

SOUTH ILLINOIS DELEGATES FOR LEWIS RECALL

Plan to Keep Up Fight to Reinstate Howat

By MAX SHACHTMAN

(Special to The Daily Worker)

CHRISTOPHER, Ill. — The impeachment of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and the reinstatement of Alexander Howat into the union by the calling of a special international convention will soon be the primary issue in the locals of the United Mine Workers, according to statements made to me by returned delegates to the convention of the union which has just been adjourned at Indianapolis.

Richard Swift, delegate from Local 3613, Valier, Ill., and executive committee member of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party, declared that Lewis had refused to give Howat a hearing to which any expelled member of the union is entitled.

"The convention was a step forward only in the sense that President Lewis showed himself up by not allowing the men who had grievances to give their views and side of the case to the real pick men, the miners. Especially is this true on the Howat case. I believe that my local will be for this special convention which was the demand of the more than 1,100 delegates who remained after Lewis had arbitrarily adjourned the convention."

Milton Cochran, a young delegate from Local 1782, Royalton, Ill., also stated that he was in favor of a special convention.

"Howat was not dealt fairly with," he said, "and I'm for a convention to take up his case fairly."

Similar opinions were expressed by delegates Hisaih Winn and A. Parker, both of Valier, Ill., and by "Baldy" Jim Myrick of Royalton.

Swift, speaking on the convention action with regard to allowing Lewis to continue with his power of appointing organizers, said:

"We had the majority vote on that question against leaving the appointive power to Lewis, but they refused to recognize us as a majority. While the roll call was being taken, Savage, district president of Ohio, caucused with his delegates and instructed them to vote with the administration. This was done in the face of the union rule that no convention delegate is to be intimidated into voting one way or the other on any question. The same thing, however, was done with the delegates from West Virginia, Oklahoma, Maryland, Iowa, District One of Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Arkansas and Missouri. Oklahoma was divided on the question."

It was the general opinion among the delegates interviewed and the miners of Ziegler, Christopher, West Frankfort and other southern Illinois camps, that Illinois would line up solidly for the special international convention.

As Arley Staples, president of the United Mine Workers of America local at Christopher, Ill., assured me, "You can count on Christopher."