Street's foreign policy.

Isacson Victory Shows Disgust With Old Parties

By Albert Parker

NEW YORK, Feb. 18—Clouds of gloom settled over Democratic Party national headquarters and the White House last night as their candidate for Congress from the 24th District in the Bronx went down to crushing defeat by the Wallace-endorsed candidate of the American Labor Party.

The political wise-acs had marked down a victory for the Democrats as a sure thing in this district that has been controlled by Boss Flynn for decades.

But Isacson got 56% of the 40,000 votes cast yesterday, against 31% for the Democrats, 9% for the Liberal Party, and 4% for the Republicans.

Thus the ALP rolled up more votes than the other three parties combined, surprising even its own leaders.



Ferdinand C. Smith

DESPERATE SITUATION The Democrats are now in a desperate situation, and sentiment is sure to grow among them for a deal to regain Wallace's support.

It was notable in Wallace's reply three days later that he did not explicitly reject this appeal, even though he continued his attacks on the Democratic Party.

The FBI action against Smith is especially dangerous, because Smith is a leader of the Stalinist faction inside the NMU, which is conducting at present a sharp factional struggle against NMU President Curran and his faction.

The FBI agents, acting on direct orders of Attorney General Tom Clark, perpetrated their most brazen action to date in the current witch hunt drive.

The arrest of Smith—the 23rd hysteria—must serve as a warning signal to the entire labor movement.

The whole labor movement must now rally, not only to defend Smith, from FBI persecution, but to smash the foul FBI conspiracy to deport alien unionists and terrorize the whole working class.

State Department Interferes in CIO Affairs

Direct evidence has come to light that the U. S. State Department is intervening in affairs of the American labor movement and is actively influencing internal policies of the Murray leadership in the CIO.

This evidence is contained in a Washington dispatch by Louis Stark, veteran labor news correspondent, in the Feb. 11 N. Y. Times.

The State Department, Stark disclosed, recently demanded from top CIO officials an "explanation" for the action of Paul Schnurr, secretary of the San Francisco CIO Council, because he wrote officials of French and Italian labor unions that the Taft-Hartley Act is "the domestic program of American imperialism which now attacks free trade unions in the European countries as well."

When top CIO leaders found out about Schnurr's letter, "they began an inquiry," Stark writes, "in the midst of which they were asked

by the State Department for an explanation of the incident."

This high-handed intervention by the State Department should have been sternly repudiated by the CIO leaders. Instead they bowed and scraped, and hastened to assure their State Department bosses that they had already dealt with the offending member.

The CIO top leadership's "State Department unionism" has become a crying international scandal, particularly in connection with their support of American imperialism's aid to the bloody monarchical dictatorship in Greece.

passed when the Greek government on Dec. 8, 1947 passed its own version of the Taft-Hartley Act WHICH INCLUDED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR STRIKERS.

But for nearly two months the CIO leaders kept silent about the fascistic anti-labor decrees in Greece. Finally, after they were subjected to much pressure, the CIO Executive Board on Jan. 22 voted to request the U. S. State Department to lodge a protest against the Greek death-to-strikers law.

Murray's chief concern, his letter makes plain, is lest such a flagrant demonstration of the anti-labor character of the Greek government "diminish the support among American industrial workers" for the Marshall Plan.

Actually, when the Stalinist and anti-monarchist labor leaders won the union elections in 1946, the Greek government promptly "invalidated" the elections.

March, has chosen a responsible National Executive for the Greek Labor movement."

This means that when the Greek despotism has murdered enough leaders of the Greek workers and fully reorganized the Greek Confederation of Labor under control of its own stooges, then the government might repeal the death-to-strikers law.

The CIO leaders are now trying to apply a new coat of whitewash to the Greek dictatorship.

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Clinton Golden reached the heights of cynicism in his answer to a protest sent by a CIO Tobacco Workers official to the arrest of Antonios Ambatielos, head of the Greek Confederation of Maritime Workers, who faces a death sentence. Golden said: "Those trade unionists and others who desire to cast their lot with the Communists must assume whatever risk goes along with such actions."

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