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The victory of the U. M. W. A. in the coal lockout is the latest in the series of recent successes of the C. I. O. in several key sectors—auto, steel, textile, coal, the Wagner Labor Act fight, in beating back the union-breaking combination of big employers and A. F. of L. bureaucrats who are trying to destroy the C. I. O. They also constitute an advance by the C. I. O. and thereby a strengthening of the progressive political forces generally.

The present string of C. I. O. successes began by the defeat of Homer Martin's attempt to split the U. A. W. A. This disruptive attack, which was led directly by Lovestone elements, supported actively by the open shop Ford

Company, and with William Green pulling strings in the background, was decisively beaten. The associated reactionaries, who hoped in this affair to deal the C. I. O. a mortal blow, were non-plussed when all that Martin got out of his union-wrecking efforts was a splinter split of a few thousand workers. The U. A. W. A., freed of his leadership, has become infused with a new spirit of solidarity, its dues payments have picked up everywhere, and the organization is now marching militantly ahead to organize the airplane plants and generally to strengthen its lines in the auto industry. All told it was a substantial victory for the C. I. O., although Martin still remains a potential danger.

Another field where the combined A. F. of L. leaders and bosses tried to knife the C. I. O. was in textile. But here, too, their attacks failed. Francis Gorman's attempted split, like Martin's, was a dud. Its principal effect has been to strengthen the T. W. O. C. and to stimulate the C. I. O. into a fresh effort to expand its growing organization in textile. Repelling this vicious assault was a success of big im-

portance for the C. I. O.

Still another sector in which the C. I. O. has scored during the past few months is the steel industry. Here real progress has been won quietly and without any publicity, but it is none-the-less significant. One of the serious weaknesses of the S. W. O. C. in steel had been a low ratio of dues payments. The A. F. of L. leaders and open shop steel bosses, fully aware of this situation, gloated over it and forecast that it signified the decay and early collapse of the new steel union. But recently, by virtue of good organizing work, dues payments have increased remarkably almost everywhere in the steel industry, with the general result of greatly increasing the strength of the S. W. O. C. This consolidation of forces in steel is of immeasurable importance to the whole C. I. O.

Next there was the lockout in the coal industry, just concluded. As part of the employers' national drive against the C. I. O., the coal operators were all set, with the help of William Green and his strikebreaking Progressive Miners' Union, to stick a dagger into the heart of the C. I. O.—the United Mine Workers. But, with splendid generalship and

magnificent support from the rank and file miners, John L. Lewis has made ducks and drakes of this whole union-smashing scheme. By securing the union shop the miners have won an outstanding victory.

Then there is the present fight of the C. I. O. to prevent the Wagner Labor Act from being cut to pieces in Congress. Here again the C. I. O. confronts the sinister combination of A. F. of L. reactionary leaders and open shop employers, supported by the capitalist press and Trotskyite-Lovestoneite snipers. These forces of reaction cooked up a tremendous offensive against the Wagner Act and to the casual observer it looked for a time as though they would have an easy time in destroying this law. But then Congress began to hear from the masses of labor, of the A. F. of L. as well as the C. I. O.

Finally came Lewis's smashing exposure of the shameful plotting between Green and the National Association of Manufacturers to wipe out the Wagner Act. All this has seriously stalled the offensive of the reactionaries to destroy this beneficial legislation, and is doing much to mobilize

the workers generally to block this work of destruction.

The C. I. O. is also fighting successfully on a number of lesser fronts. In the meat packing and agricultural machinery industries the C. I. O. unions are making real progress at organizing work. Also, the C. I. O. fur workers, after organizing their own fields airtight, have now amalgamated with the leather workers and are blazing forward to the unionization of this large industry. Then there is the valiant struggle of the National Maritime Union in the tankers' strike, in which this union is under attack by Standard Oil as part of the widespread fight of the big employers against the C. I. O.

On all these fronts against the capitalist offensive—the fight to prevent Martin and Gorman from splitting the auto and textile unions, the campaign to build up the steel union, the strikes of the miners and seamen, the organizing work in packing, agricultural implement and fur, and the battle in defense of the Wagner Act—the Communists have actively participated and have loyally supported the C. I. O.'s efforts to build up a militant and powerful labor movement.

The sum-up of its struggles during the past few months shows definitely that the C. I. O. has been able to beat back the attacks of the Green bureaucrats and the open-shop employers, and also in some spheres to begin to take the offensive itself. The C. I. O. is emerging from the series of big struggles stronger and more consolidated.

All this is of major importance to the whole democratic cause. It gives the C. I. O. fresh strength to accomplish its historic task of organizing the mass production industries; it greatly improves the possibilities for trade union unity by consolidating generally the position of the progressive C. I. O.; it makes it more difficult for the A. F. of L. leaders to develop their alliance with the Republican Party; it gives the democratic front movement much of the stimulus necessary to help it to begin a militant offensive to carry the Presidential elections. Most important of all, the C. I. O. successes in repelling the attacks against it demonstrate that the workers are in a militant mood and will respond actively to vigorous and progressive leadership. These successful struggles of the C. I. O. will have great importance in stimulating the masses for organizing the unorganized, for trade union unity, for political victory in 1940 of the democratic forces of the people.

Textile Convention Holds 'Southern Day,'

sang several labor songs that grew right out of the heart of Southern labor. The one to the tune of Dixie threw the hall into ecstasy. Its chorus went as follows:

But the CIO's in Dixie,



Probe Hears Trusts Refuse