

FORWARD FOLLOWS MILSTEIN IN DISCOVERING THAT THE T. U. E. L. HAS AN OFFICE WITH A DOORWAY

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

In the Forward of June 24, a certain Seskind ran a lurid story of a supposed "secret" meeting of fur workers in the Trade Union Educational League, and making wild charges against the left wing in general and myself in particular. The whole yarn is a tissue of misrepresentations, typical of the bankruptcy of the right wing leadership in the Chicago needle trades unions for whom Seskind is a spokesman.

Seskind, in his manufactured story, carefully ignores the real state of affairs in the local Furriers' Union. The business agent is Milstein. He is a typical reactionary. So much so that even the present international president, Schachtman, who is himself anything but progressive, was compelled to support the organization of the present progressive group in the Chicago Furriers' Union a year or so ago to oust Milstein, whom he at that time denounced.

Courting Trouble.

Now Milstein is standing before a new election in the union. His plan is to arbitrarily eliminate the opposition. He is proceeding to do this with methods popularized by Kauffman in New York, to the latter's undoing. He has set up a little reign of terror in the union, marked with removals of left wingers from office, the placing of others on "probation," sluggings, etc. He wants to so cripple the progressives that they cannot put up a ticket against him in the coming election. He worries little about the interests of the organization meanwhile.

The natural result of Milstein's tactics, a further example of which was to have an employer representing the union in negotiation with other employers, was to develop a militant opposition. The membership are in protest against Milstein's policy. Now comes the "secret" meeting, which Seskind talks about. This did not happen.

We, in the T. U. E. L. office, one day recently, were surprised at the sudden appearance of Milstein and a

gang of his followers. It being after work hours, there were a number of union men of various trades in the office, some needle workers among them. The doors of the office were open and Milstein came in as might anyone having business there.

Left by Request.

He and his crowd were quite evidently bent on being "rough." But, after seeing their reception, they deemed that this might not be altogether profitable. They considered discretion the better part of valor, and withdrew by request. This is the story of the "secret" meeting. The way Seskind twists and distorts it indicates the extent to which the bureaucracy is hard put to find arguments against the left wing in the Furriers' Union.

Seskind makes a number of sneering allusions that the left wing is injuring the union in the coming strike. Such slanders do not merit a detailed reply. Suffice to say that in the struggle now before the union the left wing does its duty to the utmost. It is Milstein and his crowd, with their stupid persecution of the left wing and the denial to them of membership in all of the strike committees, who are weakening the morale of the union.

The strike of the New York Furriers shows how the left wing leads a struggle. The left wing in Chicago will make the same kind of a fight, in spite of the opposition of Milstein. The latter should study carefully what happened to Kauffman. Then he would realize the natural result of his own policies.