

**INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST LEAGUE
\$14,000 FUND DRIVE-GIVE NOW!**

LABOR ACTION

MAY 2, 1949

A PAPER IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIALISM

FIVE CENTS

Fast Pace Set By ISL Fund Drive

By YETTA BARSH
Fund Drive Director

APRIL 25—The first report of receipts in the Build-the-ISL Fund Drive indicates that real progress is being made in collections. To date, 14 per cent of the total goal has been collected. If we continue at this pace, there is no doubt that the \$14,000 will be amassed in full.

Last week our "Miscellaneous" item was listed at \$1,100. During the week, the Socialist Youth League, which had been assigned a quota of \$300, volunteered to increase its quota to \$350, and we have reduced our "Miscellaneous" item to \$1,050. The following quotas have been set for and accepted by SYL units:

Berkeley—\$50; Buffalo—\$50; Chicago—\$100; Bronx—\$50; Brooklyn—\$50; Manhattan—\$50.

SOCIALIST YOUTH SET PACE

In addition, the SYL continues to set the pace for collections. In this morning's mail we found a \$43 money order from the Chicago Unit of the SYL which raised its total contributions to \$100.25, placing it at the head of our list as our first "100 percenter."

What is even more gratifying is the following note which accompanied the first Chicago SYL contribution: "... at its meeting the unit accepted a fund drive quota of \$100 as proposed by the National Bureau (SYL), but on the understanding that our own goal in the drive would be double that amount."

That's really setting the pace! We would not be one bit surprised if the Chicago SYL succeeds in meeting even its "unofficial" quota long before the end of the drive.

We might report in passing that when the news of the Chicago SYL accomplishment was announced to the New York SYLers, they immediately vowed that they would meet the challenge and follow suit by fulfilling the New York quotas in record time.

Our St. Louis comrades start off in the drive with a \$24 contribution (50 per cent of their quota). During (Continued on page 3)



25 WEEKS since labor won its great "victory" at the polls on November 3 by re-electing Truman and a Democratic majority—but

The Taft-Hartley Law is still on the books!

NMU Rank and File Reject Curran's 'Loyalty Oath' Gag by Huge Majority

By R. GADEN

One of the most startling and wholesome developments in the internal life of the labor movement took place this past week in New York, headquarters and key port of the National Maritime Union (CIO).

A regular membership meeting of the union overwhelmingly voted to "reject and condemn" a proposal of the Curran leadership to make an anti-Communist "loyalty affidavit" a

condition for membership in the NMU.

The meeting was held on April 21 at St. Nicholas Arena. The proposal was in the form of revisions of the constitution, which would have the effect of denying democratic rights to political minorities within the union. In putting this forward the National Council drew its inspiration from resolutions passed in a few of the gulf ports.

Not less impressive than the fact of rejection was the size of the vote at the New York membership meeting: 1535 to 97.

It constitutes the first serious rebuff which the anti-CP Curran regime has received since the 11-year-old stranglehold of the Communist Party over the union was broken last year—when the membership booted every Stalinist out of office.

In accordance with the constitution, the proposed constitutional amendments will be submitted to a referendum vote for 30 days beginning May 2. A simple majority carries or rejects the amendments. There is little doubt today in the minds of NMU members that most of the outposts will go with New York on this question.

The amendments to the constitution recommended by the National Council and Curran are three. The first

3 More Ports Say No

On the heels of the smashing vote in New York against the "loyalty affidavit" proposal in the NMU, three other ports have followed suit with similarly heavily weighted rejections of the "NMU Taft-Hartley Act." At a Baltimore membership meeting, the proposed constitutional changes were voted down 197-64. In Philadelphia the vote was 325-3, and in Boston 351-0. While these membership-meeting ballots are legally only expressions of opinion, there remains at this writing little doubt of the result of the referendum which is to be held on this question.

Stalinist Line on Zionism Twists Once More

By AL FINDLEY

It has by now become widely known that the attitude of the Stalinists toward Zionism has changed. LABOR ACTION has already carried timely reports on the events.

While the situation varies from country to country, there can be no doubt that it is centrally directed and emanates from one place—Moscow. It is absolutely wrong and ridiculous to do what some Stalinist apologists (Mapam, New Republic) do: blame it on the local Jewish Stalinists.

The truth is that, for more than a year, ALL (except Arab) Stalinist papers carried extreme pro-Zionist and sometimes purely Zionist articles. This was true of them all from the Polish Jewish Stalinists' *Neu Leben* to the New York Freiheit. The change started with the publication of an article by Ilya Ehrenberg in Pravda, in September.

The Jewish Stalinists, like all other Stalinists, followed orders, but with this difference. After they exhausted all excuses for delay in carrying out the ukase, they took the initiative in the struggle against Zionism. The ponderous, world-wide Stalinist machine moves slowly and irregularly at first, until finally all goes together.

The latest change in line has now permeated all Stalinist groups. In the satellite countries an all-out drive against Zionism and Jewish immigration is taking place.

The change in line has split the recently united CP of Palestine. As LABOR ACTION readers know, the CP was for many years divided into an Arab and Jewish section. The Jewish section, PKP, had its splinter group, known as the "Hebrew" Communists. The PKP, led by Mikunis, followed the official line in all its shifts and turns, from support of the Mufti to ardent pro-Jewish statism and even expansionism. The "Hebrews," led by Preminger, no less Stalinist on other questions, favored Jewish immigration and participation in official Jewish and Zionist bodies. The pro-Zionist line enunciated by Gromyko led to unification into one party first of the two Jewish groups and later, at the end of 1948, to a merger with the Arab Stalinist outfit, going under the name of Arab League for National Liberation.

The events surrounding the split read like a chapter in a cloak-and-dagger mystery.

HOW CP SPLIT

An armed holdup took place at the Agudat Israel Workers' loan fund in Tel Aviv. The military police arrested Bezalel Narkis, 23, a lieutenant in the Israeli army. Narkis, a well-known member of the Communist Party (a former "Hebrew" Communist), admitted that he had committed the robbery on behalf of the party, which was in financial straits. (He later changed his testimony, attempting to shift responsibility away from the party, but this was of course too late, at least for the CP.)

The next morning a short notice appeared in Kol Ha'am, CP daily: The Israeli CP had purged nine of the 25 members of its central committee (consisting of ten "Palestinians," nine "Hebrews" and six Arab Stalinists). The nine men had allegedly plotted with the Stern gang to form an anti-labor and reactionary political party called *Abdut Vema'as* (Unity and Action).

Meanwhile the nine "Hebrew" executive members rallied against Mikunis' charges. They denied emphatically having been in touch with the Sternists. Pressed as to whether they considered the Stern group a fascist movement, they said that the Sternists had been fascist in the past but did not come forward with any definite political program in the recent elections.

They denied any connection with the Tel Aviv robbery. Moreover, they charged that Mikunis and his "Palestinian" followers had established contact with the Stern gang and knew in advance that Count Bernadotte would be assassinated. (Haboker, Tel Aviv, February 14.)

With regard to questions of ideology, they maintained that "you cannot be a good Communist unless you are first of all loyal and faithful to

your own nation." Communists all over the world were patriots, they said, but the Mikunis faction had been against the Jewish state and against free immigration up to the moment when Gromyko came out in the United Nations in favor of the Jewish state; then Mikunis and his followers had switched overnight.

CP LINE IN TRANSITION

The Stalinist parties in Arabian countries have begun to change their emphasis. During the period of Russian pro-Zionism they had to apologize for the Russian pro-partition stand. One of their favorite arguments was that if Arabs were pro-Russian, the Stalinists would have supported THEM and not the Jews. As it was, they urged acceptance of the fact and the establishment of peace.

They no longer admit that Russia strongly supported Israel. Israel and partition, according to a Syrian CP statement, are the creatures of the Anglo-American bloc. The Stalinists merely went along, since they had no alternative. No conclusions for action are made. It is obvious that the Arab Stalinist line is in a state of transition.

In the United States, too, the CP at last has swung into step. Tuesday, March 29, the Morning Freiheit, Jewish organ of the Stalinists, published a letter of "confession" by Moishe

Stalinists Lose Grip on CIO In Los Angeles by 2-1 Vote

LOS ANGELES—By a resounding 2-1 majority, the Los Angeles CIO Council was taken out of the hands of the Stalinists by the national CIO forces for the first time since its formation in 1937, at a special unity meeting held April 23-24.

At the meeting, presided over by Richard T. Leonard of the administration, there were 760 registered delegates present, representing about 100,000 CIO members. It was the first joint meeting of the Stalinist and national CIO wings since the council split a year ago; at that time the anti-Stalinists walked out

when the CP leadership of the council refused to endorse national CIO election policy. New officers are: Clarence Stinson (UAW), president; Robert Clark (Steel), vice-president; and A. T. Luceford (URW), secretary-treasurer.

This victory marks the first time in recent years that the national CIO group has organized seriously and brought its votes out. The CP wing has sustained losses but its strength, up to now, lay in an ability to get delegates down to meetings, parliamentary sickness, and the weak organization of the opposition.

CP Gets Ready to Take All China

Low Ebb of Western Imperialism Symbolized by Amethyst Incident

By JACK BRAD

With the crossing of the Yangtze there can no longer be any doubt that the Chinese Communist Party intends to take all of China. Its ability to accomplish this is unquestionable. Any obstacles arise from its own deficiencies and not from the strength of the discredited and routed Kuomintang.

There are no doubt many battles still in the offing and it may be a relatively long time before CP rule spreads over all of the almost four million square miles of China. But no one can now doubt its inevitability.

105 at U. of C., Farrell Support Kutcher Fight

APRIL 27 (KCRC)—One hundred and five members of the University of Chicago faculty have joined in a statement sponsored by Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel prize winner and director of the war research atomic bomb project with four other famous scientists and scholars, protesting the denial of genuine freedom of association and thought to the legless veteran, James Kutcher.

The 105 educators asked that Kutcher be given a full and fair public hearing and recorded agreement with the aims of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, a national non-partisan organization seeking the victimized veteran's reinstatement.

This strong affirmation by so many faculty members of the right of free thought involved in Kutcher's case is regarded as especially significant because it is taken in the face of the investigation by the Illinois Seditious Activities Investigation Commission into alleged subversive activities at the University of Chicago.

James T. Farrell, noted novelist, has issued the following statement on the case of the Legless Veteran, James Kutcher:

"I have read the material concerning the case of James Kutcher. Mr. Kutcher, a legless veteran of World War II, was dismissed from a minor governmental post because he admits to membership in the Socialist Workers Party. The Socialist Workers Party has been arbitrarily placed upon Attorney General Tom Clark's subversive list. Mr. Kutcher has not been granted a public hearing. He is demanding a public hearing both for himself, and for his party. I support that demand.

"I am not opposed to fair procedures which will be used in a democratic way in order to rid the American government of espionage agents and spies. In the case of genuine espionage agents and spies, I do not believe a clear-cut civil liberties case (Continued on page 3)

ity. Russian-style totalitarianism will rule China.

One fact certainly stands out: the Kuomintang is finished, discredited completely both among its own people and with its Western "allies." It has been unable to rally the will of its supporters even to their own defense. The abandonment of Nanking, and probably of Shanghai, without a struggle, the desertion of the government from its posts, the pitiful wooden fence around Shanghai—all these are the answer to the question why U. S. policy in China has failed. These hollow men were the instruments of this policy.

Symptomatic of the Kuomintang's suicidal policy is its bombing of Nanking several days after having given up the city. This is not an act calculated to endear it even to its staunchest supporters.

The important questions which now arise more sharply than ever—estimation of the political consequences and historical significance of this event—will be dealt with in LABOR ACTION in subsequent issues.

AMETHYST MYSTERY

The incident of the British ship Amethyst which inaugurated the Yangtze crossing is an adequate symbol of the present estate of Western imperialism in China. Just why the Amethyst was fired on remains a mystery. It is known, for instance, that CP propaganda has attacked the

U. S. almost exclusively. Indeed the British have made several overtures, which were warmly received by the CP, aiming at the replacement of the pre-eminent trade position of the U. S. by Britain.

The possibility seems to be that local commanders, under orders to keep the river clear for crossing and flushed with expectation of victory, fired at the ship without higher orders or much deliberation. The Nationalist batteries on the south bank also fired but missed. The Nationalists, however, may have had mixed motives. Aside from military considerations, they would desire nothing so much as an anti-foreign imbroglio.

Once the incident occurred, CP headquarters quickly saw in it a Bevin-sent propaganda weapon, and their attitude toward the British hardened. Mao Tse-tung issued a demand on the United States and Britain to withdraw "all land, naval and air forces quartered on the territory and waters of China."

The response to this was the departure of the imperialist fleet from Shanghai. This has been an auspicious and cheap propaganda victory for the CP. The biggest losers in this incident are the British Stalinists, who will not recover quickly from its effects.

WE'RE SORRY

that space limitations have forced us to omit from this issue a number of interesting and important articles received—on the ADA, union news, the German assembly at Bonn, the Atlantic Pact and several more. You'll be seeing them next week.—Ed.



IN THE MARCH
NEW INTERNATIONAL
Profile of Eisenhower
by J. M. Fenwick
DON'T MISS IT!

