

Reaction Rallies 'Round Landon and Knox

**Full Western Ticket Aimed To Create Illusion Of
Liberalism; Financial And Industrial Interests
Fear To Show Their Hand**

By JAY LOVESTONE
(Special Correspondent Workers Age)

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—After four days of noise, bluff, praying, singing, and above all horse trading and wire-pulling, the Republican convention adjourned with Landon and Knox as standard bearers.

The convention was among the most spiritless political gatherings ever to convene in this country. The depths of depression gripping the convention could scarcely be measured. Striking evidence of this was the fact that it took so uninspiring and frozen an

CPO Urges United Action for Mooney Day by SP and CP

The 27th of July being the twentieth anniversary of the frame-up of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings in California, the Communist Party Opposition has approached the Socialist and the Communist Parties for a joint campaign for the unconditional release of these most outstanding of labor's martyrs. It is proposed that mass meetings be arranged during that week culminating in gigantic nation-wide demonstrations on July 27—National Mooney Day.

In his letter to Clarence Senior, National Secretary of the Socialist Party, Jay Lovestone said: "We were very glad to learn that your convention at Cleveland unanimously and enthusiastically went on record to participate actively in the campaign revolving around National Mooney Day—the twentieth anniversary of the imprisonment of Billings and Mooney.

"Our committee has given very serious consideration to the question of making the most effective drive in behalf of Mooney and Billings in the coming weeks, culminating with July 27th National Mooney Day. We are prepared to work wholeheartedly with every labor organization towards this end. That is why we herewith offer to join hands with the Socialist Party and every other working class organization to pool all forces and resources for a tremendous and inspiring campaign towards the speediest and unconditional liberation of Comrades Mooney and Billings."

The letter to the Socialist Party closes with the request for a committee to get together with a committee from the C.P.O. and the Communist Party to discuss the campaign in greater detail.

"It is our conviction" said Jay Lovestone, in his letter addressed to Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, "that this campaign should be conducted on the broadest united front basis; that only the closest and most genuine cooperation, particularly of the forces gathered in the class conscious organizations of labor, can insure the maximum results in the campaign for the speediest and unconditional liberation of Comrades Mooney and Billings."

Both letters were dispatched on June 4.

individual as Herbert Hoover to register the first sign of response and approach to enthusiasm. Of course, even the latter was in a large measure synthetic. This incident is symbolic of the condition in which the Republican Party finds itself, of the confusion which grips it, of the lack of faith which paralyzes its campaign.

The listlessness of the convention could not be broken by the volume of the noise, by the partisanship of the prayers, and least of all by the keynote speaker. Senator Steiwer of Oregon, who, for weeks prior to the convention was cracked up to be the man who put some vigor and breath, some life, into the Republican machine, delivered a keynote speech which was as flat as a cake of ice and as chilling. Everytime Senator Steiwer was on the brink of touching an important idea and taking a position on it one way or another, he was scared off and used such words as "America", "Americans", "patriotism", etc. The speech was steeped in shibboleths and superficialities, to wit: "For more than three long years we have had a government without political morality." "The ten million unemployed shall at last get the consideration which they deserve—and with it the privilege of honest work." "This nation deserves a government by conscience." "Automobiles would not be of much use without gas stations." "The chief reason for the present unemployment in this country is the block of the progress of the American system by trying out plans and ideas borrowed from the poverty economics of Europe." "Taxation is a seizure of purchasing power from the hands of its owner."

When Steiwer made a half-hearted appeal for the war veterans, he forgot to mention the tanks with which Hoover greeted them. To the unemployed, Steiwer said, "The Republican Party will not turn its back on those in distress." Steiwer had a tough time explaining away some of his own votes for the leading New Deal measures, some of which have since been thrown overboard by the Supreme Court.

The speech of Snell, Permanent Chairman, was on a par with Steiwer's. It was negative, evasive and confusing.

Only Hoover attempted to raise political issues with some sharpness. In his characteristic monotone he spoke frankly of the struggle between various conceptions of relations in industry. He labeled the New Deal as "socialist" and thus gave the cue to the type of campaign the Republicans plan

(Continued on Page 2)

G.O.P. WEARS A LIBERAL MASK

(Continued from Page 1)

to wage. He defended rugged individualism and utilized his time for making an inferential and outright defense of his stewardship in the White House. It simply marked the triumphal exit of Mr. Hoover from the dominant councils of the Republican Party.

As was expected by all, Landon was nominated. The dominant industrial and financial interests of the East who could at any time wreck the Republican Party have for some time been fully aware that the prospects for Republican success this year are extremely slender. With eyes on 1940, gen-try of the type of Snell, a tool of the power interests, Ogden L. Mills, Wadsworth, Bingham, Watson, and their ilk, thought it best to have a Mid-Western color and make some bows to liberalism in order to preserve and if possible strengthen the Republican Party organization in the coming election campaign.

The strategy of the Old Guard in taking a back seat at the moment, is fundamentally the following: "Let the others handle a lost cause. We will re-establish ourselves when times become more propitious for the G.O.P. Besides, we will then not have responsibility for what appears to be certain defeat." On this basis, Landon, who is now being touted as a "typical American", was, for months prior to the convention, 'sold as "the saviour from the prairies." On the same basis Landon was chosen by acclamation.

Fully aware of a strong trend, the vague and confusing, towards mild liberalism in the ranks of the followers of both of the big capitalist parties, the moving spirits behind the G.O.P. scenes saw to it

that the platform should be studied with half-baked liberal formulas and trivialities. Thus, the platform dodges the question of social security while ostensibly tipping its hat to unemployment relief. In emphasizing the need for relief being conducted on a state basis, the present Republican leadership really proposes a reduction of relief. The farm plank is ambiguous. Whatever elements of definiteness it had in regard to soil conservation are practically identical with this latest Roosevelt panacea for soil conservation. On the question of national defense, the G.O.P. sees eye to eye with the Democratic Party. The proposal for ending reciprocal trade treaties is not taken seriously and is offered only as a campaign weapon.

The outlook is for Landon and Knox waging a vigorous campaign, carefully camouflaged to hide the reactionary substance of the Republican Party aims and plans. An interesting and instructive side-light on the proceedings was the selection of Ruth Hanna, daughter of Mark Hanna, corrupt Republican politician in the days of McKinley and notorious henchman of the monopolists, to second the nomination of Landon—on the ground that he is against monopolies.

This traditional party of centralization of government authority and concentration of economic power in the hands of a few, will, in the coming campaign stir the winds considerably with cries against monopoly and for state's rights.

The Liberty League was practically not in evidence during the convention sessions. We are reliably informed that Landon will choose a strategic moment to dis-

handling differences of opinion in a leadership of a union which claims to be progressive.

Quite otherwise was it in the G.E.B. of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. In the sense that the proposal adopted supports President Roosevelt, even tho obliquely, we are as much opposed to it as to the flat and unequivocal endorsement of Hillman. But the manner in which it was done deserves comment. As far as we know opposition to this proposal either from the left or the right was not considered as treason either to the union or to its president. There was considerable discussion and also a considerable negative vote, which speaks

avow all relations with it.

All reports to the contrary notwithstanding, the convention really didn't overcome deep-going divisions inside the Republican Party—divisions occasioned by fundamental social and economic changes developing and aggravated by the stinging defeats it has suffered in the last campaigns. The "unity" around Landon is at best skin-deep. Its leit-motif is "Stop Roosevelt". Failing to achieve this, the forces making for dissension, division and disruption in the Republican Party will be accentuated.

A tragic figure at Cleveland during the convention proceedings was, Senator Borah. He entered with a threat to storm everything. He departed as softly and as stealthily as a zephyr. However, despite his sweet words for the Republican platform, particularly in regard to its foreign relations section which makes an empty gesture to isolationism, it would be folly to conclude that Borah will be an active campaigner for Landon. He probably will wait for some time and then determine his course on the basis of developments in his own fight for re-election to the Senate from Idaho.

(Continued on Page 4)

G. O. P. WEARS A LIBERAL MASK

(Continued from Page 2)

For the moment and on the surface, the Old Guard is out of the picture, but the Old Guard interests remain. The Republican Party, in spite of the gestures its banner bearers will make to liberalism, despite the sterilized liberal phrases grafted on to its platform, will wage the election campaign in behalf of capitalist reaction. Primarily, it will represent the plans and purposes of that section of the capitalist class which still believes that, despite the consequences of the World War, the world-wide economic crisis and the preparations for the impending war, there is still no need for any significant change in government structure, and in attitude towards even inadequate national social legislation in the realm of economics.

It is sheerest idiocy to carry over the pattern of European class relations to the United States and on this basis conclude that, in the coming campaign, the Republican Party will be the rallying center for fascist and potential fascist forces. Actually, the dominant ideology in the Republican Party today is that there have been no basic changes in the American economic structure and that, therefore, there is no basis for making any serious changes in the political structure or economic policy of the country. The so-called Old Guard in the Republican National Committee just elected are on common ground with that type

of liberalism symbolized by Borah, always looking backward for the restoration and continuation of the so-called "good old days", when they rave about maintaining the Constitution and its checks and balances completely unaltered.

Landon's readiness to declare for a Constitutional amendment giving the states the right to deal with such questions as minimum wages for women, etc., is an election manoeuvre to force Roosevelt into the position of facing the problem of constitutional revision or modernization frankly and honestly. Judging by the President's speech at Arkansas, he has neither the courage nor the conviction necessary for such dealings in politics. More than that, when Landon throws out this idea of handling national social problems on a state basis, he realizes that he is proposing something as impossible as it is impractical. To Landon and Bingham, to Hamilton and Wadsworth, the American government structure—as it was in the days of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover—is still sufficiently adequate. In striking contrast with this conception, it is to be noticed that the dominant group in the Democratic Party is of the conviction that in order to maintain the present socio-economic order, it is necessary to modernize somewhat government structure and the Constitution. This is so despite Roosevelt's pussy-footing and cowardly evasion.

The prospects of a Democratic Party victory in the coming elections have not been seriously disturbed by the decisions at Cleveland, both as to personality and program.

BOSSES ATTACK KNITGOOD UNION