

# A FEW QUESTIONS, COMRADE KAPLAN!

By MAX SHACHTMAN

FIRST, you maintain, and to a large extent we agree, that the N. E. C. (majority) went thru its stage of hesitation and discussion on mass work for almost a year after the second national convention; and you cite in particular the conference with Gompers in which we failed to carry out our program. Why do you conveniently forget to state that you, as a member of that N. E. C., voted consistently together with the rest of the majority on every single point, from May, 1923, to April, 1924, that you led the opposition to mass work at the second national convention; that you did not suggest a different course than the one we pursued, mistakenly, it is admitted, in our conference and post-conference activities with Gompers, but instead concurred in it heartily until almost a year later?

Second, you say that New York (where your minority is, and has been for the past couple of years, in power) "is now definitely entering the third stage in economic trade union work." Will you please inform us of a single nucleus organized in New York, a single factory campaign begun, a single instance of trade union youth activity carried on by your New York leadership? Will you please inform us, incidentally, how the New York leadership pulled a boner in its attempt to discredit the N. E. C. in the matter of the Paterson silk strike, and how the executive committee of the Y. C. I. had to reply to the New York D. E. C.'s letter in a manner that completely sustained the N. E. C. and pointed out that the minority leadership of New York had not entered the third stage of economic trade union activity?

Third, when you speak of the removal of the national junior director by the N. E. C. on the "illegitimate excuse of lack of finances," do you not mean that you have merely been removed from a paid job, an action in which you, as a member of the finance committee of the N. E. C., immediately upon your return from Moscow, were in unquestioning agreement, and changed your mind about it only about a week after you yourself had voted for it—knowing our financial condition which has not improved—in the N. E. C.? And is it not true that you are still a national junior director, without a paid job? And did you ever raise a kick about the fact that we did not have a national industrial organizer on the payroll for more than a year because of the "illegitimate excuse of lack of finances," knowing that our industrial work is at least as important as children's work?