

THE MAINLINE

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STAY OUT OF THE AFL-CIO

On December 3, 1976, two top officials of the UAW, President Leonard Woodcock and Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey, met with the President of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, George Meany, to discuss the reaffiliation of these two trade union organizations. After the meeting, it was obvious that Mazey had not changed his position since the 24th Constitutional Convention in 1974. He is still firmly against rejoining the AFL-CIO. It is also obvious that this will be a major issue at the 25th Constitutional Convention this spring.

Under the guise of "creating one central trade union organization" in the USNA, Woodcock is proposing nothing but a change in tactics for the UAW. The opportunism in the organized labor movement in this country has expressed itself best through the merged AFL-CIO. For this organizational form is united around anti-communism, and disunited around craft unionism and industrial unionism. A little bit of history can make this clear.

In 1935, the United Mine Workers left the AFL, charging that narrow craft unionism was holding back the development of industrial unionism. This initial split laid the basis for the development of the CIO as a center for the organization of industrial unions. In fact, by 1945, operating independent of each other, the AFL and the CIO unions had organized 35.5% of the working class not engaged in farming. This same year the CIO participated in establishing the World Federation of Trade Unions which included the trade unions from the Soviet Union. The WFTU refused to passively accept US imperialist domination of Europe, so in 1949, the CIO pulled out and formed the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions along with European Social-Democrats to support the Cold War against the socialist countries. This, plus the anti-communist terrorism of the McCarthy era laid the basis for the merger of the AFL and the CIO. In 1952, Walter Ruether became president of the CIO and began maneuvering for this merger. In 1955, the AFL and CIO merged and embarked on an international crusade against communism.

The main anti-communist tactic that AFL-CIO adopted is cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency through the Agency for International Development (AID) in direct interference in the internal affairs of other countries. AID funnels money and agents through AFL-CIO organizations, such as the Interamerican Regional Organization of Workers and the American Institute for Free Labor Development in Latin America, the American-African Center in Africa, and the Asian Institute for Free Labor Development in the Far East. By 1963, 23% of the AFL-CIO's money was going to overseas activities. The tactic of cooperation with the Social-Democrats had clearly become secondary.

The merger of the AFL-CIO, although a success as an anti-communist trade union alliance, was a disaster for industrial unionism. Today, trade union membership has dropped to 20% of the working class not engaged in farming. This decline in union membership formed the basis for the UAW from the AFL-CIO in 1968. The Civil Rights Movement, the Farmworkers Movement, and the Anti-Vietnam War Movement were deep rooted in the rural and industrial proletariat and in order to expand industrial unionism these movements had to be supported. The craft union leaders in the AFL-CIO saw no stake for themselves in these movements.

After the split, the UAW leadership returned to its old anti-

communist tactics of alliances with the Social-Democrats. Today, the UAW supports and is a member of the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the International Metalworkers Federation. But the UAW leadership faces the fact that the union's membership is declining due to the present economic crisis in capitalism. They are also faced with the very real prospect of war with the socialsit camp, in particular with the Soviet Union, in order to solve this crisis. Today with fascism and war looming for the working class, reaffiliation with the AFL-CIO represents a consolidation of a fascist labor front.

We must elect delegates to the 25th Constitutional Convention who will keep the UAW out of the AFL-CIO. Delegates who will demand a massive organizing drive in the South and Southwest by the UAW, and material support for any union doing likewise.

SADIE HAWKINS

Under the terms of the new contract, workers who have been laid off from one plant and called to another plant, may now return to their former plant, provided their seniority at the new plant does not exceed that of the original plant.

Many of the workers at Dodge Main have come from other plants because of the 73-75 recession. What all this means is that we will have the opportunity to sign a transfer request to go back to our original plants. According to the provisions of the contract we will have 60 days to sign up beginning with the date the contract was ratified. As of this writing there has been no attempt by the company to post or even inform the workers as to when we can sign up for this transfer. It is up to the workers to press the stewards for this information. It should be remembered that those who do not exercise their right to be transferred will lose their plant seniority at their original plant and will retain only that which has been accumulated at Dodge Main.

LARRY DOSS ATTACKS DETROIT SCHOOLS

On November 18, 1976, Larry Doss, president of New Detroit, Inc., publically threatened to withdraw further support for Detroit schools unless the Central School Board accepted the cuts in the school budget proposed by anti-busing leaders Carmen Roberts and Gerald O'Neil. Central Board member Alonzo Bates charged that Doss is "a perfect example of a person who's in the employ of suburban whites - all part of the system destroying the credibility of a black-run school system."

A few days later the Detroit Chapter of the NAACP again asked that Federal Judge DeMascio remove himself from the Detroit Desegregation Case, charging that he conspired along with the Central School Board to limit desegregation of the schools. On December 2, 1976, the committee set up by DeMascio to monitor busing released a report that advises restricting busing even further.

What do these seemingly contradictory events mean? We know that Doss is the president of New Detroit, and we know that Roberts is on the board of directors of the National Association for Neighborhood Schools and is the former president of Mothers Alert Detroit, both active anti-busing organizations. We also know that MAD evolved from Northeast Mothers Alert. We also know that NEMA was on the education committee of New Detroit. When it became evident that some form of busing for Detroit could no longer be stalled in the courts and when it became obvious just as evident that the working class could be split along national lines during a period of high unemployment for all nationalities an alliance was formed by MAD, New Detroit, DeMascio, and the Cetr

School Board. While MAD attempted to stir up violence against busing in the community, New Detroit presented a publicity campaign which advocated obeying the law but not supporting busing. Meanwhile, DeMascio and the Central School Board developed a busing plan that limited busing, closed predominantly Negro national minority schools, and left whole sections of the Detroit school system segregated. But this leaves out Bates and O'Niel. Not really since they were both on the Central School Board that developed the limited busing plan.

Our point in all this is that all the screaming and shouting about "chauffered cars" and "suburban whites" doesn't really represent anything except a split in this anti-busing alliance. In the final analysis, an anti-working class alliance.

The Detroit schools are definately in a financial crisis, but this crisis is due not to "out of town trips", it is due to the fact that Detroit has the highest unemployment rate of any major city in the country. It is a fact that it is not "suburban whites" who are destroying Detroit schools, it is capitalism. Metropolitan Detroit, including these "white" suburbs, also has the highest unemployment rate in the country. Is it not true that these same working class suburbs face the same cutbacks? Sports and cultural programs no longer exist. Teacher unions are colling for "sick outs". City employee unions are picketing city halls. Is not the entire working class, regardless of where they live or what nationality they are, being attacked?

What do Doss, Roberts, Bates, O'Niel, and DeMascio offer the working class? Nothing! Nothing but white chauvanism and black nationalism. Nothing but disunity.

How can this crisis in education for the working class be solved? It can be solved only by fighting for equal, quality, and integrated education, and the nationalization of the education system. In metropolitan Detroit, it means supporting cross-district busing. It means supporting the financing of education based on equal monies for each schoolchild at the expense of the military budget.

OUR POLICY

THE PAGES OF THE MAINLINE ARE OPEN TO ALL WORKERS AT DODGE MAIN. OUR POLICY IS TO PRINT ALL LETTERS AND ARTICLES MAILED OR GIVEN TO US IN THE PLANT. AS A COMMUNIST PAPER IT IS OUR DUTY TO SPEAK TO ALL THE BURNING ISSUES WORKERS ARE FACED WITH. ADDED TO THIS IS OUR TASK TO DISPEL ALL THE FALSE NOTIONS AND DISTORTIONS THAT HAVE MOLDED THE WORKING CLASS' MIND AGAINST COMMUNISM.

THE MAINLINE IS PRODUCED BY WORKERS AT DODGE MAIN FROM THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY AND NON-COMMUNISTS WHO FEEL THAT THE FIRST STEP FORWARD IN ORGANIZING OURSELVES IS THE PRODUCTION OF A NEWSPAPER ABLE TO SPEAK TO THE ISSUES OF THE DAY AND OFFER REAL SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. FROM TIME TO TIME THERE WILL BE REPRINTS OF ARTICLES FROM THE PEOPLES TRIBUNE, THE POLITICAL PAPER OF THE COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA.

SEND ALL LETTERS AND ARTICLES TO: THE MAINLINE
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CCC 6 FORUM SCHEDULE

DEC 14

EUROPE

History of the working class in Europe, and analysis of the current situation.

MAR 8

WOMEN

Women behind bars. Why are women in prisons and mental institutions? How can they be freed? (Film)

JAN 11

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Current situation and aims of the national liberation movements. Relation to working class in the U.S.

APR 12

YOUTH & EDUCATION

What alternatives do our youth have? What is happening with the education system, and what must happen?

FEB 8

MIDDLE EAST

Who are the contending forces, and what can we expect to develop in the region in the future?

MAY 10

THE SOUTH

Trends in the region, and how they effect the rest of the country.

JUNE 14 ECOLOGY & CONSUMERISM

Current successes and failures of these two movements.



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