

Socialist Convention Backs Thomas Forces; Old Guard Talks Split

Seating of Militant Delegation from New York Is
Last Straw for Old Guard; Plan to Organize
a Social Democratic Party After Convention

Workers Age Correspondent "Haunts" Confab for Social Democratic Party

By JAY LOVESTONE
(Special Correspondent Workers Age)

Cleveland, Ohio—The group around Waldman have declared themselves in open rebellion against the Socialist Party by announcing plans to organize a new Social Democratic Party. However, the Old Guard is divided and no complete split is possible because the Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts delegations have remained with the Thomas forces.

The conference to organize a Social Democratic Party just got under way with the press called in. Goebbel then arose to demand the expulsion of your correspondent because he is "ABLE TO UNDERSTAND OUR BEING IN GREAT DISTRESS." After discussion in which Waldman proposed my remaining Goebbel's motion was carried. Discussion was again reopened and to save their face and in the name of "tolerance" they decided to exclude the entire press.

By JAY LOVESTONE

By a vote of 9,449 4,809 the National Convention of the Socialist Party seated the Militant Delegation headed by Norman Thomas, as the delegation to represent New York State. This came after days and nights of caucuses, fruitless attempts at peace and compromise arrangements, and after hours of acrimonious debate which led to a marked sharpening of the situation in the Socialist Party ranks.

COURT ATTACKS RELIEF LEGALITY

Resettlement Project Is Barred; Appeal Might Endanger F.E.R.A.

The Court of Appeals, D. C., ruled against the Resettlement Project at Boundbrook, N. J. The opinion of the majority held that the project was unconstitutional, while a concurring opinion agreed to the stopping of this project, but held that no ruling on constitutionality was necessary. The minority dissented entirely.

Since no lower court can throw out the entire Resettlement administration, the various other projects will probably continue. Actually, without the help of the courts, the Roosevelt Administration has been whittling down Tugwell's pet, by paring appropriations tremendously. Appropriations have not been made directly this year but thru the WPA, and now it is doubtful whether this money will be forthcoming.

For fear that the entire Federal Emergency Appropriations Act may be declared unconstitutional, there will be probably be no appeal by the government on this case. The particular project in question will be halted and the others will go on. While there is no doubt that such a danger of invalidation exists, the Roosevelt Administration is putting the whole affair to good political use by pretending terror at what the courts might do. It is thus enabled to cover up the fact that it has cut down an already meagre appropriation for the unemployed.

All efforts to arrive at harmony between the Waldman and Thomas factions on the basis of an equitable and mutually satisfactory division of the New York delegation of forty-four, failed. The leading advocate of a compromise arrangement between the Thomas and Waldman factions was Mayor Dan Hoan, boss of the Wisconsin delegation of thirty-one. The most vigorous champions of the intransigents of the Old Guard were Joseph Bearak, head of the Massachusetts delegation, and Mayor Jasper MacLevy of Bridgeport, leader of the Connecticut delegation. The important Pennsylvania delegation, tho somewhat divided, in the main supported the New York Old Guard.

Three Keynoters!

The Convention opened in a spirit of stormy revivalism. Indicative of the chaotic situation in the Socialist Party was the fact that there were three keynoters—Kryczki, Hoan and Thomas. Kryczki dispelled doubts as to his attitude to Roosevelt by declaring himself 100% for a Socialist Party candidate and campaign in the coming elections. Hoan talked about the farmer-labor party and lost no time denouncing Communism and the Communists. Thomas, who aroused the greatest enthusiasm, further stressed opposition to any and all flirtations with Roosevelt. By insinuation and innuendo he criticised some of the crassest expressions of opportunism by the official Communist Party and made it clear that he was opposed to a general united front with the Communists and particularly against a joint ticket with the Communist Party.

Lansbury conveyed to the delegates the fraternal greetings of the British Labor Party and struck

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SP Backs N.Y. Militants; Old Guard Prepares Split

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a note of harmony and pure Christian Socialism.

A warm reception greeted a telegram from Comrade Thomas Mooney. The latter struck a note of militant class-consciousness and dealt with the mistakes and experiences of the international class struggle, particularly in Germany and Italy.

Soon bitter factional strife gripped the convention. The moment the gathering got down to the business of organizing itself, it was evident that there would be a number of important contests over the seating of delegates and even convention procedure as such. The Right Wing which had been caucusing as the Interstate Socialist Conference forthwith challenged the New Jersey Delegation. Their spokesman Oneal proposed to split the New Jersey delegation fifty-fifty. Despite confusion in the ranks of the Militants over action on the report of the Credentials Committee, the Old Guard lost in its effort to grab off a slice of the New Jersey delegation. A similar fate befell the efforts of the Right Wing in the contest over Rhode Island and Texas. But the real question was over the question of the New York Delegation. This involved the entire action of the NEC in lifting the Old Guard's charter in New York and reorganizing the State and finally recognizing the Militants as the New York State organization of the Socialist Party.

Hoan Cracks Whip

At first the Militants sought to dispose of the whole matter quickly and perfunctorily by treating it as a formal, simple, credential committee report on a contested

delegation which happened to be in this case New York. But Mayor Dan Hoan of Milwaukee who, as soon as the convention opened, began to act as the receiver of the S.P. put his foot down quickly on this effort of the Militants. He proposed to consider the N.Y. situation in its entirety as a separate matter. This was precisely what the Old Guard wanted. Before the maneuvers of Hoan the Militants were helpless and did not even resist audibly. How pivotal a role the Wisconsin delegation was to play in the convention was quickly evidenced in the vote on the New Jersey contest. Oneal's proposal was defeated by a vote of 115 to 55. If the thirty Wisconsin delegates pocketed by Hoan had voted with the Old Guard, the tally would have been 85-85.

However, none of these skirmishes were really of importance. They were all third rate preliminaries in preparation for the big fight—over the New York delegation. James Oneal fired the opening gun for the Old Guard here thru his amendment in behalf of the Waldman combination. The Right Wing began to raise a storm of protest over the fact that while both the Thomas and Waldman delegations were being contested, the Thomas group was allowed seats in the convention among the delegates but the Waldman flock was not treated accordingly. This led Thomas to propose that the Waldman followers be invited to take seats on the platform.

Oneal's Minority Report

Immediately Oneal went to bat for the Old Guard. He read a not very carefully prepared statement which went at great length into the controversy and scurrilously denounced the Communists as blood-thirsty insurrectionists and terrorist anarchists. The Revolutionary Policy Committee was singled out for denunciation by this old master at the game of pouring hell and damnation on revolutionary socialists.

Replying for the NEC, Devere Allen reported on the investigation of the RPC conducted by the NEC. He stressed that the RPC as well as the Old Guard of New York was dissatisfied with the findings of this committee. Allen closed with a confession that in the great desire on the part of the NEC for unity it had erred and was too weak and dilatory and vacillating in its attitude towards the continued violation of discipline and flaunting of party authority by the New York Old Guard. This was in refutation of Oneal's charge that

This comedy will not last very long. Pretty soon this new "group," being no more than a tool of the Rank and File, will declare its union with the Rank and File. However, in the meantime, it is trying to cause as much confusion as possible in the hope of breaking some workers away from the Progressive Group.

The Progressive Group statement is signed by Rosen, Forman, and Jaffee, the officers of the group.

Mooney Greets S.P. Convention

"Please accept my firm fraternal Socialist greetings from tomb of living dead for a successful convention. May your deliberations prove of great benefit in furtherance of the aims and object of the Socialist Party. Don't forget those working-class soldiers who have fallen on the industrial battlefield or been taken prisoners in the class war. We have spent a score of years in California dungeons because of our loyalty and devotion to the working class. I urge the Socialist Party to participate together with the trade union movement in demonstrating on July 27, commemorating the 20th year of our imprisonment. We are desperately in need of immediate funds to complete present hearings on habeas corpus. Won't you help us? My warmest proletarian regards to all the delegates attending this momentous Socialist convention."

the NEC was arbitrary and high-handed.

The real fireworks came at a late hour Saturday night, after a mass meeting. By agreement between both sides an hour was allowed to one speaker for the Waldman group and to one for the Thomas group. Then, there were to be ten minute rebuttals to spokesmen for both sides. After considerable wrangling and uncomplimentary exchanges it was further agreed that two hours would be allotted for winding up the discussion of this question from the floor, with the time to be divided equally. Faction feeling was at white heat at this point.

No Compromise—Says Waldman

Louis Waldman was the heavy artillery for the Right Wing and fired first. As against the accusation of the Thomas faction that he was with LaGuardia, he cited Dan Hoan's united front with LaFollette in Wisconsin. He continued his offensive by emphasizing that he was against any and all compromise with the Militants. Pleading for a Social Democratic Party pure and simple, unvarnished by any left phrases, Waldman at the same time jumped on Thomas for the latter's first favorable attitude to the New Deal. This was the answer of the Old Guard to the accusation of the Militants that the Right Wing is tacitly or openly preparing to play ball with Roosevelt. Waldman time and again stressed that the basic issue was: what kind of a Socialist Party is to be had? Thruout his attempts to answer this question, Waldman laid most stress on a denunciation of the united front with all communists and revolutionary socialist ideas as such.

Thomas replied for the Militants. He deplored the bellicose attitude of Waldman and emphasized that he and his Militants had hoped for a different kind of a speech, that he and his comrades had hoped for a peace and harmony speech from Waldman. The leader of the NEC went out of his way to show how patiently the Committee had acted with the Old Guard, despite wanton provocations. He frankly admitted that he erred in being too patient and lenient with the Waldman's State Executive Committee of N. Y. Thomas spared no words in denouncing the Old Guard for going into the primaries in New York State to challenge the recognized organization. With particular sharpness did Thomas attack

Waldman's all-or-nothing attitude. Thomas openly admitted that he was wrong in being for Panken's acceptance of the judgeship at the hands of LaGuardia. He did not go into a lengthy discussion to answer Waldman's charge about his being too favorable to the New Deal was calculated to break thru the overwhelming favor with which the New Deal was hailed at the outset.

As a final plea for unity Thomas implored Claessens, Waldman and their comrades to stay in the S.P. which wants them and needs them, but that they are to stay as Socialists.

When the sessions were resumed next morning a telegram from the Second International urging harmony was read.

The debate from the floor added nothing new. Whereas Thomas has taunted Waldman for appearing on the same platform with Lovestone at the May Day Meeting in New York for the last few years, Bearak charged, for the Right Wing, that the Militants were subject to the control of the CPO and the Communists in general.

Militants Carry Vote

Oneal's substitute motion that the entire 44 delegates be given to the Old Guard in New York was defeated on a weighted roll call vote by 9,322 to 4,397.

Hoope's proposal to split the New York Delegation fifty-fifty was rejected next by a vote of 11,097 to 3,537.

Then came a proposal by Mayor Hoan to grant the Old Guard of N. Y. twelve of the delegates on the basis that this represents their strength in the primaries vote in New York—provided they agreed to abide by the decisions of the NEC relative to joining a reorganized party organization in New York and agreed in advance to abide by the decisions of the Convention. Dr. Laidler of the Militants inquired from Chairman Kryczki for a reply from the Old Guard. However, the Old Guard maintained a stony silence, in so far as its New York adherents were concerned. Delegate Bearak leaped to his feet to denounce this offer by Hoan as a horsedeal with which his friends would have nothing to do. Bearak went out of his way to denounce the CPO for its influence on Socialist Party members and offered this as evidence that no compromise was to be considered possible. Because of the hostility of the Old Guard to the Hoan proposal the Militants in the main voted against the Hoan peace offer. It was defeated by 10,201 to 4,393.

The session closed with a vote on the report of the NEC (serving as the credential committee) recom-

U. S. ACQUIRES GRIP ON CHINA

A sharpening of the struggle between U. S. and Japanese imperialism became evident this week, when the U. S. announced that an agreement had been reached with the Bank of China to stabilize her silver dollars in terms of the U.S. dollar. Britain had also been negotiating to achieve this control for herself, but was beaten out by the U. S. The Bank of China will establish a New York Branch and work in close co-operation with the Federal Reserve System, thus assuring the commanding position of the U. S. in respect to the financial policies of China, and the ensuing trade advantages.

Japan, however, has continued her plans for the consolidation of North China, by enlarging at a rapid rate the garrisons in the Hopei-Chahar areas. The army there is supposed to total 10,000 and is growing daily. This enables her to enforce her "smuggling", duty free, of Japanese goods into North China—a fact which is causing great alarm among the Chinese merchants and bankers and even greater panic in the British foreign office because in this area Great Britain had an almost complete monopoly.

MILITARY COUP IN BOLIVIA

Following in the footsteps of its erstwhile foe Paraguay, Bolivia set up a new regime which for three days consisted of an army—"socialist" junta, and at last report, consists of a purely military dictatorship. Bolivia is governed by English interests, as Paraguay is by American. The move was necessary due to the discontent which followed the two years war between both countries in the famous Chaco dispute, a struggle for oil between U. S. and British imperialism.

The "socialists" who participated in the government were obviously as "socialistic" as Franco in Paraguay was "communistic." The rule of the military in Bolivia will follow the same path as Paraguay, being based on the war veterans and led by the "extreme revolutionary" party, the National Socialists, representing the native bourgeoisie.

While the original manifesto of the government said the coalition would "organize a new fatherland upon bases of social justice, equity and equality more in accord with the times in which we are living", and took a few potshots at the "great fortunes formed by exploiting the natural riches of our territory", it is not expected that Britain will delay in recognizing the new government, for such declarations are necessary in any of the Latin American countries, ground under the heel of foreign imperialism and betrayed by their governments.

mending that the Militants be seated as a body—44 in all. This motion was carried by a vote of 9,449 to 4,809.

DRESS PRESSERS STATEMENT

In a statement issued by the Dress Pressers' Progressive Group of Local 60, I.L.G.W.U., a number of irresponsible individuals, formerly connected with the Progressive Group are censured for deliberate misrepresentation in a statement which they had published in the "Morning Freiheit".

The difficulties began some time ago when upon the change of line by the Communist Party and the Rank and File Groups, they began a campaign for merger with the Progressive Group. The latter took the attitude of welcoming the change of attitude by the rank and filers but rejecting immediate merger until after a period of joint work proved to all members of the Progressive Group that the Rank and File had really overcome its past habits and was working in the union in a constructive manner.

Stimulated and assisted by the Rank and File Group, a number of individuals seeped into the Progressive Group and together with a few disgruntled ones began a campaign of disturbing and disrupting the work of the group—and acting as the direct agents of the Communist Party.

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