

JENSEN'S VOTE JUGGLING WAITS FOR HUTCHESON

Carpenters' President Is Now in England

By ARNE SWABECK.

President William Hutcheson of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America is now attending the Trade Union Congress of Great Britain as one of the delegates from the American Federation of Labor. The second delegate, Frank Farrington, appears to be too busy fulfilling his contract with the Peabody Coal company and is kicked out of office in the Miners' Union, anyway.

While President Hutcheson is in England there is little possibility of the appeal from the vote juggling in the Chicago District Council elections being acted upon by the general executive board.

Jensen and Hutcheson Together.

At last year's international election of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, two opposition movements appeared and the Hutcheson machine won out a good bit ahead. This year at the Chicago Carpenters' District Council elections a united opposition entered its ticket and the district council president, Harry Jensen, was defeated. However, as an adept pupil of Hutcheson he managed to declare

(Continued on Page 3.)

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(Continued from page 1)

himself elected despite the vote of the membership.

Pals Struck a Snag.

The beginning of the opposite movement in Chicago dates back to the team work between Hutcheson and Jensen in June, 1924, in forcing upon the Chicago carpenters an agreement in words and effect identical to the Landis scab award.

Jointly these two also carried on their efforts to crush the opposition to this agreement thru expulsions, but here they struck a snag. The members expelled from Local 181 were reinstated. The local membership was solidly behind the reinstated members.

Because of the building boom existing ever since the war, the contractors have not been in a position to very effectively force the open shop features of the agreement of 1924 upon the union.

The belief that the agreement secured closed shop conditions helped Jensen to carry the election in 1924. But the progressives who then commenced to organize, maintained their organization and carried on their propaganda for real conditions.

A Non-Union Union Agreement.

This year, Jensen renewed the agreement of 1924 with the famous clause 13 relating to stoppage of work or strike being eliminated, but retaining all the other "open shop" clauses. Nothing was put in its place guaranteeing the right to sympathetic strike, which by the way is a part of the constitution of the building trades department. In other words, as the agreement stands, carpenters may even be compelled to work with non-union men of their own trade.

The progressive group existing since 1924 made its preparations for this year's elections. A new group in opposition to the Harry Jensen rule appeared just prior to the elections and it became possible for the two groups to unite on the basis of a program of progressive trade demands and also emphasizing the right to freedom of minority expression and opposition to illegal suspensions and expulsions, as well as for the shorter work day and for the organization of all mills with union material only to be used on the jobs.

Opposition United.

A joint slate was agreed upon and an active campaign engaged in with the progressive program distributed on the jobs thruout the city.

While several office seekers, pure and simple, naturally became interested in this movement expecting an easy way of getting positions, but noticing that only candidates were wanted ready to stand up and fight for a progressive program they soon lost interest in the matter.

This consolidation of all the opposition forces ready to make an honest fight to eliminate the corrupt influences of the Harry Jensen administration threw consternation into the forces of the latter. Harry Jensen went to great trouble distributing propaganda material applying the red paint thick and heavy, stating that all these progressives were better known as "Communists, Bolsheviks, and Reds" saying that the candidates were hand picked by the reds in a caucus dominated by the reds.

Vanishing Ballots.

This, however, failed completely in its intention to scare away the rank and file members. They seemed to fully understand the correct interpretation of the program submitted by the United progressive caucus. They showed that in their votes cast. The progressive president for the District Council was elected by a majority vote, but one local voting strongly for the progressive slate happened to be in arrears with its per capita tax. Its vote was eliminated while the votes cast by Local 1786, also a majority for the progressive slate, mysteriously disappeared.

With little prospects of the appeal being sustained by the general executive board, this leaves the fight at precisely the same point as before the elections. However, with this difference. An additional example of corruption has been set by the Harry Jensen administration, the rank and file members have received additional evidence, not only of that fact, but also of the need of choosing an administration following a much more progressive program and honestly fighting for the material interests of the union.

Membership Ready For Progress.

The opposition forces have become united around such a progressive program. The rank and file have shown their readiness to respond and with further consolidation of all the opposition forces thru the future activities and with additional clarification to make the unity not only one based on general opposition, but particularly one based on the actual needs of the union, the chances should be much better next time. This is the particular task of the left wing.