

On To Moscow

By E. R. BROWDER

The Detroit Federation of Labor, the city central body of the American Federation of Labor, has endorsed the Moscow International and started a big campaign to obtain the affiliation of the entire American labor movement. The Federation sent Dennis E. Batt as their delegate to the World Congress held in July in Moscow, and upon hearing his report when he returned a few weeks ago, adopted the resolution which follows:

Whereas; We sent a fraternal delegate to the first congress of the International Council of Trade and Industrial Unions at Moscow, Russia; and

Whereas; Our fraternal delegate has returned and we have listened attentively to his report; and

Whereas; We are of the opinion that the growth and development of this International at Moscow is the only salvation for the international working-class; and

Whereas; As the A. F. of L. is not affiliated with any international organization of labor; therefore, be it

Resolved; That we, the delegates to the Detroit Federation of Labor in regular meeting assembled, do urge and call upon the executive officers of the American Federation of Labor to take all necessary steps to secure the affiliation of the American Federation of Labor to the Red International of Labor Unions with headquarters at Moscow, Russia; and be it further

Resolved; That copies of this resolution be sent to the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, the press, to all unions affiliated with the Detroit Federation of Labor, and to all central bodies affiliated with the Federation of Labor.

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This is the first labor union of any size or consequence in the United States to declare openly for Moscow, and to start an agitation for realigning the policies and tactics of the American movement with the radical trade union movement of Europe. It is the opening gun in what will undoubtedly be one of the bitterest struggles in the labor movement. Already the Detroit Federation has sent out a letter to all central bodies affiliated with the Detroit Federation of Labor as follows:

To all A. F. of L. Central Labor Bodies and
all local unions affiliated with D. F. of L.
Greetings:

In March of this year the Detroit Federation of Labor received an invitation to send a fraternal delegate to the First International Congress of Trade and Industrial Unions in Moscow, Russia. We accepted this invitation and upon the authority of the Federation, the president appointed Dennis E. Batt as the fraternal delegate of this body to the congress in Moscow. Brother Batt was appointed because his standing in the Detroit Federation of Labor was such that the members had confidence in him and he was well qualified to represent us at such an important congress. Brother Batt since his return has written several articles upon his experience in Russia and the happenings of the First Congress of Trade and Industrial Unions. He also has made a lengthy report, following which the Detroit Federation of Labor adopted the enclosed resolution which we are sending to all Central Bodies affiliated with the A. F. of L. in the hope that they will take like action.

We learn from our delegate that the general information circulated in the public press regarding Russia is either false or greatly exaggerated; that in fact the Russian Soviet Government is a government deserving the support of the work-

ing-class of that and every other country; that its policy is to do the best possible by the working-class, and that it should be commended rather than criticized for the way in which it has handled the difficulties that have confronted it in the four years of its existence.

The Red Trade Union International, the organization formed by the First International Congress of Trade and Industrial Unions, has adopted a policy that we believe is for the best interests of the international working-class. First, it realizes that it is necessary for the workers to gain political power; that it is impossible for the workers to solve their pressing problems while political power remains in the hands of the employing class, which always uses this political power against the employees. That this is correct is shown by the present attitude of the Government in the railroad controversy, and many other past incidents. Unions affiliating with the International therefore accept the principle of organizing political power under the rigid control of and in the interests of the workers, i.e., the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. Unions belonging to the International must conduct the day to day struggle with the employing class upon the basis of the class-struggle, i.e., that the employees and employers have nothing in common, and that there is a conflict of interests between them. Further, the International is pledged to conduct an unrelenting warfare against all imperialistic wars and will struggle to prevent the workers from being engaged in any such affairs as the war just ended. To achieve these ends the International is to be built upon the basis of centralized authority. Each national unit is to be bound by the decisions of the whole. Thus a better uniformity of action will be possible than has been in the past.

Lastly, the International has adopted a policy regarding America that should commend itself to everyone for its good common sense. It has condemned without equivocation the foolish policy of dual unionism that has had so much sway for the last twenty-five years in this country, to the detriment of progress in the labor movement. They, of the International, propose for America, that the progressive elements should work within the recognized labor unions for the purposes of building them up and educating the members so that the unions may become better instruments in the struggle of the workers.

We are of the opinion that these policies are the correct ones, and that the workers of the world should organize themselves internationally upon the basis of them. That there should be an International of Labor there can be no question. That this is the International that will ultimately lead the workers to victory is our opinion. We therefore ask all the trade union organizations to endorse this resolution and work for the affiliation of the A. F. of L. with the Red Trade Union International.

Trusting that we will receive your endorsement and support in this matter, we remain

Fraternally yours,

DETROIT FEDERATION OF LABOR,
John T. Taylor, President
Frank X. Martell, Business Representative

It looks as if at last the dawn of a new day is breaking. If the revolutionary workers within the American Federation of Labor will unify their activities and join with the Detroit Federation of Labor we may hope to see the bureaucrats thrown aside and the American Labor movement emerge triumphant, a militant organization of the American working men and women.