

Lovestoneites Back ILGWU Chiefs' Betrayal Policy

Left Wing Group Has Task of Fighting for Militant Policy

Editor's Note.—This is the second and final article on the recent convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union).

By ROSE WORTIS

I will deal but briefly with the treacherous role of the Lovestoneites and their open alliance with the I. L. G. W. U. officials.

The Lovestoneites came to the convention with a delegation of 35. An opposition delegation of 35 could be a tremendous factor at a convention. This we have seen on a number of other occasions. At the last convention the left wing had a delegation of 7, who were the center of the convention, bringing forward the class struggle program. At the last A. F. of L. convention the one lone left wing delegate, Suny, forced the machine to discuss some of the most basic problems of the American working class. At this convention Schweitzer, a lone delegate of the left wing, though not an outstanding speaker, forced many issues of the workers on the floor.

Renegades Cheer Green

At the opening of the convention they marched in with song of "Solidarity" and even the "International." These songs coming from the lips of the renegades to a machine-packed convention was a sacrilege and an insult to the rank

and file workers to whom these songs are a battle cry against their class enemies. These songs were repeated time and again. They were sung for Green, arch betrayer of the American working class who has sold out the automobile workers to the powerful automobile magnates, and has maneuvered to prevent the steel strike, for Hillman and Zaritsky. Not only the labor bureaucrats but even the capitalist politicians such as Alger were greeted with the song of "Solidarity Forever."

The Lovestoneite fake progressive delegation were a party to the presentation of a special book in the name of the dressmakers dedicated to the "great leader" Dubinsky. They organized the special delegation of Negro workers to present flowers to Dubinsky, when he refused the floor to the delegation elected at the National Left Wing Conference which came to speak in the name of tens of thousands of workers.

Their declaration which included some demagogic phraseology made a pretense of opposing the N.R.A., but supported all the other reactionary measures of the convention and the fascization of the unions.

At the time of the trial of Local 9 the pressure of the rank and file forced them to adopt a resolution against the expulsion of the local. But at this convention when the question of Local 9 came up Zimmerman remained silent. Some of the other Lovestoneites pleaded for mercy from the almighty Dubinsky. The so-called minority report of Zimmerman which gave 100 per

cent approval to the work of the general executive board but expressed a slight and belated difference on the estimation of the N.R.A. mentioning the fact that too much credit was given to it by Dubinsky, did not prove to be a successful maneuver. Dubinsky's attitude towards "Sascha" as "one of the boys" belied the pretense at opposition.

This complete merging of the Lovestone group with the reactionary Dubinsky machine represents the policy of the Lovstoneites since it was not only Zimmerman but Lovestone himself, who in former years when he was identified with the Communist movement could not get anywhere near the convention, and who now shared seats on the stage with Governor Horner, Matthew Woll and other enemies of the workers. In introducing Lovestone, Dubinsky gave the real reason for this honor. Anyone who fights against dual unionists, actually meaning Communists and class conscious workers, is welcome at this convention, said Lovestone, in a demagogic speech. He, just like his representative Zimmerman, gave 100 per cent endorsement to the corrupt self-seeking bureaucratic Dubinsky machine.

At the close of the convention, Zimmerman, in the name of the progressive delegation, declared that the progressives support Dubinsky as president and will stand with the administration so long as it shows by its deeds that it stands for unity and for harmony. No wonder Dubinsky on a number of occasions

praised Zimmerman as a most loyal member of the International.

The tens of thousands of workers following the class struggle policy led by the left wing, did not have much strength at this convention. The ruling machine made sure during the elections to bar the left wing candidates from the ballot and to steal the elections in such locals where there was any danger of left wingers being elected. As a result New York did not have a single left wing delegate at the convention. The handful of delegates who came from the vicinity of New York, and Canada, though known as left wingers showed that they were not of the mettle of which militant workers are.

Esthar Schweitzer who by her demand from the floor, forced the issue of the discrimination against the Negro delegates and was an important factor in forcing the convention to move from Medina Hall where for a week the Negro delegates had been jim-crowed.

However, insufficient left wing elements of the I. L. G. W. U. deserve considerable criticism for their insufficient preparations for the convention. Despite the arbitrary removal of left wingers many more delegates could have been elected to the convention had the left wing carried on a real national campaign through which to popularize the program and the issues of the ladies' garment workers.

This convention was not a decisive convention for the ladies garment workers. We have seen that on numerous other occasions, such as the convention of the Interna-

Must Fight Harder To Stop Discrimination Against Negroes

tional in 1924 which approved the Lusk Bill and the convention of the furriers in 1925 where the left wing delegates were excluded and even thrown out of the hall, where the reactionary machine had full sway of the convention; that only a year or two later the machine was defeated and workers gained control of the union. The effect that this convention will have on the further life of the union and the workers depends entirely on the activities of the left wing.

It is now the task of the left wing groups throughout the country to begin an immediate mass mobilization of the workers, to reject the reactionary decisions of the convention and to mobilize the rank and file of all local unions to fight against the attacks of the bosses and for the militant program of the left wing, and to organize the unemployed and lead their struggles; to take up the struggle against the wholesale discrimination and lower standards, and jim crowing of the Negro workers, not only through propaganda but through concrete struggles in the shops; to intensify this mass agitation and propaganda especially among the new young workers so as to explain to these workers the disastrous effects of the class collaboration policy and win them for a policy of class struggle.