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AUTO UNION HERE VOTES TO REJECT LEWIS PROPOSAL

MARTIN GETS OVERWHELMING
VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

ADDRESSES BIG MEETING

Almost in one voice about 1,500 United Automobile Workers in session Tuesday night at Local 159's Union Hall here refused to accept C. I. O. Chief John L. Lewis' proposal to reinstate four U. A. W. international officers expelled on Communist conspiracy charges.

In the thunderous demand of the rank and file to reject a proposition sent to them over the head of U. A. W. President Homer Martin and other U. A. W. executives, a few dissenting voices were practically unheard.

President D. V. Mitchell of Local 159 was instructed to notify Lewis of the action immediately.

Later the membership voted to retain the joint executive council, turning down a resolution to eliminate the council.

President Martin, personally interpreting the U. A. W. situation, was cheered repeatedly. The acclaim was especially resounding when he declared:

"We won't turn the U. A. W. over to John Lewis—or anybody else."

The crowd again made the rafters ring when Martin later said: "Lewis might well clean up the C. I. O. and pay more attention to signing steel contracts."

He implied Lewis had interfered in the auto workers' affairs and that the latter's letter, forwarded direct to the locals, was a personal affront to the executives and an indirect slap at the democratic principles of "a clean, honest American labor union."

Fights for Independent Union
Martin indicated the Lewis plan would set up an outside dictator over the auto unionists. He pledged his very life to continue fighting for the autonomy, or self-rule, of the U. A. W.

"I, my wife and family have received enough threats to paper a room," the U. A. W. president said. "I have been warned that my throat would be cut if I keep on fighting Communists' schemes against our union. They better sharpen their knives. My skin is thick."

Martin declared labor union strength lies in a program concerned with obtaining contracts with employers for less hours, more pay and better conditions, in keeping these contracts and thereby retaining public respect, and in avoiding influences that endanger labor objectives.

He displayed a 132 page book which he said contained sworn proof of the charges resulting in the expulsions. In reviewing each case in detail, the former minister's resonant voice carried some clean cut

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AUTO UNION SUPPORTS MARTIN BY BIG VOTE

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cussing through the open windows of the large hall.

"These are the men we trusted," he said in part. "I was loathe to act but the majority of your executives finally felt we had to proceed."

Tried to Break Up Meeting
Martin said the same persons who beat up U. A. W. organizers in Saginaw some time ago were responsible for the more recent outburst against him in Flint. Since then Flint local and many others have rallied wholeheartedly behind Martin's stand.

The U. A. W. president stood with three American flags at his right hand and three union banners at his left. An ovation that greeted his appearance on the platform was followed by a few boos. He mentioned these boos as "typical" of subversive influences.

Martin flatly called "liars" those who question his sincerity as a labor union leader.

R. J. Thomas, U. A. W. international vice president, in a commendation of Martin said Lewis' only criticism of Martin had been that he was not sufficiently militant and added that anyone who moved to harm Martin would have a vast majority of the auto workers to answer to.

A small crowd of anti-Martin men clustered outside the windows but there was no disorder.

Charles E. Madden, Rochester, regional director of U. A. W., was asked if the auto union will withhold its per capita tax from the C. I. O. but declined to comment. Martin had not mentioned this point.

Opposition Speaks
Three Unity group members (anti-Martin) — Clifton Williams, Eugene Hill and Robert Poe — today issued the following statement:

"A meeting was held Tuesday night in Pontiac in the form of a general membership meeting. It was the general opinion of the lowest member that it was the first time in their life that they had ever seen a local meeting conducted by people from other locals from other towns."

"We estimated that there were at least 750 people out of 1,200 from other locals. The resolution passed by them condemning the action of John L. Lewis and the C. I. O. was not even given a 'no' vote. The action taken by Homer Martin Tuesday night was in direct contradiction to the 20 point program adopted unanimously by the international executive board."

"The action surely cannot be considered the wish of the real rank and file of Local 159. Members of Local 159 were not allowed in the meeting but outsiders were."

Speaks in Detroit Too

DETROIT, Aug. 11. — (AP) — President Homer Martin of the United Auto Workers (C. I. O.) in militant Detroit and Pontiac speeches last night said he did not intend to tolerate any interference in the union's affairs by John L. Lewis, the Communist party, the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin or "anybody else."

Lewis recently suggested to Martin that international officers of the U. A. W. ousted by Martin be reinstated to heal the factional dispute that has been waged for many weeks. Martin contended that the proposal smacked of C. I. O. "dictatorship" and would rob the union of its autonomy. "We could have had peace in the first place on those terms," Martin said.

The U. A. W. head assailed the Communist party and denied charges of the ousted U. A. W. officers that he himself was influenced by Jay Lovestone, a New York radical leader.

"They accused me of being a Lovestonite because they said I wrote a letter to Jay Lovestone," Martin declared. "I never wrote a letter to Lovestone. I don't know what a Lovestonite is."

"I have talked to Jay Lovestone and to Earl Browder and to Norman Thomas and to Fr. Charles E. Coughlin and to other priests, and I'll say to the credit of Lovestone, Thomas and the priests that they never tried to put strings on me. If they had, they would have gotten what the Communist party got when it tried to make a deal."

Tells Of Activities
Martin accused the Communist party of taking whole lists of membership in locals, writing letters to them, posting notices on union bulletin boards and forming branches within the locals.

"I can show you where the Communist party has even sent organizers to enroll members on company time on the plant production line under protection of the U. A. W.," he said.

Such occurrences will stop, Martin promised. He said he had refrained for two years from attacking Communists and that he compromised at the last U. A. W. convention "because John L. Lewis asked me to."

Martin disclosed in his Pontiac speech the type of modified check-off plan to be sought from General Motors corporation.

"When you go back to work this fall," he told workers, "come around to your union hall and sign a card authorizing the company to pay your dues to the local out of your paycheck. These cards will be submitted to the company. The companies have been subtracting insurance payments from your checks and showed us the way to get the check-off system into operation."

Martin said he remained a believer in the principle of industrial unionism for the mass production industries but contended that interference by Lewis with the internal affairs of a C. I. O. union was "a precedent too dangerous to even be contemplated."

Another Local For Lewis

Meanwhile, at Milwaukee Tuesday night the suspended Allis-Chalmers United Automobile Workers local union voted to support John L. Lewis, C. I. O. chieftain, and its own slate of suspended officers.

Harold Christoffel, president of the Allis-Chalmers local, charged Martin, whose meeting here last Sunday excluded Christoffel forces, with "anti-C. I. O. activities."

The local, which claims 8,000

Pontiac
Week on
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