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The Outlook For U. S. Labor In '52 Elections

An Editorial

What is the American labor movement going to do in the 1952 elections? According to the AFL Executive Council, labor may just sit it out.

"If the Democrats don't come up with decent candidates," the Council stated after its Montreal meeting earlier this month, then labor will just reserve its support, and let the politicians see if they can win without labor's active aid.

The AFL officers are peeved with their Democratic political allies. "They conclude we have no place else to go," says the AFL Council. But these clever tacticians have a place to go. For the time being the AFL political strategists will go to their tents and sulks.

CIO leaders, on the other hand, have no such "drastic" action in mind. They plan to go ahead supporting the Democrats who have stabbed labor in the back, insulted the labor officials, betrayed their promises, and worst of all, ignored the bleats of protest from the union heads.

The workers have nothing to gain from these two "programs" for '52. Both are completely hopeless as a political outlook for labor at a time when politics is decisive in solving basic problems.

Today all roads lead to government: whether it is wages, organizing drives, taxation, prices, adjustments of the cost of living index, housing, or race discrimination. The main power used by the corporations today against the working class to frustrate its demands is the power of government.

The government made up of Democratic and Republican political hacks of the old-line parties is anti-labor to the core. Labor has no real political representation at Washington. It can only beg for favors.

What the Leaders Want

But this state of affairs suits the union bureaucrats. By lobbying for favors they fulfill to some extent their personal interests; they get appointed to many third-line governmental jobs, are sent all over the world to sell imperialism, and in the process they "better" themselves economically and socially.

In exchange for these favors, the union "statesmen" block expression of the independent political power of the organized labor movement. After the walkout from all government posts Feb. 18, they crawled back into the Truman administration as flunkies to serve as "window dressing," accepting a few minor posts as payment for this betrayal.

They thought the program adopted by their own United Labor Policy Committee just as Truman reneged on the "Fair Deal" promises of his 1948 campaign.

Thus the labor bureaucracy, pursuing its narrow interests as a privileged group, functions as an agent of the capitalist class in the workers' ranks. Company unionism in politics must be met head on. This can only be done by getting rid of this bureaucracy and building a new leadership from the union ranks. The first step along this road is the organization of a national left wing movement in the unions which can bring enough pressure to bear upon the leaders to force them to act in labor's interests.

The 1952 campaign is on. The AFL leaders threaten to sit it out. However, this is not to be taken seriously. They are only freeing their hands to maneuver for a few more concessions. They will be on the bandwagon of one or the other capitalist party when the chips are down.

The CIO plans an "all-out" campaign for '52 in the same pattern that produced the "terrible" 80th Congress, the "worse" 81st Congress and the still worse 82nd Congress. The result can only be continued blows against labor.

An Independent Labor Party

The only other road open to the union leadership is the formation of an independent political party of labor. This alternative was posed after the ULP withdrawal last February: Back to the Truman administration, or forward to a labor party. They dared not take the road forward.

For years the AFL hierarchy fought against the mounting demands by the workers for industrial unions in the mass production industries. Only when the pressure from below became irresistible did a section of the AFL bureaucracy decide to move.

The subsequent stormy development of the CIO, especially in the auto and rubber industries, left a fearful impression on the present union leaders. The militant actions of these workers, the new leadership they created and the violent struggles in these dynamic unions, were not to the taste of these conservative-minded office-holders.

If the American workers were organized on the political field, their great power and militancy would be even harder to control. Their demands would inevitably be far-reaching. The union leaders would rather depend upon "friends" among capitalist politicians than be politically accountable to a dynamic labor party.

That is why the struggle for a labor party today must take the form of a fight for a new leadership in the unions, just as the fight for industrial unionism had to be conducted not only against the corporations, but against the conservative union heads. A new left wing in the unions with its foremost objective a labor party, can and will crack the conservative crust of the union bureaucracy and break the existing stalemate in politics. That is the task ahead.

MYRA WEISS TO SPEAK ON COAST-TO-COAST TOUR

A coast-to-coast tour by Myra Tanner Weiss, outstanding Socialist campaigner in the 1951 Los Angeles city elections, will begin Friday, Sept. 7 in Newark, N. J., and conclude with the Anniversary

at Los Angeles. She played a prominent role in organizing the agricultural workers of California during the thirties, and was a member of the AFL Cannery Workers Union. She served as a delegate to the founding convention of the Seafarers' International Union, and also to the California State AFL Convention.

Mrs. Weiss is Chairman of the Los Angeles Local of the Socialist Workers Party, and a member of the SWP National Committee. She has been SWP candidate for Congress, Mayor and Board of Education in Los Angeles, and received 18,752 votes in the 1951 city elections there.

After her tour opening in Newark on Sept. 7, Mrs. Weiss will go on to Boston on the 8th, New Haven on the 9th, and be in New York on Friday, Sept. 14 after which she begins her westward swing, going first to Philadelphia for a meeting on Sept. 15. A full tour schedule is to be found on Page 2.

Myra Tanner Weiss was born 34 years ago in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she attended the University of Utah before going on to the University of California

Call a Halt to the Korea War Bring the Troops Home Now



Brutal Policemen Murder Helpless Trenton Negro

A Negro veteran of World War II was killed by police in Trenton Aug. 19 as he tried to prevail upon the cops to stop bludgeoning his mother. Robert Kelly, 26, was shot to death by police who had been intimidating him and his brothers for over a year, ever since police questioned him in connection with an auto accident and found his "attitude" not to their liking.

The cops who killed Kelly have been defended by their acting

Police Chief, James Di Louie. Among these uniformed killers were detectives William Stanley and Henry Miller, both involved in the Trenton Six case. Di Louie, speaking of the accounts of the murder given by witnesses, said: "Naturally, they're going to stick together with this Moore of the NAACP. He's the one stirring up all the trouble."

Di Louie was referring to Clifford Moore, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People in Trenton, and also attorney for two acquitted defendants in the recent frame-up trial of the Trenton Six.

FREEDOM TO KILL

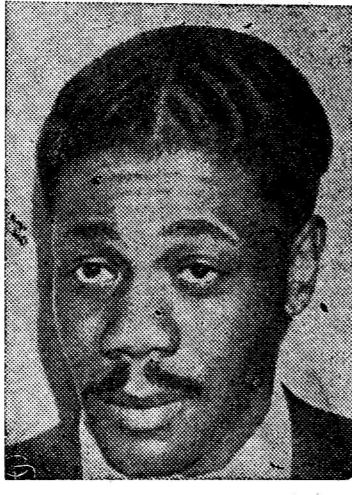
Chief Di Louie's vicious reference to Attorney Moore can only be taken to mean that the Trenton police, bitter over the blow-up of the lynch scheme in the case of the Trenton Six, want freedom

to kill, maim and frame Negro victims without being hampered by defense counsel for their victims. Moore stated he will take the case to the U.S. Attorney General.

Witnesses report that a prowl car sought to make a peaceable group of Negroes move off a street corner near the segregated Federal housing project where the Kelly family lives. When they protested, the cops used this as a pretext to arrest someone they thought was Robert Kelly. When Kelly's mother intervened, and told them their victim was not Kelly at all, they began to beat her. When Kelly interfered, pleading with the cops not to beat his mother, they shot him.

The police arrested five witnesses, including two of Kelly's brothers, and Mrs. Kelly was sent to the hospital with head and back injuries.

Trenton Two



Above are the Trenton Two, frame-up victims in the famous trial of the Trenton Six. While four of the defendants were acquitted, Collis English (at top) and Ralph Cooper were found guilty. The case is being appealed to the higher courts by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Princeton Defense Committee.

CEASE-FIRE TALKS BREAK UP AFTER 43 DAYS; U. S. NEGOTIATORS STALL

Forty-three days of repeatedly deadlocked cease-fire negotiations in Korea have led to another deadlock, proving that peace will not come to Asia by that road.

The first steps toward peace in the Far East would be to withdraw the U.S. armed forces and bring the American boys back home at once. That is what the Asian peoples want. That is what the American people want. That is what everyone, with the exception of the ruling clique of American monopolists and the Pentagon militarists, wants.

THE POOR PEOPLE PAY FOR RICH MAN'S WAR IN SENATE TAX SCHEME

It's a rich man's war, but the poor man has to pay for it. That is the truth about the new tax bills in preparation in both the House and Senate.

A new tax proposal announced by the Senate Finance Committee which would cut the total tax hike to \$412,000,000 less than the House bill, would, like the House bill, lay the heaviest burdens upon low income families.

increase the tax of a \$1,000 a year income by \$10 a year. But the tax on a million-dollar-a-year income would not be increased a single penny by the Senate bill. The House bill would leave such a millionaire \$100,000 a year to take care of the necessities of life.

According to the Senate committee, the House bill was unreasonably "rough" on the middle and high income groups. This bill would apply a straight 12 1/2 percent increase in taxes on all incomes. Such an across the board tax makes further drastic reductions in the purchasing power of the already hard-pressed wage workers, while leaving the high income groups plenty of money to buy their steaks and chops.

SINCE KOREA Since the Korea war began, more than \$10 billion have been lopped off the incomes of the mass of wage workers. But the new tax bills in preparation would be even rougher on the common people.

As the costs of the Korean war and all-out war preparation mount, the people will pay. The big corporations will continue to get back their taxes in the form of new plants and equipment paid for in tax rebates.

While the monopolists are guaranteed cost-plus profits in the new Defense Production Act, workers wages are frozen. On top of a rent hike of 20 percent provided in this Act, and price rises which government officials predict will reach 10 percent in the next year, higher taxes will take an even bigger bite into the pay envelopes of the American workers.

For a married couple with two dependents with a \$4,000 a year income, the tax now is \$320. The House bill would take \$360, and the Senate bill would take \$358. Thus, the Senate bill would save the family two dollars a year.

With Big Business controlled Democrats and Republicans unchallenged by a genuine labor voice in Congress, the shameless robbery of the people will go on. Only a new Congress, made up of labor representatives elected by a Labor Party, can stop the price-tax steal.

For a single person, both the House and Senate bills would in-

The Militant has stated from the beginning that American troops should be withdrawn from Korea; they had no business there in the first place. The present breakdown of cease-fire negotiations has shown that this is the only way to achieve peace in Asia, to guard against the spread of the Korean War, and the outbreak of World War III.

The peoples of Asia will no longer tolerate any foreign intervention. The day of the so-called "white man's burden" in Asia is definitely over. Troops of foreign intervention cannot be maintained in that portion of the globe without continuous and bitter warfare. The Asian peoples, held down for so long by foreign imperialisms are moving out on their own at last.

The fallacy behind the cease-fire negotiations as conducted by Washington is that they have been carried on with the very same end in view as the war itself. The conferences, like the war, were intended to see to it that U.S. troops stay in Korea, and that these troops occupy the strongest possible military positions.

But the true situation is that either warfare or peace negotiations which are based upon the presence of foreign occupying armies in Asia must end in failure. The Asian peoples will never stand for it, and the American people are opposed to it.

DELIBERATE STALL

Truce negotiations which broke down last week have been deliberately stalled by the U.S. negotiators. The Chinese proposed that all non-Korean armies be withdrawn from Korea and the people of Korea be left to decide their own fate. The U.S. generals demanded instead that American armies stay in Korea, and even that the native Asian armies withdraw from their present positions and yield more of their own native land to the intervening army! Should negotiations begin again, the same problem would exist.

Pentagon policy in the Far East is guided at the present time by the imperialist idea of maintaining large military forces in Korea, Japan, in Pacific islands throughout the region, and maintaining a powerful fleet and air force in Asian waters and the Asian sky. The coming Japanese treaty conference, which opens in San Francisco on Sept. 4, will be bludgeoned into approving a pact that guarantees this Pentagon objective. For this reason, the U.S. truce team at Kaesong has been deliberately stalling negotiations. They apparently have been instructed not to arrive at a peace agreement that might remove warlike tension at least during the period of the San Francisco conference.

BEHIND THE DEADLOCK

This stalling by the U.S. was confirmed by the Wall Street Journal, which carried a dispatch from Washington on Friday, Aug. 17 appraising the truce deadlock as follows: "The U.S. reaction is to demand more than we expect the Communists ever to concede. Barring a complete cave-in by the Reds, the State Dept. would prefer no cease-fire deal until after the San Francisco conference ends."

Pentagon stalling designed to build up imperialist strength in the Far East can never bring peace. Bring the troops back home! That's the way to end Korean fighting.

What Truman Could Do If He Really Opposed the Witch-Hunt

In an article entitled: "Give us deeds, not words in the fight on McCarthyism," I. F. Stone, columnist for the N. Y. Compass says: "President Truman's favorite rejoinder, every time the Russians speak of peace, is to ask them for deeds, not words. I would like to see Mr. Truman give us deeds, not words, in the fight against McCarthyism."

The liberal columnist points out that Truman's civil liberties record is as bad, if not worse, than that of his Republican opponents whom he attacks. In 1947, Truman opposed a Republican bill for loyalty procedures for Government employees, but he himself "wrote an executive order establishing such procedures which was less fair to government employees than the Republican bill to which he objected." Truman has said repeatedly that he would never allow another "alien and sedition law" but he himself has instructed his attorney general to initiate the deportation raids against aliens and the seditious-conspiracy trials.

"2. MR. TRUMAN CAN RE-INSTATE JAMES KUTCHER. Like Miss Bailey, Kutchler's job was far removed from any contact with security matters. He was a \$45-a-week clerk in the Veterans' Administration in Newark. He is a Purple Heart veteran who lost both his legs in combat in Italy. The ground for his discharge was his admitted membership in the Socialist Workers Party.

undisclosed, evidence, 'guilt by association' and the smearing of whole organizations without a hearing."

"3. MR. TRUMAN SHOULD REVISE THE EXECUTIVE ORDER GOVERNING LOYALTY INVESTIGATIONS. The procedure he established does exactly what he attributes to McCarthyism. It permits conviction on

In a follow-up column the next day, Stone showed how Truman's executive order is worse than McCarthy-McCarran legislation. In his 1948 political campaign Truman made a big point of his civil liberties program. But he has not taken a single step to carry out the promises he made to fight for preservation of the constitutional rights of the people.

Instead Truman himself initiated the drastic government purge of Federal employees, in which the smear tactics, later copied by McCarthy, were first used. And it is Truman who is responsible for the Palmer-raid type of wholesale arrests and indictment of Stalinist leaders, imprisoning people for their ideas alone.

The hounding of all critical opponents of U.S. government policies was begun by Truman, and it is being continued by him and his administration.

