

# World Socialism

## LABOR UNITY IN FRANCE AND INDIA

By HERBERT ZAM

**A**FTER considerable negotiations, trade union unity between the CGT (Socialist-led unions) and the CGTU (communist-led unions) is practically an accomplished fact. A joint statement issued by the two federations gives the basis upon which unity has been achieved.

"The trade union movement is completely independent of employers, government, political parties, philosophical sects and other outside groups.

"The trade union movement reserves the right to accept or reject request of other organizations for common action. It also reserves the right to initiate common temporary cooperation with political parties.

"Only the trade union congresses and meetings have the power to make decisions.

"Trade union democracy guarantees every member the right to freely defend his point of view on all questions before his organization. Freedom of opinion cannot justify the existence of fractions, which will not be tolerated in the unions."

The last point was the one over which there was the most prolonged dispute. The communists finally declared that in the interests of unity they are willing to give up the right to work in fractions.

### Demand Representation

Several unsettled issues still remain, including the communist demand for proportional representation in the leading bodies of the unions, the adoption of a new constitution and international affiliation. The communists are in favor of affiliation with Amsterdam (the International Federation of Trade Unions) but are holding out for the purposes of bargaining.

The present statutes of the CGT will almost certainly be adopted for the united organization while the first point will be compromised—proportional representation as a system will be rejected but the communists will be given some representation.

All points not settled in advance will be left to the Unity Congress, and since the CGT has 900,000 members against 200,000 for the CGTU, there can be no doubt of the outcome.

### Convene in September

In September, both Federations will hold congresses to vote on amalgamation. If it is carried, then either the two conventions will constitute a unity convention or one will be held later in the year.

In the meanwhile, the individual unions are proceeding with amalgamation. The unions of the coal miners have taken the lead and have already established a united organization.

## In India

From far-off India comes news of the trend toward trade-union unity, which is part of the efforts of the working-class to achieve general unity under the blows of reaction.

Recently, the Railway Workers Union affiliated with the Federation of Trade Unions, which is a member of the Amsterdam International. The railway union, one of the strongest in India, was for a long time independent and has strong left tendencies.

### May Unite

The All-India Trade Union Congress, a rival to the Federation, has also strengthened its position as a result of the affiliation of the communist-controlled "Red Trade Union Congress" which was established when the communists failed to capture the congress.

Now however, a united trade union federation in India appears in sight as the All India Trade Union Congress has decided to approach the Federation of Trade Unions with a proposal for unity.

## In England

**A**NOTHER indication of the trend in political sentiment in England and, incidentally, an explanation of the government's decision to postpone the elections to next year after having publicly announced them for the end of this year was the by-election in West Toxteth.

Labor carried the election by 5,313 after having been defeated by 5,635 votes in 1931. The government candidate received only 9,561 votes against 20,613 in 1931. This is the smallest vote the Tories have obtained in this constituency since 1906 when they won the seat by a margin of considerable "laborer" of

*Herbert Zam will discuss in these columns next week the "Thesis on War" which will be submitted to the forthcoming congress of the Labor and Socialist International by Otto Bauer of Austria, Theodore Dan of Russia, Amedeo Dunois and Jean Zyromski of France.*

ed by this and other by-elections. Labor will come very close to a majority in the next parliament. Socialists all over the world are watching developments with great interest, to see just how far the transformation to Socialism will proceed after a democratic majority has been obtained.

## Swiss Unity

**A** united front has existed for some time in the Swiss Geneva district between the Socialist and communist parties. Now a similar united front has also been established in the Zurich district. These are the two largest districts in Switzerland. The united front was made possible in Zurich as a result of the decision of the communist party to accept the conditions laid down by the Socialists. In a communication on this question, the communists declare:

### Cease Attack

The communists will of course cease all attacks upon the Socialists. They are prepared to create unity of the trade union movement and will liquidate all the "red" unions and "red" sport organizations and have the members join the Socialist organizations. The communists further agree not to approach the lower organizations with united front proposals. They will cease their campaign against the Socialist majority in the municipal government and will support the Work Plan of the Socialist Party.

### Complete Change

In connection with this communication the Zurich Socialist paper writes as follows:

The present declaration of the communist party goes much further than all previous ones. Here we can clearly see a complete change of party policy which has taken place as a result of the strong desire of the working class to establish unity of the class-conscious labor movement in all spheres. Even if it should not be possible at this time to reach organic unity, there will at least be created unity of agitation and struggle which will prepare the basis for organic unity.

### CPO Joins

CALL readers know of the decision of the Communist Party (Opposition) of Switzerland to join the Socialist Party. This decision has now been carried out. At a conference in Schaffhausen, at which some Trotskyites were also represented, and at which unity with the Socialists was achieved, it was unanimously decided to call the united party, the Socialist Labor Party of Canton of Schaffhausen, and to affiliate to the Federal Socialist Party. This step was necessary as the CPC here was considerably stronger than the Socialist Party. In other districts, the members of the CPC and the Trotskyites will join the Socialist Party as individuals.

## In France

**A** new "left" party has been organized in France as a result of the fusion of the Neo-Socialists with the Republican Socialist and the French Socialists. In spite of the name, the last two groups were never Socialist. The French Socialist group was formed by Briand and Viviani, whose anti-working class activity during and since the war requires no discussion.

The Neos left the Socialist Party some two years ago because it was becoming too revolutionary for them. Since then, a number of Neo followers have joined the Socialist Party.