

Howatt and Trotzkyites in New Betrayal of the Miners

Unite With Muste for a "National" Convention in St. Louis to Lead the Miners Away From Struggle

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.

Alexander Howatt, together with Watt, Angelo and their handful of Trotskyists, working under the leadership of Muste, have called a "national convention" of miners to take place in St. Louis on April 15. This convention is the latest step along the miserable path of betrayal trod by these Muste elements in the Illinois situation. It is merely a preparation to introduce more demoralization and disorganization into the ranks of the struggling Illinois miners.

During the past year, Howatt and his Musteite-Trotskyite backers have shown themselves to be definite tools of the Illinois operators. At a time when the miners were breaking away en masse from the Lewis machine and rallying to the revolutionary National Miners' Union, Howatt jointly with his friends, the arch crooks, Farrington, Fishwick and Walker, organized his U. M. W. of A., No. 2. The purpose of this organization was clearly to stop the flow of the miners into the N. M. U. and to make them still more helpless in the face of the employers' wage-cutting, speed-up program. And the worst of it was that this reactionary purpose was accomplished to a very great extent by the Howatt organization.

Now the crooks Farrington, Fishwick and company, have patched up their differences with Lewis, and Howatt is on the job to make a new maneuver to prevent the disgusted and disillusioned miners from taking real steps towards building an organization and developing struggle

against the operators and their labor agents. Howatt, despite his recent alliance with these notorious agents of the Peabody Coal Co., an alliance consummated in the face of open denunciation by the National Miners Union, now actually has the assurance to appear before the Illinois miners in the guise of an oppositionist, and to call upon the miners to support his proposal for forming a "progressive U. M. W. of A." He is still trading upon his one-time reputation of a fighter in the Kansas coal fields.

The National Miners' Union should carry on a campaign of the most thorough exposure of Howatt and his pals. Such elements are the greatest danger to the miners. With the employers slashing wages and worsening conditions ruthlessly in every section of the mining industry, and with the U. M. W. of A. losing its grip more and more upon the miners, these Musteites are always on hand to try to prevent the miners from taking drastic action against their exploiters. The Fishwick-Howatt betrayal in Illinois is a classic example of their treachery. The sell out of the Anthracite "outlaw strike" by the "progressive" leaders, supported by the Lovestone elements, is of the same stripe. Only by the defeat of these tools of the operators and the Lewis machine can the National Miners' Union establish its organization and leadership in the mining industry.

The course that the miners should take at the Illinois convention is clear. First of all, they should clean out Howatt and his gang. Howatt has shown by his alliance with Fishwick that he is utterly unfit to stand at the head of a miners' union. He knew perfectly well that Fishwick, together with his cronies, Farrington and Walker, were paid agents of the Peabody Coal Co. The miners must repudiate Howatt as a first essential to the building of a real fighting miners' union.

Secondly, at the convention the miners should take charge of their movement themselves. They should elect a rank and file committee to head the organization, making sure that none of those associated with the Fishwick-Farrington adventure be given any post of trust whatsoever.

Thirdly, the miners of the Illinois convention should then develop a united front with the National Miners' Union. Such a united front, based upon the elementary demands of the miners, would lead to a real solidification of the workers' ranks and lay the basis for effective struggle.

The situation in Illinois is one that offers a real opportunity for the building of the National Miners' Union. Many locals in the district, disgusted with both Lewis and Howatt, are disaffiliated altogether and can be readily won over to the N. M. U. The N. M. U., aggressively developing its initiative as the national fighting organization of the miners, should lose no opportunity for developing united front struggles with the rank and file members of the movement coming to a head at the St. Louis convention. In Illinois the N. M. U. made many serious mistakes during the strike of a year and a half ago. These errors can and will be overcome. Not through fake Howatt organizations in Illinois, or treacherous "progressive" movements in the Anthracite, can the miners build an organization. This can only be done through strengthening the fighting National Miners' Union.

TOOLS!

May First!

(ON PAGE ONE)

of the Russian revolution will inspire revolutionary self-confidence. That is anism, is carrying on feverish war preparation. That is why it lies about and slanders

ons become for the workers in Amer-
lism is peddling thru the mouth of
s of the workers in Russia.

starving because they cannot find a
ster American capitalism is raving
out "forced labor" in Russia.

declassed and pushed into the abyss
merican capitalists thru the treacherous
collect money to help the declassed

d starvation of proletarian victims of
o cover up, the more ferocious become
ainst the Red Flag.

t police become, the more brutally it
the American capitalists become in
re they are shouting about the "vio-

dictatorship tramples under its feet
the workers, the right of organizing,
of striking, the right of picketing, the
of our bosses and their agents about
Russian dictatorship.

mised by this propaganda. Demon-
ainst the growing fascist terror in

n May First that you understand that
t dictatorship and that the Russian
acy.

or Workers' Government.

rnment of our enemies, the capitalists.
our own class, the workers. Our own
e against the one and support of the

pers surround us. We have built them
rent. It is the essence of capitalist
ndlord to collect rent against the right