

Spirit of Boruchowitz Inspires ILG Rank-File

By Rose Wortis

It is almost a year since our beloved Joseph Boruchowitz went to his eternal rest. Even today, one year after his death, it is hard to believe that this tireless champion of the people is no longer with us. But Boruchowitz is not dead. His undaunted spirit will live forever in our hearts and in our memories.

In following the high, unsullied Boruchowitz traditions, we have welded greater unity among the workers in industry, among the Jewish people in the struggle for their daily needs, against the enemy at home and abroad. Despite the most unscrupulous campaign of slander and vilification carried on by the leadership of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union to keep the ranks of the workers artificially divided, the followers of Boruchowitz in the recent elections in the union campaigned on a program that would make the International to which he contributed so much, a force for unity in the labor movement, a force for victory.

Thousands of workers voted for this Boruchowitz policy of anti-fascist unity. Thousands of others were misled by the demagogic appeals of the leadership, their lip-service to President Roosevelt's policies of Moscow and Teheran. However, it is the greatest insult to the militant traditions of the cloak and dressmakers to interpret these votes as a mandate to ILGWU president Dubinsky to continue the splitting policies in the union and in the American Labor Party. All workers in the industry, irrespective of the slate for which they voted, are ardent supporters of unity, of international labor unity now and in the post-war period.

SIGNIFICANCE OF USSR

Since the birth of the Soviet Union, Boruchowitz worked tirelessly to bring the great significance of the victory of socialism on one-sixth of the earth to the workers in our industry.

Regardless of persecution and expulsion, Boruchowitz fought unceasingly with courage and conviction for fraternal relations with the Soviet trade unions and collaboration with the Soviet Union to safeguard world peace and halt the march of fascism.

We all remember the lynching party staged by Dubinsky against Boruchowitz at the 1940 convention of the union. Surrounded by enemies on all sides, booed and heckled by the organized clique in control of the convention, he stood his ground alone, above the din of the Soviet-baiters.

Conscious of the fact that he represented the sentiments of the vast majority of the membership, he proudly proclaimed his support for the country that saved millions of our Jewish people from the clutches of Hitler and gave freedom and happiness to all its citizens. He hurled back at his accusers the slanders of "communazi." He denounced their support for Mannerheim who later openly joined Hitler, and called for unity with the Soviet Union.

His courageous fight met with wide response amongst the workers. It gave them an example of courage, conviction and steadfastness. With the same spirit he fought for the daily needs of the workers, for a strong and democratic union. He was the first to answer the call for allies in need, and mobilized the workers in the industry for Russian and Allied War Relief.

FRONT RANK FIGHTERS

Until the last days of his life he worked to alleviate the suffering of our front rank fighters. The monument to his work is emblazoned in the hospital bearing his name at heroic Leningrad. On the very last day of his active life, at the last membership meeting, he raised his voice against the vilifiers of the Soviet Union, who wanted to use the execution of Hitler's agents Alter and Ehrlich to create discord between our country and the Soviet Union, to alienate our nation from its valiant ally.

The dream of international unity

for which Boruchowitz fought is soon to be realized in the World Labor Conference which is to take place in London, where trade unionists of the United Nations will gather to plan the bright future for which Boruchowitz gave his life.

In loyalty to everything for which Boruchowitz stood, we must fight to see that the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which has often blazed the path of progress for the labor movement, should break its ties with the forces of reaction and open the way for all-inclusive unity of labor's forces in our country and throughout the world.

If Boruchowitz were with us, he would be in the forefront of this fight for the decisions of Teheran, for a united Labor Party to strengthen the hand of the President, against the enemies of the nation and to guarantee the President's reelection in 1944.

On this day, when we pay tribute to the memory of our beloved leader, let us renew our pledge to carry forward the work he has left unfinished. Let us go out to the shops, the neighborhoods to line up a tremendous vote for the candidates of the Committee for a United Labor Party in the coming primaries. This will have a powerful effect on the efforts to unify the ILGWU.

Board of Estimate Kills 10c Fare Bid

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the Lyons resolution laid over for a large public hearing.

"I am not going to be stampeded into anything like this," he shouted. "It affects 7,500,000 people. I'd like to hear from them."

But Lyons insisted on a vote and the roll call continued.

"If the Bronx Borough President thinks that he's embarrassing the Mayor he's badly mistaken," declared Deputy Mayor Rufus McGahan.

FLAYS LYONS' ACTION

The "no" votes came one after another as Morris denounced Lyons' action as "a sham" and "insincere."

"Unification was established on the basis of continuation of the five cent fare," Morris said. "The people will stand by the five cent fare unless the city is in dire financial straits."

Two other resolutions—one to establish a ten cent fare and another to set up a board including the Mayor, the Comptroller and Chairman of the Board of Transportation to study the fare question—were introduced by Lyons and quickly voted down.

The final resolution, stating it is the "sense of the Board of Estimate that the five cent fare be maintained and continued in the future," was adopted without debate.

With the matter of subway fare thus settled, the Board moved to other business. But the real estate representatives stampeded to the rail and demanded further hearings be held on the matter.

Joseph F. Addonizio, of the Central Park West Association, shouted angrily that the Board's action did not represent "opinion of taxpayers of this city."

"These people represent big business," shouted a little woman who pushed up to the rail pointing at Windels and Addonizio. She was Susan Hunter, of the Neighborhood Plan for New York.

"Stick to your guns," she told the Board. "The people are with you."

Morris thanked her, banged the gavel and moved to consider routine business.