

# PP continues fight to get on Illinois ballot

## Anti-labor law ruled out by Michigan Court

DETROIT — (FP) — Labor lawyers in Detroit hailed the Michigan supreme court decision last week in Lansing, declaring the Bonine-Tripp (little Taft-Hartley) Act unconstitutional, as the greatest judicial labor victory in the state in years.

The act was killed in its entirety because it had been so loosely drawn by the Republican legislators that no "saving clause" which would save the rest of the law even if one or more clauses were knocked out was included.

## 300,000 renters

Continued from Page 1

1. Landlords may evict tenants if they desire the property for their own use or for the use of their immediate family.

2. Tenants may be evicted if the landlord desires to remodel or convert property into a greater number of dwelling units.

3. A landlord can withdraw his property from the rental market.

It also means that rents cannot be increased during the first three months of 1949, since rents were frozen by the rent-increase leases until termination of the 1948 Rent Act.

Rents are frozen, that is, unless Chicago landlords, banded together in the so-called Cook County Fair Rent Advisory Committee, succeed in obtaining the blanket 15 per cent rent increase they have been petitioning the government-controlled Chicago Rent Advisory Board to grant landlords.

That's the picture for the more than 300,000 Chicago tenants whose leases expire in December.

According to Sidney Ordower, chairman, Cook County Progressive Party Housing and Rent Committee, they face this situation since "Chicago landlords, a minority group, have organized themselves more effectively than tenants, obviously the majority."

"Because of this," Ordower, continued, "Chicago's housing pinch is the nation's worst. . . . Here, more tenants were intimidated into signing 15 per cent rent increase leases than were signed anywhere in the country."

"Rents are higher here than in any other big city. . . . Less private and public housing is under construction. . . . 80 per cent of all rent increase applications by landlords are being granted almost automatically by the Chi-

Tenants' centers, functioning in nine key communities of the Greater Chicago area, are providing tenants with expert legal means to fight evictions and rent increases, Sidney Ordower, chairman, Cook County Progressive Party Rent and Housing Committee, announced this week.

These are the centers:

2nd Congressional District: 5644 S. Harper, Museum 4-0153, Wednesdays between 8 and 10 p.m.

1st Ward: 1601 W. Roosevelt, Taylor 9-6149, Tuesdays between 8 and 10 p.m.

24th Ward: 3358 W. Roosevelt, Rm. 206, Wednesdays between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.



DOROTHEA ALLEN, left, PP candidate for state representative from the 29th Senatorial district. Shirley Graham, center, noted writer, and Dorothy Bushnell Cole, right, PP candidate for Congress from the 9th district, discuss the ballot fight.

## T-H deprives Wilson local of 11 elected officers

The vicious anti-labor effects of the Taft-Hartley Act were brought home to packinghouse workers eleven-fold last week.

Eleven veterans of the United Packinghouse Workers of America (CIO) were forced to resign their posts as officers of Wilson Local 25. The eleven had re-

fused to sign the infamous non-Communist affidavits. They resigned in order that their local could obtain the services of the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board.

Resigning officers headed by Sam Parks, president, Local 25, comprised a majority of the local's executive board.

The eleven were: Parks; Philip Henderson, second vice-president; Joseph Zabritski, secretary-treasurer; Carl Nelson, chief steward; Octavia Williams, executive board member at large; Ann Zilavy, executive board member at large; Louis Karlak, trustee; William Miller, guide; Wilhelmina Berry, trustee; Sidney Norwood, guard, and Charles Hayes, chairman of the grievance committee.

In a letter to members of Local 25, Sept. 9, the eleven wrote:

"The Taft-Hartley affidavits are a wedge whereby the employers with the aid of this provision seek to establish the means whereby they can interfere in the internal affairs of unions and dictate to the membership as to whom they should or should not have as leaders of their union.

"(We) are both unable and unwilling to sign any such affidavits as required by the Taft-Hartley Law. . . .

"We look forward to the time when all of labor will stand up unitedly to make the Taft-Hartley Law ineffective and wipe it off the books. In order to achieve such united action, it is essential that all workers reject the falsehoods and slanders of redbaiting and present a united front in the common struggle.

"Although resigning, we will not, however, relinquish our fight for the betterment of the working conditions of members of Local 25, and for organized labor as a whole."



SAM PARKS

ago Office of Housing and Rent Control."

Ordower urged tenants to organize with Progressives (see story in box below listing neighborhood tenant centers) "to fight for strong federal and state legislation. . . . to invoke a moratorium on evictions. . . . to obtain a hearing before the Chicago Rent Advisory Board to prove that tenants need a rent decrease not an increase."

29th Ward: 4259 W. Van Buren, 2nd floor, KEdzie 3-1436, Mondays and Wednesdays between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

32nd Ward: 1941 N. Western, Rm. 204, ARmitage 6-0890, Tuesdays between 7 and 9 p.m.

42nd Ward: 113 W. Elm, Whitehall 4-8203, Wednesdays between 7:30 and 9:30.

44th Ward: 2610 N. Halsted, 2nd floor, Mondays between 8 and 10 p.m.

48th Ward: 4348 N. Broadway, Wednesdays between 8 and 10 p.m.

In emergency cases, tenants are urged to call Henry Mehs, Progressive Party's Rent and Housing Committee consultant, at Butterfield 8-9327.

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## Legal staff maps offensive: wards plan mass demonstration

The U.S. District Court here will be asked to protect the Progressive Party's right to appear on the Illinois ballot, a party spokesman indicated this week.

Before the end of the week, it was understood, Richard Watt, Progressive attorney and former University of Chicago law professor, was to go into the federal court to request action against Illinois election officials.

The Wallace party was barred from the ballot recently by a unanimous vote of the three-man state electoral board, composed of two Republicans and one Democrat.

What line of attack Watt's petition would take was not disclosed by Progressives. Nearly a half dozen tactics may be open to the new party.

It may seek an injunction forbidding state election officials from printing any ballots which do not include the Progressive ticket, for example.

The federal court may be asked to rule on the constitutionality of the state election law itself. Progressives have assailed the law as arbitrary and discriminatory.

Regardless of what day-to-day tactics may be employed, the Progressives intend to exhaust every legal avenue of appeal from the state electoral board's "undemocratic" decision, they emphasized.

At the same time, they will continue to press their protest campaign on a mass scale through the ward organizations, stressing the fact that Illinois voters "have been robbed" of their right to vote for Henry Wallace and Glen Taylor.

Whatever the outcome of their battle for a place on the state ballot, the Progressives already are certain to have at least 37 candidates on the ballot in Cook County Nov. 2.

The Illinois Supreme Court has upheld their demand that Progressive candidates running for office within the county be permitted to appear on the ballot on the basis of their voting strength in last year's Cook County judicial election.

Such a county slate, however, would not be headed by Wallace and Taylor, unless they win a place on the state ballot.

## The big steal

Approximately 80 per cent of the voters of Illinois have been partially disfranchised by the state electoral board's refusal to place the Progressive Party on the state ballot.

The board — and Democratic and Republican politicians who objected to the Progressive petitions, containing 75,000 signatures — admitted that the Wallace party had qualified in 41 of the required 50 counties.

These 41 counties have a total population of 6,381,427. That's 80 per cent of the state's population.

Within those 41 counties are 3,880,257 registered voters. That's 80 per cent of all the registered voters in the state.

Progressive spokesmen, releasing these figures, claimed that it proved their argument about the undemocratic state election law. They said the law is unconstitutional because it permits 20 per cent of the state's population to decide for whom the remaining 80 per cent may vote.

Progressives could carry the entire state if they could carry the 41 counties conceded to them by the state electoral board's ruling on the petitions.

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## THE ILLINOIS STANDARD

Is owned and published WEEKLY by The Illinois Progressive Publishing Co., Inc., 187 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 1, Ill. Phone: RAndolph 6-9270

METZ P. LOCHARD — EDITOR  
KENNETH MCKENZIE—Managing Editor  
WILLIAM SENNETT—General Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
1 year.....\$2.00  
(Add \$1 for Canada and Foreign)  
Entered as second class matter at the post office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.  
Re-entered as second class matter, Sept. 7, 1948, at the post office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.