

OIL SCANDAL BARES WORLD WAR PERIL

**"After You, Gaston,"
C. P. P. A. Begs of
Demo-Rep Parties**

By MARTIN ABERN.

(Spec. to 'The Young Worker.'')

ST. LOUIS.—For the third time, the convention of the Conference for Progressive Political Action, held in the fashionable Statler Hotel here, voted down a motion for independent labor political action, refused to endorse the May 30th convention of farmer-labor forces to be held in St. Paul, and decided to hold a convention, after the nominating conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties in Cleveland, July 4th, by adopting the report of the organization committee. The report was so worded as to leave open room for interpretation as to whether the Cleveland convention is to endorse candidates nominated by one of the parties, or nominate its own candidates for president and vice-president, but Chairman Johnston, of the International Association of Machinists and Morris Hillquit of the Socialist Party, declared that the Cleveland convention would not be committed beforehand.

May 30th Indorsement Downed.

Delegate T. R. Sullivan, representing the O'Fallon, Ill., central labor body, moved a resolution calling on the conference to endorse the May 30th convention, pointing out the complete bankruptcy of both old parties as shown particularly by the Teapot Dome oil scandal. He was immediately ruled out of order by Chairman Johnston. Robert Cramer of Minneapolis then moved an amendment that the convention nominate a candidate for president and vice-president on a farmer-labor party ticket. The steamroller immediately flattened this amendment by a motion from a railroad man to table, thus shutting off all debate. When Cramer moved a second amendment to the conference program that the proposed convention be held in St. Paul on May 30th, a motion to table was held in abeyance by the chairman in order to give Cramer an opportunity to speak on his amendment.

Cramer spoke for his amendment and pointed out the significance of the St. Paul conclave, saying: "The workers and farmers of the Northwest are thru with the old parties. They have called their convention for May 30th to nominate on a farmer-labor party ticket. They are suspicious of this conference. They have no faith in it. If you don't want a dual movement and two parties, you should change the date to May 30th, when the farmers and workers have already determined to hold their convention."

In spite of his convincing logic, the convention, composed mostly of railroad men, pushed the motion to table and the amendment was lost.

Motions and amendments made by the progressive minority were all voted down by the machine, consisting mainly of the railroad unions. The United Mine Workers, the International Typographical Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and numerous other international unions that had delegates at the last Cleveland convention did not participate in the St. Louis Conference.

Delegate T. R. Sullivan, in clarifying a motion made by William Mahoney, prominent for his activity in promoting the St. Paul conference, moved that all the organizations signatory to the November 15th call of the St. Paul conference be invited to send delegates to be added to the national executive committee to be elected by the St. Louis convention.

This was referred to the organization committee which brought in a recommendation that the national committee of the Conference for Progressive Political Action and the national committee of the May 30th conference meet together to work out common plans for the proposed July 4th Cleveland convention. This recommendation was adopted, Mahoney declaring that he had no authority to accept the offer, but that he would submit it to the decision of the constituent bodies which signed the St. Paul convention call.

The conference decided to refer a motion by Sullivan for recognition of Soviet Russia by the United States to the incoming national committee, although the same conference voted to greet the new British labor government, which has already given official recognition to the workers' republic.

Hope For Farmer-Labor Unity.

The growing and strengthening of the sentiment among the workers and exploited farmers for the successful carrying out of the plans for the May 30th convention is giving an added impetus to the left wing elements within the C. P. P. A. Under this pressure a good proportion of them will sooner or later break from being an appendage to the professional "progressive" politicians of both old parties and join their forces with the groups favoring the formation of a mass labor party. With

IN THE NAME OF OIL



Investigation Shows U. S. Veteran Bureau a Nest of Graft and Waste

By CHARLES WITTER.
(Special to "The Young Worker.")

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The senate committee which is now investigating the Teapot Dome oil steal seems to have detracted the attention of the American workers for a while from the scandal of the Veteran's Bureau of the government, which was run until a short time ago by Col. Charles R. Forbes and which is now a subject for investigation by another senate committee.

While the Teapot Dome business is greater in the sense that it involves more prominent men, the Veteran's Bureau steal overshadows it in the amount of money that has been gently lifted from the pockets of the treasury. Under Forbes' administration of the bureau, it spent more than \$450,000,000 each year. Of this amount 25 per cent went each year to grafters and waste, that is, out of the \$900,000,000 spent in the two years during which Forbes was director, \$225,000,000 went up the flue so far as any aid to the vets goes.

Three hospitals were to be constructed by the bureau, and the story of one of them is a sample of the famous Forbes method of increasing the revenues—of himself and his fellow crooks.

A hospital was to be erected at Northampton, Mass. The firm of J. W. Thompson and J. W. Black, owners of several big construction companies employed a gentleman named Elias H. Mortimer as their agent and salesman; but his real duties was keeping in close touch with any developments in the bureau plans. Mortimer, they knew, was very close friend of Forbes; and so the arrangement was

the tying of the oily teapot to the tail of McAdoo, his strongest supporters, the railroaders' unions are showing signs of quitting him cold. This strengthens the movement for a farmer-labor party ticket in the next presidential election and gives added significance to the May 30th convention to be held in St. Paul.

League Organizer Fails to Quake Before K. K. K.

By I. W.

(Special to "The Young Worker")

WEST FRANKFORT, ILL.—Speaking at a Lenin memorial meeting here, Barney Mass, organizer for the Young Workers League of America, pointed out the reactionary anti-labor stand of the Ku Klux Klan. A Klan member in the audience hurried out immediately and just as the meeting closed, he came back with Glen Young, Koo-Koo organizer and gunman, at his heels.

Young strode over to the platform and demanded to know if Comrade Mass was a citizen. When Mass answered that he was, the Klan organizer asked him if he had said that he would rather live under a Bolshevik flag than under the American, accompanying this question with a threatening look. Comrade Mass refused to be intimidated and told the Koo-Koo that he deserved the right to his personal likes and dislikes of any country.

Young clenched his fists and would have struck the league speaker, but seeing the temper of the audience, which would not have stood for any such stuff, he subsided and warned Mass not to be in town by the next morning.

Not heeding the warning, Mass remained in town and the next evening addressed a meeting of the Young Workers League branch, together with Max Shachtman of Chicago, who was then in West Frankfort. The League members stood up splendidly behind Comrade Mass and have proved to be the fearless backbone of the communist movement in the town.

If necessary, a free speech fight will be staged in West Frankfort, and the young miners of the league branch here, together with all other working class forces are going to get behind a drive to clean the Ku Klux Klan off the map of southern Illinois.

BUYING UP OF CABINET OFFICIALS SHOWS INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE FOR OIL THAT MAY BRING WAR

By MAX SHACHTMAN

Do you want to take part in another war? Are you anxious to go and fight to protect the oil wells of an American capitalist or the invested capital of another? Do you think that the last war to end war was really the last, and no more shall the fields of the world be reddened by the clean blood of the workers, strewn with its bones and their bodies? That millions of workers' families will no longer be left destitute by the loss of a father or his sons?

The horrors of the slaughter which the working class must endure did not end with the World War. The young workers are being prepared in this country for more and bloodier wars, for more periods of murder, of youthful bodies mangled by shrapnel, of bodies gangrened by poisonous gasses, of limbs carried away by cannon shot, of bellies ripped open by blind bayonets, of death or life worse than death in the after-war hospitals.

The young workers are being led a merry dance after the Pied Piper of militarism and imperialism and a corrupt government urges them on.

One of the most dramatic scenes in running of the government of the United States is now taking place in Washington, where the committee to investigate the leasing of the Teapot Dome oil lands is holding its sessions.

During the course of the hearings in the senate committee the most monstrous disclosures of graft and corruption in the high circles of the government have been made since R. A. Ballinger, secretary of the interior under the administration of president Taft was found to have sold his soul and trust to the Guggenheim coal interests in Alaska, in 1911. The biggest men in political life of this country have been shown to have sold part of the resources of this nation, the property of the people, to greedy business men who bought outright any official of the state who was necessary to carry thru the crooked deal.

Another example of the complete subserviency of the government to the industrial and financial lords has been brought to the surface. Another proof that the government is nothing more than an instrument in the hands of the bosses of the country is now before the workers of America.

Naval reserve oil lands have been placed at the disposal of the oil interest of America for a song. Secretary of the Interior Fall was in the pay of Doheny and Sinclair, the heads of the two corporations that stole the oil lands. Secretary of the Navy was an accomplice in this fraud. The late Warren G. Harding had his finger in the oily fry. The Attorney General, Harry Daugherty, infamous as a labor hater, is in the stinking mess up to his neck. Coolidge—our own silent Cal—refuses to remove from cabinet a man against whom the evidence has piled up beyond a doubt, secretary of the Navy, Denby.

The Democrats first got into the investigation in earnest when they thought they saw a chance to get a swipe at the Republicans. But Harry Sinclair, oil magnate who once admitted that he contributed to the campaign funds of both Republican and Democratic parties, bought up his tools irrespective of their labels.

Now we find that William G. McAdoo, the "progressive" is a hireling. Thomas Gregory, Wilson's Attorney General also floats in the soup.

A newspaper was bought up for a cool million dollars. The kept lady!

Everyone is in it. The big fish and the small, all fell for the check book of the liberal oil men. All hurried to sell out the property of the nation to the highest bidder.

Why this rush for oil?

The oil lands of the United States are being rapidly exhausted. The rest of the world possesses more than seven times the amount of oil contained in this country. Oil is the great modern fuel. Automobiles use millions of barrels of it and with the perfection of the Diesel engine it is being used more and more instead of coal on all kinds of steamships and battleships. It is lighter, cleaner and less expensive.

Everyone scrambles for the oil lands of the world. But the three greatest competitors for the monopoly of the oil world are America, Great Britain and France. America is represented by the Standard Oil Company, and its known and unknown subsidiaries. Great Britain controls the Royal Dutch Shell Company and numerous others. France is in a devil of a hole for having surrendered its oil lands sprinkled all over the world to Great Britain by the San Remo Agreement, and instead of having an oil industry it has a trust of ten firms, refiners, who buy ready refined oil and sell it to Frenchmen at a tight profit because of the high customs tariff.

The fight for the world control is now between Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell, between England and America.

The foreign policies of these nations reflect the interests of its oil magnates. When Mellon and Hughes put over the payment of \$25,000,000 to Colombia in "satisfaction of Colombian honor" which Roosevelt had raped, they knew of the oil concessions to be got in Colombia. And Mellon and his oil friends got them.

When Wilson maintained his arms embargo against Carranza even after Villa's defeat was certain, he knew that Villa had given guarantees to American oil and mining interests to be "nice."

Why did the idealist Wilson interest himself in so material and vulgar a thing as the treatment of American oil prospectors in Palestine and Mesopotamia by Great Britain?

And is the civil war in Mexico now just "another Central American revolution," or has the fact of the keen antagonism and rivalry between the Lord Cowdray, head of the Pearson group, interests and the American oil interest represented by Doheny something to do with the bloodshed?

The antagonisms between the ruling capitalist nations grow sharper day by day. Seeking constantly a market for their surplus products, the robbed due of labor, and for their surplus capital, these various imperialist powers came into conflict with each other. The attempt to divide the world up among the various leading powers is never satisfactorily completed. Each hog demands a greater share. Each hog must have a greater trough from which to gorge himself upon his share.

And in the meantime they sharpen their claws. They increase their armies, their navies and their airships. Huger and more powerful instruments of murder are perfected. The steel and iron lords coin money as as out of a mint. The metal industry booms—for the bosses. Then comes the open clash.

Remember the last war! Remember the false promises about war for democracy! Remember the dollar-a-year patriots who sat at home and made millions of dollars in profits while 122,500 American soldiers, young workers left their bones on the fields of battle in order to protect the monied interests! Remember the 221,059 American boys that were wounded and were supposed to be rehabilitated, taken care of by the Veterans' Bureau, which corruptly squandered over \$225,000,000!

These are the fruits that are the share of the workers after they have fought for their bosses in a bosses' war. AND THAT IS WHAT THE YOUNG WORKERS WHO MAKE UP THE ARMED FORCES OF GOVERNMENT ARE GOING TO GET IN THE NEXT WAR!

The next great slaughter is coming sooner than we think. All the attempts of the capitalists of all countries to halt it is in vain—if attempts are actually being made. All their peace and disarmament conferences go up into hot air. The United States never had so great a military program. Never were so many murder machines manufactured in this country. England is pushing its armaments. France bristles with armor.

THE NEXT WAR TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CAPITALISTS AND THE CAPITALISTS ONLY IS COMING AS SURELY AS THE LAST WAR DID.

THE NEXT WAR TO BRING DEVASTATION AND MURDER INTO THE WORKING CLASS WILL TAKE PLACE UNLESS THE WORKERS AND ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG WORKERS WHOSE VERY LIVES IT AFFECTS, GET BUSY NOW TO MEET THE ENEMY!

What are YOU going to do when the next war comes? What will your answer be to the pleas of the government to fight another war for democracy? What will your answer be to this capitalist government, which, like all others, is run and controlled of, for and by the capitalists and no one else? Can you answer your oil and steel controlled government? Can you reply to the lying appeals of the banker-controlled government? Or will it be too late then?

Are you going to wait until war actually stares the workers in the face, when it is almost too late to make effective protest against being dragged (Continued on page 2.)

Oil Exposure Shows Struggle For Oil World and War Threat

(Continued from page 1.)

in the murder-fest? OR ARE YOU GOING TO ORGANIZE SOLIDLY NOW TO FIGHT AGAINST CAPITALISM, MILITARISM, IMPERIALISM?

On all hands the government's military forces are being organized. Special appeals are being made for boys and girls to join the anti-labor, pro-militarist Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Are you going to fight it? The National Guard and State Militias are growing in numbers and are being used on the side of the capitalists against the workers? Will you stand by silently? Preparations are being made for an unprecedented drive for the Citizen's Military Training Camps this summer? Are you going in, young workers? In the colleges and high schools, the students are being trained in the arts of war. What are you doing, young students? The Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps are enlisting hundreds of young workers who later feel sorry they ever joined. Are you going to join the armed forces of capitalism in order to fight their wars?

We know of the conditions of the young soldiers and sailors. We know of the rotten food and quarters they get. We know of the bestial officers and their treatment of the lowly buck private, gob and leatherneck. And the rank and filer can't do a thing in protest. He is even deprived of a vote in the elections of the government, for they know how he will vote. And militray discipline is strict enough to choke any protests.

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Young workers, soldiers and sailors of America! All these military forces are the parts of the great machine which will be used by this banker and business man controlled government to send you in defense of their interests and against yours. What are you going to do?

You know now that the government is run only in the interest of the bosses. The Teapot Dome oil scandal plainly shows this. It shows that even the Navy sells out to Capital. It has opened up the eyes of the workers of this country to the political and diplomatic corruption of our government which moves only in the direction pointed out by its capitalist masters. It has made plain the dangers of another international war.

Young workers, organize now against militarism! Organize together with the Young Workers League of America in a determined and unflinching war against war! No more workers to be sacrificed in capitalist quarrels! We want to see no more workers' blood shed to protect the dirty money of his boss!

ORGANIZE NOW WITH THE YOUNG WORKERS LEAGUE!

KEEP AWAY FROM THE BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS! JOIN LABOR'S FIGHT AGAINST THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE STATE MILITIAS! BOYCOTT THE TRAINING CAMPS THIS SUMMER! NO ENLISTMENTS IN THE ARMY! NONE IN THE NAVY! NONE IN THE MARINES!

NO MORE WORKERS USED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE WORKERS!

NO MORE FIGHTING FOR OUR STANDARD OIL-MORGAN-GARY GOVERNMENT!