



Yugoslavia Seen With Open Eyes: 5

How Workers Councils Are Chosen and How They Operate

By Ernest Germain

Caught between the growing pressure of the well-to-do and rich peasantry inside the country, and of world imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy outside of it, the Yugoslav CP had to solve the problem of the hour: How to safeguard the conquests of the revolution against these hostile forces, how to push forward on the road of socialist construction? The only progressive answer possible was the following: By mobilizing the conscious, decisive force in the country, the industrial working class. That was the road chosen by the Yugoslav leaders from 1949 on.

Experience told them that the road was practical only if (1) the workers achieved a minimum standard of living which makes workers democracy practicable; (2) if the active and conscious participation of the working class in the administration of the state and the economy was made possible. From the end of 1949 the whole internal policy of the Yugoslav CP has been concentrated on achieving just that goal. And the main road toward that goal has led through the legislation on the workers councils.

These elections there was only one slate of candidates, but two important provisions introduced real elements of workers' democracy into these elections. First is the fact that the original slate, worked out by an "electoral committee of the trade union branch," had to be presented to the general assembly of all the workers in the given plant (or in very big factories, to a general assembly of many hundreds of elected shop stewards), who were thereby given ample opportunity to change the slate. Second is the fact that the workers, becoming confident that the ballot was really a secret one, took the opportunity to vote against the single slate, writing in people of their own choice on the ballot.

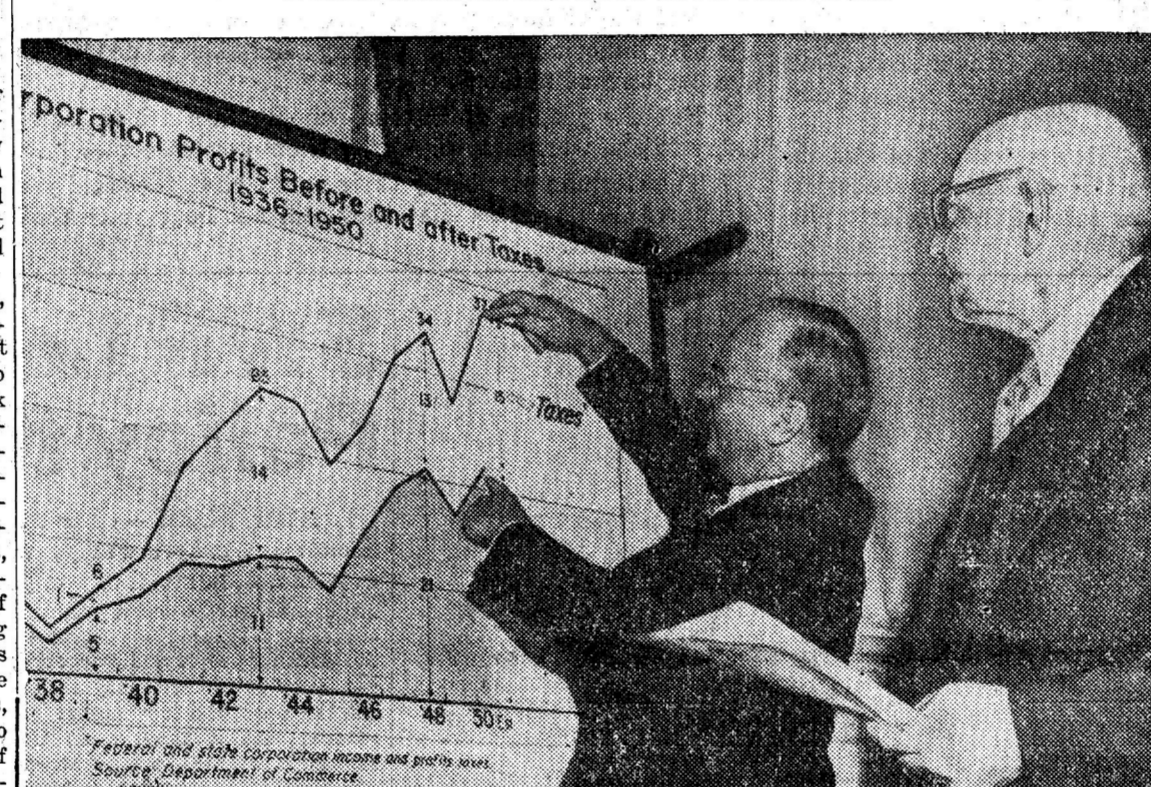
and provided a big support in mobilizing the working class. The law of June 28, 1950 was thus prepared, which represented a revolutionary development on the road of socialist democracy. This law actually puts the management of the factories into the hands of the workers, operating through two elected committees: the factory committee, chosen by universal suffrage of all the workers of the plant; the administrative committee, elected by all the members of the factory committee.

CIO Convention Leaders Fail to Draw Lesson of the Nov. 7 Political Setback

By Art Preis

Delegates to the CIO national convention in Chicago, Nov. 20 to 24, were greeted by an editorial "memorandum" in the CIO News warning them in advance that this year's gathering would be "duller" than the previous one. It recalled almost wistfully the 1949 convention that "really saw some excitement" when Philip Murray and his lieutenants used the Stalinists as the scape-goats on whom to pour all the blame for the CIO leadership's shortcomings.

Talk About Excess Profits Tax



Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder (L.) uses a chart to show Sen. Robert L. Doughton (D, N.C.) how corporation war profits could be taxed 75% and still leave plenty behind. Big Business is conducting a vigorous campaign against even this inadequate measure, and a large section of Congress opposes action during the lame-duck session.

Every observer at the latest convention agreed with the CIO News prediction. "Dull" was the adjective they all applied to the proceedings. This year there was no "excitement" of red-baiting denunciation of a discredited minority, no "thrill" of a whipped-up hysteria against a weak and unpopular opposition, no preparations for bureaucratic expulsions and splits, no rallying of the capitalist press with its hordes of reporters and photographers to egg on the "kill."

overflow of the disgust and discontent that is boiling in the ranks over the miserable results of the CIO's political policy. This found reflection in the speech of George Baldanzi, executive vice-president of the United Textile Workers, who is considered something of a maverick in top CIO circles. He tossed a small stone in the otherwise placid waters of the convention.

plaints they carefully avoided any criticism of Truman and his State Department. Here they showed the real tie that binds them to their fatal political policy. They support the Trumanite war program and, for good or ill, they are bound to support the political machine that is putting that program through. That is why they supported the Democratic "hacks" and "gangsters" in the last election and why they promise to do so in the future.

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS From August to October 15, these committees were to be elected in all nationalized enterprises. The factory committee would be the supreme legislative body in the management of the plant. It would meet at least once every six weeks, and be composed of from 15 to 120 members. The administrative committee, composed of from 3 to 17 members, would be the executive organ of the management and meet on an average of once a week.

EFFECTS ON PRODUCTIVITY The workers councils try by all means to increase the managerial capacities of their own members and of all the workers, and to instill the spirit of initiative and free creation in the working class. It is in that field, and not through an increase of physical effort or through speed-up, that the leaders of the CPY hope to achieve an increase in productivity. Results here are also amazing.

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But the small spark struck by Baldanzi died in midair. His mild admonition, which proposed no real change in CIO policy, lit no discussion. Murray, Reuther and the others met it with stony silence, although Reuther himself had made a similar type of declaration in the UAW paper.

M'Grath Demands CP Registration

(Continued from Page 1) that are set in the Stalinist case will hang like a sword over the heads of the whole American people.

Book Reviews

By John F. Petrone COLLECTED STORIES OF WILLIAM FAULKNER, Random House, 1950, 900 pages, \$4.75.

The recent award of the 1949 Nobel prize for literature to William Faulkner was doubly welcome. First, because Faulkner, probably the most important American writer of fiction in this century, manifestly deserves this honor. Second, because the publicity surrounding the award will undoubtedly lead to the republication of many of his books that have long been out of print.

A TRUE PICTURE

Most of Faulkner's work deals with the South, especially the rural South, and its people — the descendants of the slaveowning aristocracy, the newly rich commercial elements who replaced the old aristocracy, the backwoods farmers, the tenant farmers, the Negroes, the intellectuals. Faulkner is concerned with their relations with one another, their morals, their struggles with the heritage of the old South. His social views are nothing to brag about, being confused and sometimes even reactionary. But because he is an honest artist, he gives a generally true though imaginative picture of the decay and corruption of the Southern system as reflected in the lives of his characters.

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- AKRON—For information, write P. O. Box 154.
- BOSTON—Workers Educational Center, 30 Stuart St. Open Tues., 5:30-9 P.M. Social meeting Thurs., 8 P.M.
- BUFFALO—Militant Room, 629 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. Phone 823-7822.
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