

COMMUNIST FRACTIONS IN AMALGAMATED STEEL UNION; PLAN DRIVE

By ARNE SWABECK.
(Special to The Daily Worker)

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 5.—In response to the pressing needs of the thousands of steel workers struggling under almost unbearable conditions for a mere existence, the Communist fraction within the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers has become definitely organized and a concrete program of work outlined. Thru the Communists employed in the unorganized mills and furnaces it has become linked up with the great problems of the unorganized.

Last week at a conference held in Youngstown, Ohio, the details of organization were worked out. About thirty delegates participated representing Workers Party units whose members are employed in the steel mills of Western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Both district organizers from the Cleveland and Pittsburgh districts, Wagenknecht and Swabek, were present together with William F. Dunne, representing the central executive committee of the Workers Party.

AS WE SEE IT.

By T. J. O'FLAHERTY

PROFESSOR WOODHEAD, the British gentleman who essayed to enlighten the students at Chicago University on the situation in China, blamed the Chinese for all their own troubles. This was to be expected. It is quite believable, that had the Chinese workers submitted to the exploitation of the British and Japanese enslavers and took all the indignities heaped upon them without a murmur, John Bull would have let well enough alone.

* * *

FOR some reason that the British can never understand, or any other imperialist for that matter, subject peoples never properly appreciate the efforts made by their benefactors to better their condition and lift them up to the pinnacle of civilization occupied by their masters. We have the Hindus, who according to the British are yet in a state of political and cultural infancy, always rebelling against their benevolent rulers.

* * *

Past Mistakes Reviewed.

In reviewing the Communist policies in the trade unions as applied in actual life, the mistakes made in application in certain unions and the general lack of application in the steel workers' union, many important lessons were drawn.

It was made clear to the delegates present that the tendency often manifested to submerge the left wing issues in order to quietly gain offices, could have nothing but serious consequences for the left wing and for the labor movement in general, as particularly the Communist must put forward these issues and lead the fight for more militant policies.

Failure to do so can only lead to serious right wing deviations. However, any general tendency to minimize the importance of Communist trade union activities and the necessary organizational basis becomes equally dangerous. Such mistakes are most often made by the erroneous concep-

(Continued on page 6.)

Build Party Strength in Steel Union

(Continued from page 1)

tion that because the party may not know all the technical details of the requirements of the industry therefore the union work should be separated from Party affairs and party policies.

Bad Results Either Way.

The results are generally the same. Party members fail to become the connecting link between the masses within the unions and the party. They fail completely to put forward Communist policies and, instead of advancing a concrete, militant program, they become simply an appendix to whatever opposition movement may exist to the rule of the reactionary clique in control, or they become the tools of reaction itself.

On the other hand, where the Communist fractions are rigidly maintained and Communist policies applied in practice, healthy growing left wing movements have already obtained important victories and promise good for the future.

Communist Tactics Not Applied Previously.

It was acknowledged that, due to lack of application of Communist policies and definite organization of the Communist fraction in the past within the steel workers' union, the struggle for the present progressive group, altho it had given battle to the reactionary corrupt leadership of the Mike Tighe administration, had become confined to purely trade issues and had failed to bring forward in concrete terms the great needs of the union and of the workers in the industry.

Altho being subject to vicious attacks by the Mike Tighe administration and ready to fight back, the progressive group has succeeded in rising no higher than to demand constitutional changes on dues payments and improvements of the existing wage scales.

Must Live Up to Name.

Important as these may be, the Amalgamated Association has no power to enforce any scale because of the unorganized state of the industry. And any group laying claim to the name "progressive" must not fail to bring forward a practical program of organization of the unorganized in the industry, of real industrial unionism and of the organization of shop committees. It must not fail to take a stand on the political issues facing the workers in the industry.

The Communist steel workers' fraction, organized at the Youngstown meeting, will consider it a first duty to bring those issues to the fore. It will have its connections thruout the country with a specific form of organization under the direction of a national committee representative of the various steel districts but subject to the regular party jurisdictions.

Begin Work on Union Basis.

Taking the union as the starting point to reach the hundreds of thousands of unorganized workers, the fraction will endeavor to crystallize the progressive movement into a definite left wing group struggling militantly for the building of a real union capable of defending the interests of

the workers against the repacious steel trust.

The following points will be proposed to the progressive elements as basis for a united front program:

A Fighting Program.

1. Demanding the launching of a national organization drive covering the whole industry to take into the union all workers employed in or about the steel mills, regardless of craft or skill, race or color.
2. The establishment of an organization department with full power to conduct drive, establishment of district committees in each important steel district, each to conduct the drive in the district.
3. National organizers to be elected at the annual conventions, district organizers to be elected by the district membership.
4. A uniform initiation fee of \$1.00 to be established.
5. Measures to provide necessary finance for the drive to be worked out by the executive board.
6. A period of intensive propaganda to precede the actual organization and to cover the whole industry. The propaganda to be based on the live slogans of the needs of the workers in the industry.

Slogans for Drive.

The following are some suggested slogans:

The complete establishment of the eight-hour day with abolition of double shifts.

No further wage reductions, but increase of present wages.

Abolition of the speed-up system.

Standard scale of wages for all steel workers to expire at the same time.

One day rest in seven.

Abolition of company unions.

Abolition of black list, physical examination and finger print system.

The industry to support its unemployed.

7. The establishment of an industrial form of organization in the full sense of the word as adopted by the conventions of 1923 and 1924 to be properly departmentalized according to the requirements of the industry.

Shop Committees.

8. The establishment of shop committees composed of both organized and unorganized representing all workers thruout the mills and furnaces, the shop committees to be used as the basis of the organization drive and of the union and to be combined within each district on the same basis as the local unions.

9. The international trade union unity and support of joint Russian-English trade union unity committee.

10. For a Labor Party based on trade unions.

11. Demand for recognition of and establishment of trade relations with Soviet Russia.