

COMPROMISERS CONTROL PENNSY F.-L. CONVENTION

Vote To Send Delegates To Cleveland Meet

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(Special to The Daily Worker)

ALLENTOWN, Pa., May 16.—The Farmer-Labor convention closed here after a terrific seven-hour battle which resulted in the defeat by the official machine of the resolution calling for delegates to the June 17th convention in St. Paul, altho the temper of the convention was markedly in favor of the June convention rather than the July 4th at Cleveland, and four of the seven state Executive Committee elected were for June 17th.

The DAILY WORKER was exhibited and the "red" cry was raised by the official machine, led by Chairman Kutz, who succeeded in clouding the issue and getting over the officials' program of endorsement for July 4th.

Resolutions Committee Leads

Offensive.

The resolutions committee appointed by Chairman Kutz, a member of the Fitzpatrick Farmer-Labor party, would not accept the resolutions for St. Paul and condemned the July 4th convention. The committee submitted a substitute resolution to send delegates to Cleveland and not to affiliate with a national body without action from the state convention.

Delegate Kushnie, of the resolutions committee, submitted a minority report in favor of June 17th and against the July 4th convention. Practically every delegate spoke on the question during the succeeding debate.

Pat Toohey, a miner, opened the fight for St. Paul. It was really a magnificent sight to see the 18 year old miner standing in the center of the large, luxurious convention hall, giving the old-timers an excellent lesson in politics. His speech was met with general applause.

He was followed by Delegate Mark, vice-president of District 2, United Mine Workers, who spoke for the majority report. Not a single delegate dared applaud him, so strong was the sentiment for June 17th. He had to admit he had nothing against St. Paul.

Fred Merrick, in an eloquent speech, made it clear that the leaders of the July 4th group are against independent political action and that the convention is called to sabotage rather than to form a Labor Party.

Speaker after speaker spoke in favor of June 17th, with the exception of a few union officials who defended July 4th.

Resort to Red Tricks.

The official machine saw its defeat, when Lever, of the Machinists' union, and a half-baked progressive, came to the rescue by proposing a compromise to send delegates to both conventions. Up to that time Lever opposed June 17th.

The radicals refused to compromise. Then the officials began a campaign against Communism, exhibiting the DAILY WORKER as proof of their foul contentions. Chairman Kutz refused to recognize numerous objections against the attempt to obscure the issue by dragging Communism into the debate.

Before closing the discussion, the chairman decided to resort to a tactic usually applied by union officials in critical moments, by making a most vicious and false report of what happened at the July 3rd convention and pointing out that, as part of the national Farmer-Labor Party, this convention must send delegates to the July 4th convention.

Roll Call Impossible.

Chairman Kutz would not allow Fred Merrick and other delegates to make corrections to his misstatements, and succeeded in putting over his trick.

The Lever group joined hands with the reactionaries and jointly defeated the June 17th proposition by vote of 32 to 21. Roll call was impossible as no list of the delegates was available.

The same delegates who voted for July 4th, turned down a resolution condemning Pinchot for failing to keep his promise to pardon political prisoners. The so-called "progressive" Lever of Philadelphia politely refrained from voting on this resolution.

A resolution proposed by Fred Merrick, on the Pittsburgh car strike, was unanimously adopted.

The same officers were re-elected and a state executive committee of seven. Four of these had stood solidly for June 17th, which illustrates the sentiment of the convention.