

Needle Trades and Red Drive

By ROSE WORTIS.

THE needle trade workers have lived thru a very critical period during the past few years, during which they have been persecuted and their unions destroyed by the united front of the union bureaucracy, the bosses and the capitalist state. Wages have been pitilessly cut, working hours lengthened without limit, piece work re-established in most of the branches of the industry where week-work formerly prevailed. The speed-up system has reached the highest pitch. A regime of terror, which has no precedent in the history of the trade union movement, has been instituted with the aid of hirelings from the underworld against the rank and file of the unions. The injunctions and strike-breaking encouraged and fostered by the bureaucracy surpasses in many ways all the strike breaking activities employed by the bosses during previous struggles. The full responsibility for this situation rests with the union bureaucracy (pillars of the Socialist Party) who have received the fullest cooperation from the capitalist state in their efforts to crush the militant spirit of the needle trade workers.

The role of the democratic administration in the present struggle of the needle trades is well illus-

trated by the action of the democratic judges, police and detective squads, who used the full power of the state against the workers.

The role of the republican party is fittingly characterized by the action of Judge Rosalsky who sentenced honest and loyal union members to long terms of imprisonment for strike activities.

The problem then arises, which of the two other parties which appear on the field as parties of the working class shall the needle trade workers support, the Socialist Party or the Workers (Communist) Party?

Years ago the Socialist Party was a party of the workers, founded on the principle of the class struggle. It supported the workers in all their struggles against the capitalist class. Today, it has cast aside the idea of the class struggle and is fighting side by side with the union bureaucracy and the other political parties for the bosses against the workers. The record of the Socialist Party during the past few years has openly stamped it as an anti-working class party. In 1925 the Socialist Party, with its leader Hillquit, planned and gave the signal for the expulsion policy in the ladies' garment industry. Hillquit, ex-assemblyman Beckerman and the Social-

ist Party; were the initiators and leaders of the program on the furriers, the dress and cloakmakers, and all other unions. Mr. Hillquit, the spokesman of the Socialist Party, resorted to the weapon of the open-shoppers, the injunction, as a method of fighting the militant workers. The Socialist Party in its press is supporting and maintaining the company unions in the cloak and dressmakers' and furriers' trades, and is trying to extend these company unions to the other branches of the industry. At the instructions of the Socialist Party "The Forward" and the United Hebrew Trades are organizing "vigilance committees" to terrorize the workers. The Socialist Party has betrayed the workers. It stands in the way of unity in the ranks of the workers. It stands in the way of rank and file control of the unions.

Vote Communist! Why?

What is the record of the Workers Party in the struggles of the needle trade workers? An analysis of the activities and role of the Workers (Communist) Party in the recent struggle of the needle trades will show that the Communist Party and its press have been the first to give their support to the workers in the struggle to prevent the corrupt bureaucracy from carrying on

Al. In connection with the strike-breaking activities of Smith, it is

its unchallenged domination in the needle trade unions. The Workers Party and its press have from the very first day of its existence championed the interests of the rank and file in all their struggles against graft, corruption and union bureaucracy. It has led the fight against imprisonment of workers, against company unionism, and for rank and file control of the unions. The Workers Party does not only limit itself to the immediate issues of the workers but is leading them in the struggle for their final emancipation from capitalism. It was the first to give its support in the movement for building new militant unions where the workers alone will be the rulers.

A Working Class Duty.

It is therefore the duty of every class-conscious worker, to give his support to the candidates of the Workers Party which is the only party to-day that has the right to speak in the name of the working class!

Needle Trade Workers! Vote against union bureaucracy, against corruption, against injunctions, against expulsions. Vote for the party which stands for real militant unions that will rest on the support of the workers. Vote for the party of the working class that is leading the workers of this country in the struggle against capitalism. Vote Communist!