

Labor Must Lead Way, Say Ford Union Heads

Need for a New Party Stressed In "Ford Facts"

"The formation of a third party" is the "only real hope of the common people for a better future," state the four top officers of Ford Local 600, CIO United Automobile Workers, in a full-page signed statement in the Nov. 29 Ford Facts, organ of the largest local union in the United States.

Headlined in eight columns of big, bold-faced type, "LABOR MUST LEAD THE WAY" the declaration urges organized labor to "review our mistakes" in view of the "serious setback" in the elections and to "form a new party and chart a new course in conformity with the changed conditions."

FOUR SIGNERS

This statement is signed by Carl Stellato, Ford 600 President; Pat Rice, Vice-President; William R. Hood, Recording Secretary; and W. G. Grant, Financial Secretary. They were recently re-elected to office by the Ford membership after UAW President Walter Reuther and his international executive board had clamped a dictator-receiver on the local in an attempt to silence and drive out critics of his conservative and reactionary policies.

The Ford leaders' statement is weakened by confusing and ambiguous references to the Democratic Party which seem to still hold out a bare hope that something might be done through the Democratic Party channels. But by comparison with the

looding toward the new Republican administration of most of the top labor leaders and their continued slavish support of the capitalist two-party monopoly of politics, the statement of the Ford local leaders is a bold and rousing summons to labor.

They make it plain that the American people can depend for peace, economic security and social freedom only on the organized labor movement and this indicates the need for formation of labor's own party.

THE WAR ISSUE

The Ford 600 leaders acknowledge that the majority "cast their ballots in the belief that General Eisenhower would go to Korea and end the war..." Now, they say, "the facts show the opposite to be true." Eisenhower may keep his promise to go to Korea, "but can that alone bring peace?"

The GOP policy-makers are representatives of Big Business and Wall Street and "we question whether they sincerely want peace..." For it is their corporations that reap huge and tremendous profits from the armaments program resulting from the cold war and Korea... They charge it was the Republicans and only "a few reactionaries in the Demo-

(Continued on Page 2)

FRAME-UP VICTIM FREED IN CHICAGO STRIKE CASE

CHICAGO, Dec. 3 — The frame-up attempt against Harold Ward, a union leader in the McCormick Works here, of the recently-struck International Harvester Co., collapsed yesterday when a jury on the first ballot acquitted him of a first-degree murder charge.

Ward, one of the most active and prominent Negro unionists in this area, had been indicted during the bitterly-fought 14-week strike for allegedly killing a scab, William Foster.

Acquitted



HAROLD WARD

The union official, secretary of Local 108, Farm Equipment Union division of the United Electrical Workers (independent), took the stand in his own defense and denied the charge. Witness after witness testified to Ward's activities far from the murder scene at the time he was alleged to have killed Foster, whose slaying was in no way linked with the strike or union.

The state's case folded up when three of the prosecution's four eye-witnesses failed to identify Ward. The fourth, who had been built up in the press as a "mystery" witness, got confused in his identification. The mystery was how he was induced to testify. Defense attorney William Scott Stewart sought to show the witness had his eye on a \$10,000 reward put up by International Harvester, on whose behalf the prosecution of Ward was initiated and pressed.

The Chicago daily papers, which had headlined the indictment and prosecution to smear the union with a charge of violence, buried the story of the acquittal on the back pages. The withdrawal from the public disclosure was knee-deep in a case when it tried to state Ward to the electric chair.

Now that Ward has been freed after six terrible weeks in prison,

Press Sizes Up Trip as "No Solution"

Eisenhower's secret trip to Korea has aroused all sorts of speculation in the capitalist press as to his future course. Most commentators agree, however, that he came out of Korea as he went in, with "no solution" other than to continue the war.

"War will go on... American troops cannot come home in the foreseeable future. Arming of Koreans will be expanded, speeded. Koreans, even so, cannot take over all front-line fighting within 12 months to 18 months," observes the Dec. 12 U.S. News and World Report. It adds: "American troop strength is more likely to rise than decline in Korea."

In the Dec. 8 N. Y. Herald-Tribune, columnist Walter Millis writes that "it is clear that General Eisenhower had arrived at no 'solutions' — it would have been folly to suppose that he could have done so — and that Korea still presented the old dilemma: to fight it out, wait it out or get out. His brief words... left no doubt that the third course had been written off the books, but they gave no indication as to the conclusion between the first two."

The N. Y. Times of Dec. 7 observed: "He had made one thing abundantly clear: There would be no withdrawal from Korea. The General told the Seoul press conference the U.N. must 'see it through,' and added: 'I am far from defeatist on this business... Much can be done... but he was not definite about specific measures.'"

Eisenhower's trip and statement, according to Joseph C. Harsch, special Washington correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, have settled one "anguishing question" — he would not "succumb" to "the pressure to obtain an escape from American involvement in that war by withdrawal of American troops." There will be, Harsch says, "no fundamental change in approach" from that of Truman before him.

We can conclude from these comments that, contrary to Eisenhower's promises, the war will go on; more U.S. troops will be shipped to Korea; there will be more casualties; the war may be intensified.



Sold American People Gold Brick with His Election Promises

General Eisenhower sold a gold brick to millions of American voters when he promised before elections to go to Korea, implying he would end the war. He has made his promised trip — but the end of the war is no more clearly in sight than it was under Truman. Whatever purpose was served by Eisenhower's much-ballyhooed trip, it was not the cause of peace.

His first statement made clear that he has no program for ending the Korean slaughter and bringing the U.S. troops home. "We have no panacea, no trick ways of settling any problems," he said. Prior to the elections, however, he gave the impression to the American people that he had some real peace move in mind.

Eisenhower said last Oct. 24 that he would make a "personal trip to Korea" because "only in that way could I learn how best to serve the American people in the cause of peace" and bring the war to an "honorable end." Virtually every newspaper headlined this as a promise to bring the war to a speedy close. Typical of Oct. 25 headlines was that in the N.Y. Daily News, with its 2,100,000 circulation: "I Shall Go to Korea: Ike — If Elected, He'll Go to End War — Ike Pledges Trip to Korea to Get Honorable Peace."

KILLING OF AFRICAN LABOR LEADER BRINGS HUGE ANTI-FRENCH UPSURGE

By George Lavan

Unrest in North Africa has reached "nearly revolutionary proportions," according to the Dec. 9 Christian Science Monitor. The French imperialists are rushing more troops to put down strike demonstrations in Tunisia and a virtual revolt in Morocco precipitated by the brutal assassination of Farhat Hached, Tunisian labor leader.

Hached, head of the General Union of Tunisian Workers and the only first-rank independence leader not yet imprisoned by the French, was murdered Dec. 5. His car was riddled with machine-gun fire, then the wounded labor leader was dragged out and his head and face beaten in beyond recognition. The body was dumped on the road five miles from the scene of the shooting.

The 39-year-old union leader would normally have been in New York at this time attending the sessions of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, to whose executive committee he belonged. But the French rulers of Tunisia had canceled his passport to prevent his attendance at the sessions.

French military governor Hauteclocque's attempts to blame "nationalists" or "communists" for the assassination were promptly scotched by Tunisian labor and independence leaders in exile or either on Hauteclocque's police or French terrorist groups which operate against Tunisians under government protection.

The French imperialists followed up Hached's assassination with the arrest of his successor and seven other Tunisian leaders. Hauteclocque's firing squads also went into action with the execution of three Tunisian nationalists, the first of ten condemned to death.

Despite the attempt to behead their organizations, Tunisian workers staged a three-day general strike in defiance of the French military.

In Morocco, attempts of the French police and army to prevent protest demonstrations brought the colony to the verge of open revolt. Casablanca newspapers report eight French and 40 Moroccans killed in the fighting. Using armored cars and tanks the French were besieging the headquarters of the General Confederation of Labor, where unarmed unionists were fighting

(Continued on page 2)

Eisenhower's trip to Korea had nothing to do with peace. It had to do with how best and most advantageously to prosecute the war. Most of his time was spent in ceremony and talking with generals and the officials of Dictator Syngman Rhee's South Korean government.

The General gave no hint as to his course, other than rejecting an end to the war and withdrawal of the troops. He can choose, therefore, only an indefinite continuation of the present war of attrition, a steady drain of blood and lives; or an all-out offensive with heavy casualties and expansion of the war. The first, sooner or later, must lead to the second.

The Militant predicted when Eisenhower made his election promise — and we repeated it no later than our last issue — that the one sure thing was that Eisenhower would not end the war if he went to Korea. This treacherous demagogue has already exposed himself before taking office.

Solution to Korea

An Editorial

Eisenhower's trip to Korea has started a process of disillusionment among a lot of people. Even the politically unsophisticated can see the general has welched on his implied promise to end the Korean war and that he pulled a fast one on the American people when he made that his main campaign pledge.

It's pretty obvious that if Eisenhower had peace in mind when he went to Korea he certainly would have sought a conference with representatives of the Chinese and North Koreans. He did no such thing. He spent his time reviewing half-frozen troops and talking with his fellow generals and the officials of Dictator Syngman Rhee's government.

The capitalist press and the hired propagandists have painted Eisenhower as that rarest of species in capitalist politics — an honest man. You can depend on Eisenhower, they repeated endlessly. Open and honest as the day is long. That's why so many fell for his campaign pitch that he would try to do something effective to end the war.

Was it possible, people asked themselves, that this great general, this man above factions sought by both major parties as their candidate — was it possible that he was just another typical capitalist politician whom you can trust no further than you can trust a carload of war medals?

It has taken only a few weeks to chip the gilt off this Big Brass. And some regretful people who voted for Eisenhower to stop the Korean war can now see that he

actually is only another cheap, conniving politician. The capitalist parties don't pick any other type.

The Republican and Democratic parties are both controlled by cliques of hard-headed, ruthless millionaires and billionaires who would not give a plugged nickel for all the honesty in the world. The ruling capitalist clique will make the final decision on Korea. It will do so in accordance with its aims and interests. Eisenhower, its agent, made his campaign promises and his trip to Korea solely for their propaganda value.

This quick revelation of Eisenhower's duplicity and demagoguery emphasizes how little dependence can be placed on capitalist politicians for peace. If the Korean war is to be ended speedily, if a Third World War is to be prevented, it must come through the independent action of the people in opposition to the political tools of Big Business.

The American people will have to carry on their own organized struggle to force Washington to withdraw the American troops from Korea and to halt the mad drive of Wall Street toward an atomic world war.

Mass pressure must be mobilized to get Eisenhower to withdraw the troops from Korea. Let's end the war and bring the American boys home. Truman sent them to Korea by a simple executive order. Eisenhower can call them home merely by another executive order. Demand that he issue such an order as his first Presidential act!

Major Issues Side-Tracked at CIO Convention

By Harry Frankel

Nothing that occurred at the 14th Constitutional Convention of the CIO, held at Atlantic City Dec. 1-4, shows any grasp of the problems facing the labor movement by the top leadership of the industrial unions.

Although the convention held twice-daily sessions in the Chelsea Hotel, no convention really took place, at least not in the meeting hall. The entire leadership was knee-deep in a clique fight over the CIO presidency opened by the death of Philip Murray. The activity in the hall during the brief and lifeless sessions was restricted almost entirely to the reading and passage of standard resolutions interspersed with speeches by honorary invitees. Not one of the CIO leaders had a serious or thoughtful word to say about the future of the CIO.

Many commentators have tried to interpret the Reuther-Haywood battle as a reflection of differences in tendency between two wings of the CIO. This plausible-sounding scheme fails to take into account the following facts

which were apparent to union observers before and during the convention:

(1) Neither wing made any programmatic appeal of any kind to unionists. There was no difference between them in interpreting events or in propositions as to how to meet the future.

(2) Reuther's social-democratic line by no means pre-disposes him to a more militant policy than that of the "old-time unionists." His course has been, if anything, more conservative than that of the steel and mine unions. One reason for this is that, since his rank-and-file is more turbulent and aggressive, he has tried to curb the militants, while the leadership in more quiescent unions, by contrast, has sought to stir up a bit more militancy in some recent struggles in order to win bargaining fights. Another reason is that Reuther's policy of "social unionism," insofar as there is anything in it that goes beyond the general social outlook that has spread through the entire CIO, only has the effect in this period

of making his union policy more conservative, not more militant. Thus it would be hard to distinguish between the two tendencies in terms of union program.

STAKES IN CLIQUE FIGHT

Although there is a certain difference in background and outlook that may have created some suspicion between the top leaders of the steel and auto unions, that is not what underlay this fight. Rather, it was a clique fight over control of the extensive apparatus of the CIO.

The national CIO, drawing its income from the 10-cents monthly per capita, takes in between \$4 million and \$5 million a year, more than the income of most small international unions.

The organizing department of the national CIO alone includes about 200 jobs, in the form of regional, sub-regional and assistant directors, field representatives, etc. Further, there are about 200 local industrial unions directly affiliated to the national CIO. In addition, there are staffs for the legal, legislative, interna-

tional, education and research, and publicity departments.

Haywood, the candidate of the steel union, would have enabled David J. MacDonald to strengthen his position in his new job as president of the steel union by giving him control of the CIO apparatus. Reuther, on the other hand, fully consolidated in the auto union, is looking around for new worlds to conquer and the presidency of the CIO is the next logical jumping-off point for him.

The word was out at the convention that Reuther was spreading job promises with a lavish hand in the course of his campaign for the presidency. Knowing the use he has made of the UAW budget and job apparatus in consolidating a personal machine, there is no doubt what is coming in the national CIO under its new President Reuther.

NO PERSPECTIVE

The resolutions passed by the CIO convention include the usual demands in the fields of health and social insurance improvements, civil rights for minorities,

housing and rent, changes in tax laws, conservation, education, etc. These add up to what might be called a labor program of a sort; absurdly modest and inadequate in the face of labor's power and needs, but a program nevertheless.

But while the CIO has this program, it has no perspective whatsoever. It has no view of the future showing how this program will be achieved.

The annual report of the president, drawn by Murray before his death, describes an almost unbroken record of defeat for labor on the legislative front since 1946, even since 1938. Faced with this inability to make progress under Democratic auspices, the labor movement now has the added handicap of increased reactionary weight in Congress and a Republican administration.

The CIO is left in the position of favoring a return to Democratic power, or in other words to the same setup under which labor progress had practically come to a halt many years ago. This must be called a total

