DISTRICT PREPARES FOR CONVENTION

The I. L. A. district officials this year are to be elected by referendum ballot. In preparation for this election the present officialism is carrying on a neat piece of electioneering. By using the Pacific Coast Longshoreman and a whispering campaign they are attempting to detect any opposition which may arise against the present machine. Every one of the opposition to their do-nothing-policy comes from the S.P. Jcy Area and realizing that S.P. has much better conditions than any port of the coast, now, in order to cover up their own inactivity they raise a smoke screen of lies and charges to confuse the membership of the coast.

One question in particular they have exploited to the uttermost and that is, "Why did S.P. demand a Congressional Investigation?"

The district raises the point that the Chamber of Commerce and the shipowners, also want a Congressional investigation. Certainly, the C. of C. and the shipown- ers want an Investigation, but what kind may we ask? They want a closed door in- vestigation, conducted by the Dept. of Commerce or by the Dept. of Justice, both departments largely controlled by the great financial interests of America. The shipowners would never agree to an open-to-the-public investigation because they fear it. They do not want the American populace to learn of the rotten conditions aboard ship and of the unsafe laws, which as far as the ship- owners are concerned, do not exist, while they are receiving millions by direct and indirect subsidies from the American Government.

Such persons as Morris, Pete Lewis and other American Federation of Labor officials fight against an open investigation because they fear that the alliance between the top officialism of the A.F. of L. and the employers of labor would be exposed.

The fight against the open Congression al Investigation makes strange bed-fellows. The Pacific Coast Longshorers published an article signed by four attacking the advisability of demanding such an investigation. Mayor Sanborn, who resides in San Rafael, the home of Robert Deller, who boasts of being against all unions, except company unions, and who edits a paper called the American Citizen, saw fit to publish almost all of Prager's article in the March 27th issue of The American Citizen. An argu- ment the Morris machine is using, and by the way, it was raised by President Fisker, too, is --- because, none of the locals in the northwest have complained and feared for certain concessions, an investigation may uncover these things and the compromises would be lost. Furthermore, it may mean too

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MARCH 30, 1936

GORMAN TELLS CHICAGO UNIONS LABOR PARTY
ACTION IS VITAL

Political struggles must today supplement the economic struggles of the trade unions against the employers, Francis Gorman, leader of the textile workers, told representatives of 50,000 organized workers who greeted him in Chicago.

Calling for Farmer Labor Party action, on the basis that the old "non-partisan" line of the trade unions had served its day, Gorman said the American workers are ready for independent political action.

In a brief reply to the welcome, Gorman hammered home that the "times have come for labor to make a change in its old non-partisan policy". I know long before the A. F. of L. Convention that the working people were ready for a change. We are sure that every trade unionist who carefully examines our program in the light of present conditions will accept it".

"Non-partisan policy is no longer sufficient for the needs of labor. It has served its day", Gorman continued. Some say it is too soon to change. I don't think so. We fought the employers on the economic field, now we must fight them on the political field. Those are we harming when we begin to lay down our lines, to prepare for the fight? I say that in 1940 the lines will be tightly drawn and we must prepare".

Emergence of a fascist-dictatorship that would smash the labor movement, Gorman declared that "There is a deep conspiracy on the part of the employers of which some of us are not aware. They are already attacking labor organizations of more than forty years standing. Today none of us can be sure that our organizations can long continue under existing conditions". Eloquently and bitterly, Gorman described the starvation conditions in the textile industry, "whoKill an arable filled with people who are disillusioned and disapp"oointed before the promises Roosevelt made to them. Can anyone say that unemployment will go down instead of up? To day a worker now tends 72 looms where he formerly tended 16. Where will the other workers go?"

Referring to the need for united action of all laboring groups, Gorman said, "We have in our midst, Democrats, Republicans, Socialists and Communists, and the principle of the labor movement is that there shall be no discrimination against anyone for political or religious belief".

Facing up to the furlers, said what was needed now to build the labor Party in the city and state was a determined effort to place candidates in the field for the November elections. The measure, he said, must leave this meeting with the knowledge and determination that the time is fully ripe for political action. How can we wait when we see such cases as the judge in Waukegan who sentenced to jail sixtains of our trade union brothers and sisters? Against an injustice of that kind our movement will grow much faster if we give labor and the people something definite to act on right now. They are ready for it. Let us make this our immediate program".

FOR THE WANT OF A UNITED FRONT

For the want of unity, free speech was lost.
For want of free speech, civil rights were lost.
For want of civil rights, the unions were lost.
For want of unions, power was lost.
For want of workers' power, the Fascists boomed.
And universal misery was the cost.
All for the want of a United Front.

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PERSONAL LIBERTY! DO YOU ENJOY IT HERE?

Lovers of capitalism's Individual liberty" like to cite Soviet Russia as the world's most regimented country. Soviet citizens are inclined to smile at the charge.

But in Vienna, Austria, citizens" are highly incensed at a new ordinance handed down by their Fascist-Capitalist government forbidding pedestrians to step and chat in the streets.

The measure, designed to prevent demonstrations, is camouflaged under the heading of "traffic laws".

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CIVILIZATION BY TORTURE AND TERROR

The recent wave of scandals regarding American prisons and the graft, brutality and degradation which thrives in them has produced the od of the severest indictments of a so-called "enlightened" civilization that has ever been flung in the faces of a populace. The American people are accused of taking these flagrant exposures of decay in their nation with cynical indifference.

It is not so. America is doing a lot of thinking. It all thickens up and some day the American people are going to voice their indignation in an overwhealing storm of protest and action.

When a civilization becomes so bankrupt - so helpless to cope with the rise of crime - that it must resort to the blind, futile inquisitions of the middle ages, it is time for the population as a whole to take notice. The prisoners have long been used by ruling powers, not merely to punish crime, but to persecute their political opponents as well.

The presence of the eight Criminal Syndicalism prisoners in San Quentin is proof enough of how small a part they play. When the American prison system is helpless to meet the situation and this bold advocacy of "horrible prisons is ample evidence of its ineptitude. Crime waves are an integral part of the decay of capitalism. When they thrive, they are in expression of capitalism itself.

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DOCKERS HIT LAYOFF

"Longshoremen in faraway Pyrenees, Greece struck recently for 2 hours in protest against the firing of more than 800 of their fellow workers. About 3,500 dockers were involved. The strike was 100 percent solid."

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MARCH 30, 1936

WATERFRONT UNION

AND THE JOB GOES ROUND AND ROUND

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

loss of liberty of some of our brothers. Such an argument, if followed to its logical conclusion, would mean just this that there is no need for any labor organizations, that a few lawyers could sit down and reconcile their differences with the employers through compromises. Of course, such a way to make settlements would be ideal, but how does it work out in real life?

Moreover, it is the way it has worked out in the northwest and wherever it has worked out in the A.F. of L. for years. Thus compromises the fighting strength of the workers is sapped, in other words, strangled. Through compromises and trad- e unionism powerful factors in the labor movement have been weakened and when it comes time for action we find all the strength and vitality has disappeared.

Such has been the policy of the top officials of the A.F. of L. for years and what has been the result? The organized labor movement - of 34 million workers employed in industry in America only 4 million are organized in the A.F. of L. This policy is called the class collaboration policy of the two A.F. of L. officials. In comparison to this we have the fighting militant organizations based on class struggle and what do we find there? No sign of organized organizations in the labor movement. Such organizations are to be found in the Bay Area, where they do not fear any kind of investigation except closed door investigations where witnesses can be browbeaten and threatened and thereby the organization has been weakened and when it comes time for action we find all the strength and vitality has disappeared.

Militant, fighting organizations never get into a predicament where they fear an investigation of any kind. Secret diplomacy of nations and trade unions are things of the past. The Rank & File membership in the strength of any organization. We are the ones to suffer from any settlement or agreement - we are the ones to have the class struggle and what should be done and as long as we follow that policy we will remain strong and united.

Brothers, only by a pro-convention discussion can we find a conclusion policy for our elected delegates to follow when they go to the I.A. Convention in Pedro, we must discuss our policy widely and every Rank & File must know exactly what is happening. If you have a question or question for the I.A. Convention have it in the hands of the Secretary before April 15th, on which date a special meeting will be held to discuss and lay down a policy for the convention. If you wish to run as a delegate have your nomination signed by 50 members in good standing, into the Secretary's office on or before April 15th, at which meeting all nominations will be confirmed before being placed on the ballot.

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HOW ABOUT THIS FOR CORRECT ACTION?

Instead of fighting the unions, a Farmer-Labor Government would attack and destroy the company unions.

"Upstairs" Paul, secretary of the Calif ornia State Federation of Labor for 26 years leaves the sun kissed state and takes up his new duties as the I.A. Representative of the federal capital.

Emmanuel J. Vandeloech, re-elected as presi-
dent of the State body and was appointed by the Federation Executive Council to the full time secretarial job. James W. Hopkins of the Automobiles, was appointed to succeed Mr. Vandeloech. Maybe, as he is known to his friends, hasn't worked as a teamster for years and years; for a goodly number of those years he has been manager of the Ferry Building. But that can't figure to the Executive Council. It seems the biggest qualification any one can have to hold an office in the State Federation has been that the candidate not be actually employed in the craft he represents, and yet these are the kind of union men the any, "keep politics out of the union".

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HELP WANTED

In the March 8th edition of the New York Times, the help wanted columns carried two appeals of the National Guard. There's a great life they advertise.

"All advantages of a high-class club" says the ad for a machine gun regiment.

What do they mean "club"? The other ad tells the boys that they have "economic solitallion, indoor baseball, fishing and hunting and the secret of the Dept. of Commerce or the Dept. of Justice.

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PLOPPING ON A BIG SCALE

John and Anthony Princenfeldt, all executive, were tried 2000 cases today and given suspended prison sentences on an indictment charging conspiracy to steal gasoline from a refinery near Linden, New Jersey.

In two years there have been stolen 6 million gallons of gasoline valued at $500,000. They didn't use a rubber hose and five gallon can in doing it either. Evidently the profits they were making were NOT ENOUGH so they went out to get it all.

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A. Jones, a stowage, brass #1100, was seen eating in a restaurant the other day with his arm around the traffic cop on the front. They left the joint together. When they got outside they shook hands as though they were never going to see each other again. I know this A. Jones, brass #1100, and he's no good. When he gets on the job he expects the rest of the gang to hold his end up and he's very lazy. He's just the type of a guy that would shake hands and be friendly to cops, if you know what I mean. I think a little investigating into this guy's record would do no harm.

Yours For a Stronger Organization.

My name is Ryan
The longshore King,
That's why I dine in state,
I get my 17 thousand bucks
But others pay the freight.

Yes I am Ryan
The longshore King,
And my least word is law,
The workers on the SHAPE-UP say
Their deal is more than raw.

I smash all strikes
At the docks,
For I must have my fling,
And I have ree
From pork and beans,
I now dine like a King.

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THE "HONORABLE" MAYOR RETURNS

When the Hoover docked, the last time in, a group of passengers lined the rail Among them Mayor Angelo Rossi, bald head shining, idiotic grin, white carnation — and all. The longshoremen standing by ready to turn to spied "our" illustrious mayor and gave him a royal welcome, that is generally tended to persons of his caliber. Boo - o - o - Boo - o - o -
My - my was Angelo's face red? He slunk away from the rail but he soon came back and again he received his greeting. Only this time it was much louder and much longer, something like this - Boo - o - o - o - o - o - o - o -
His beamimg face fell until it almost touched his shoe tops, his smile became more idiotic and his white carnation wilted and dropped. With a slinking smirk he slunk below.

The "honorable" mayor returns to the city that knows how and to the longshore men she never forget.

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"Tax Reiber, whose father is head of The Texas Oil Company, will spend his spring vacation from college in an unusual manner. The millionaire youngster decided to devote the month's vacation to roughing and, seeing how the other half lives -- he signed up as a deckhand on a tramp steamer sailing from New Orleans today."

"In preparation," Tax spent $5.00 for clothing - to cover the trip, and washed the dungarees and the denim shirts to bring out their rough qualities. Then he left New York for his roughing trip -- traveling to New Orleans in a Douglas-plane!"

We hope that the seamen of the Gulf will show Master Reiber that it takes more than a pair of dungarees and blue shirt to be a seaman. That one must also have an I.S.U. book and something in your heart which we believe Master Reiber does not have and that is Unionism.

"GIVE US GAS AND PLENTY OF IT"

Sellers of tear gas, machine guns, airplane bombs and a full line of strike breaking equipment advised their customers that when they use gas to use plenty of it. We have found from experience that if the police try to disperse a mob with too little gas, their efforts are not so successful.

Equipment sold to firms for breaking strikes is generally shipped to a sheriff's office who later turns it over to the firm which ordered it. This is done as the workers will not know of it and become unduly aroused.

These are only a few of the facts brought before the Senate Munition Investigative Committee. The Committee would subpoena only a few workers from the West Coast they could get quite a bit more testimony about gas, picket handles, vigilantes and guns. Out here they organize and do their vigilante stuff right in the open. If a few more investing committees and the correct working class legislature will soon put a stop to such hooligans.

WHAT IS RUBBISH?

The American Radio Telegraphists are sponsoring a performance of "Black Pit", a working class play, for the benefit of the striking newspaper men back in Milwaukee who took strike action against Hearst. A representative of the Radio operators with a credential of that organization placed posters advertising the play in waterfront business houses, but everyone turned him to take his posters and get the hell out, they didn't want that junk cluttering up their place of business. These places were the Workers' Cafe, The Clipper Inn, next to the Southbound Hotel, and the Worker Convertible at 1515 25th St.

A boycott should not be placed, but union members should at least ask these places what they mean by junk and rubbish?

SOME QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE PERMIT MEN

Brother Editor:

Some of the brothers refer to the permit men as a "safety valve" for the I.L.A, that is, they take up the slack work when the regular I.L.A men have their time in, etc.

I don't entirely agree with such an idea. I recognize that the permit men are necessary and that they are helping the I.L.A, but let us not forget that the I.L.A is also helping the permit men earn a fair living much better than what they could do in their own trades or on the police rolls.

To get the conditions we enjoy today, I wonder how many permit men know the struggle the I.L.A men went through? These conditions we have, we fought like hell to get. They weren't handed to us on any platter. Realizing that many of the permit men belong to other unions I wonder how many of these men still keep up their dues in their own unions and fight on the floor of their meetings to get democratic rank & file control and in some cases have their hands on the permits in their particular industry? I know some of the permit men realize this and are doing their best but I have not others and they are pretty damn insolent. I think a meeting of the permit men, to be held, as soon as possible, is a good idea; to give the majority of these men an idea of what is expected of them and to instill some sort of discipline among them. I would like to see letters printed in the Waterfront Worker from permit men getting their ideas on these questions.

An Old Time Stovedor.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS

What is your opinion of the latest blasts in the Pacific Coast Longshoreman against Priceo? Do you think Morris and the district are justified in their attacks? Write in your candid opinion. Your name and address will be withheld.

The main question we are faced with is to build a stronger Pacific Coast I.L.A District and greater unity. You can help by giving your opinion. The address is P.O. Box 1186, P.S.

A HEAD OR A TAIL - WHICH?

It is being rumored in labor circles that Vandeleur is going to resign as President of the S.F. Labor Council in order to devote more time to his newly acquired position as the Secretary of the State Federation. But an item in the S.F. News of March 26th states Vandeleur is saying: "I am not going to resign as President of the S.F. Council not until after I see if I can't hold both jobs. In fact, I'll have 3 for I'm head of the Municipal Street Carmen's Union, too."

Union Editor: He is the head of the Carmen's Union, but the progressive labor elements say "he had better pinch himself, he may find himself only the tail".
The Editor

Dear Sir:

March 14th marked the official termination of the membership drive being held by the Ladies Auxiliary #6, I.L.A., for the past several months, and not without results.

At the offset of the drive two competing teams were appointed, the "White" and the "Blue". The race was quite close, the "Blue" team having a slight edge on the "White" team. However, both teams worked hard and although the official Membership Drive is over, we are not going to relax in getting wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of I.L.A. men into the Auxiliary where they rightfully belong.

It was proposed, when the Membership Drive was initiated, that the losing team would treat the winning team in the "may of refreshments." And so on Thursday, March 19th, the losing team treated the winning team grandly at the Druid's Temple. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

Let us hope that if, in the future, the Auxiliary conducts another Membership Drive, that the "White" team wins, which will even the odds up. These two colors, the blue and the white should always be together, in victory and strength.

Captain of the Blue Team.

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Casey, Clerk - Switcher and Chiseler

Dear Editor:

Casey, (alias Penguin) ship clerk Grace Line, Pier 35, has other duties besides winding his own business as a clerk. He is also a switcher, a poor one, but he does in a pinch when no other clerk will do that work. Snap out of it Casey, or you might lose your good name as a swell kid. Also be sure and hop on the first train into the dock at 7:30 A.M. as you may not be hired if they see you waiting outside until 8:30 A.M., starting time.

An Onlooker.
The Waterfront Worker

Dear Brothers

I have just come across a copy of the Waterfront Worker dated Feb. 17th, 1936. I am writing this letter to let you know that I agree with your criticism of the resolution, viz.: "However, we cannot label the National Maritime Council, a shipowners' organization, and let it go at that. We must prepare ourselves and see to it that the Rank and File move in and take it over!"

Here on the East Coast we agree with you one hundred percent. I hope you will print this statement, without using my name, as the use of my name would mean expulsion, and I can battle the fakers better in the union hall than outside of it.

It may interest you fellows out there to know that the fakers have now inflicted upon us, one Carl Lynch, who is editor of the new 'Seamen Journal.' Can you send me some dope on this Lynch so that we can expose his sly role out there? He is now engaged in trying his damnedest to prevent unity between all the seamen on all coasts. We have a half-a-dozen fights on our hands, but we will not rest until we have dumpt all the phony out of the labor movement into the garbage can where they belong.

Some of us members of the I.L.A. sometimes get a copy of the Waterfront Worker and we are conscious of its makeup and style. It's grand. It would be a good stunt to throw some spare copies along with the Voice in the holds of all inter coastal ships. In this way I think that the members of the I.L.A. would come in contact with them whom they open up can go holds, and it would start them thinking.

Your's for unity of all the labor movement.

Fraternally,
A Rank & File: Eastern & Gulf Sailor

Tony - THE FUSER

Dear Editor:

Tony Ferron, gang boss, surely must think the Blue Book is still in existence. He looks down the back of your neck all day long. He can't even stand to see a man take a breathing spell.

I have heard him say, "If I can pack a hook again". I, for one, says he be allowed to do so without any further argument.

A Plug In

THE CAPTAIN WITH SIMON LEGREE EYE

Dear Editor:

Se Cap, Russell of Matson fame would not wear a union button, eh? Look at the big heel, he has lost weight, but he knows that Simon Legree look in his eye. Don't worry Russell, you will never get a chance to wear a button of Local 38-79.

A Button Wearor.
When the manager of the Panama Pacific Steamship Line called on the U.S. Attorney General to arrest for mutiny 450 members of the crew of the ship California, striking in San Pedro harbor, people smiled. It sounded so romantic. Not serious.

Mutiny is a hor.ry old word, reminiscent of the days of pirates, and of the day when seamen were slaves, with no rights whatever, subject to death penalty, summarily inflicted, for disobedience.

But now President Roosevelt's Secretary of Commerce, Roper, sternly proposes to have the California crew arrested for mutiny, on the grounds that it is absolutely essential to preserve ship discipline.

Discipline, for what? Not discipline to preserve the safety of passengers or crew, for the ship was tied to a pier.

Discipline to preserve low wages and bad conditions without pay for it, that is why the mutiny law is being revived.

They want to make an example, to prevent more ship strikes, because of the sell-out wage agreement made by the officials of the Atlantic and Gulf District of the Seamen's Union.

Mutiny laws are dug up from mutiny codes, to prevent every strike after a man has signed on, to prevent all job action, to prevent every means of defense against employers' extortion.

How excellent a situation, from the owner's point of view, is that forecast by the deactivation of Roper's assistant Secretary? We cannot discuss the merits of the seamen's demands -- which may be, as far as I know, justified -- but we must act vigorously against mutiny!

Why should shipowners waste time discussing the admitted merits of seamen's demands when it is so much more profitable to just drive them to work with a threat of savage punishment for mutiny?

This move by Roper, who after all represents the Roosevelt administration, is a most dangerous blow at the right to strike. It is part of a general movement, a little more sudden and dramatic because shipping is also a war industry, vital to war.

We will ask Roosevelt a direct question: Mr. President, you are going to prohibit seamen's strikes as mutiny? You must decide, and we will hold you responsible - Roper and the attorney general are your appointees. We will ask "Do you believe in the right of workers to organize and strike?".

Workers, everywhere, protest this attempt to make seamen's strikes illegal. Shover Roosevelt with telegrams and resolutions of protest. Support striking seamen. Raise funds for their defense if the arrests go through.

Roosevelt shows how he and the Democratic administration treats strikes. Al Smith and the Liberty League showed their way when the elevator operators called for a contract in Al's Empire State Building.

Isn't it time to rely on ourselves? On a party of independent political action of the masses, a Farmer-Labor Party?

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IN SUITE OF ALL DIFFERENCES

"Our proposal for a Farmer-Labor Party as the chief way of stemming the advance of Fascism in the United States is the outstanding feature of our policy of the United Front. Paced with ground attacks by the capitalists, the workers and farmers and the lower middle classes must bring together all their organizations for the joint defense of their immediate interests. In spite of all differences that exist among them regarding ultimate questions concerning the present social order, we propose that they all enter a Farmer Labor Party which will carry the fight for their most urgent needs over into the political field."

(Earl Browder in his new book, "What is Communism?")

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![MUTINY](image-url)