

'Left' Red-Baiter Left Behind in Poll

By George Morris

Being tied up with red-baiters and union-splitters in the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers did not help Alice (Carolyn) Burkhardt, for whom the Communist Party wasn't "left" enough.

Mrs. Burkhardt was defeated last Thursday for the post of financial secretary of the A. Schrader shop committee of UE Local 475 by a vote of 700 for her progressive opponent, Neal O'Reilly, to 121 for herself.

Defeat came despite a last-minute leaflet she distributed in the shop in which she out-red-baited the red-baiters.

"I am opposed to all appeasers, especially those who are members of the U. S. Communist Party," she said in the leaflet.

The moral of this story is not that another red-baiter was repudiated at the polls. Not very long ago, Mrs. Burkhardt, when still a member of the Communist Party, denounced the Party policy as too conservative to suit her.

Her ouster from Communist ranks last summer was followed by expulsion of other "leftists"—Ruth McKenney and Bruce Minton, Verne Smith, William F. Dunne, Lyle Dowling and others. With Carolyn (Alice) Burkhardt as chairman, and Dowling as editor, they have been issuing mimeographed and printed weekly attacks upon the Communist Party.

They call themselves the "New Committee for Publications."

Last December, Mrs. Burkhardt was candidate for the Local 475 executive board on the ticket of

the U. E. Members for Democratic Action, a red-baiting group led by James B. Carey and Harry Block. The slate was a collection of Christian Fronters, company unionists and other disruptive candidates.

She and her running-mates met defeat in a three-to-one sweep for the administration.

Another interesting aspect of Mrs. Burkhardt's "approach" is her effort to still sound "leftish" as she red-baits. In the leaflet quoted above she called for socialism. But, she added, "in order to do this" the workers must "clean" the Communists out of union leadership.

What did happen is that the reactionaries who held the chief posts in the Schrader shop were "cleaned out" by an overwhelming majority for the progressives, pro-Local 475 administration forces.