

AFL-CIO HOBBY'S GOON CONVICTED IN NORTH CAROLINA COURT

DURHAM, N.C. (IPS)--Teenie Cowan, the Tobacco Workers International Union (TWIU) goon who ripped up Labor Party sound equipment during a rally at the American Tobacco plant on Oct. 13, was convicted of malicious destruction of property here Nov. 6. The conviction was obtained on the basis of what Judge Wallace called "clear and irrefutable evidence" of guilt, despite prosecution attempts to get Cowan off on technicalities of the arrest warrant.

Subpoenaed in the case were North Carolina AFL-CIO President Wilbur Hobby and three officials of the TWIU. Although none of the four appeared in court, the District Attorney refused to make a motion to have them held in contempt of court. Hobby has spent the past four months unsuccessfully trying to counteract the growth of the Labor Party in North Carolina, while his brother is influential in TWIU locals at American Tobacco.

Attempting to depoliticize the case, Cowan's attorney labored to establish that only minimal damage was done by the attack. But even the District Attorney, not wanting to be caught in a flagrant coverup, conceded that "this is not a civil suit to collect damages, but a case of the plaintiff's right to conduct an electoral campaign."

In trying to establish minimal damages, Cowan's lawyer pointed out that Labor Party organizers repaired their own sound equipment. The lawyer then asked Labor Party candidate Marion Porter if she thought "communist or socialist labor is really worth \$15 an hour."

Judge Wallace set a Nov. 20 date for sentencing and assessment of damages.

LABOR PARTY GAINS 10 TO 20 PER CENT OF VOTE AMONG SAN FRANCISCO WORKERS

Nov. 11 (IPS)--A precinct-by-precinct breakdown of the U.S. Labor Party vote in the San Francisco elections has revealed not only an average 10 to 20 per cent base of support for the Labor Party among industrial workers, but the total failure of CIA operations when confronted by even relatively small-scale Labor Party organizing.

Analysis of election returns indicates that votes for Labor Party candidate Richard Clancy, running for a Board of Education seat, totalled far more than the official six per cent tally (14,330 votes) or even the 11 per cent estimate made originally by Labor Party analysts. A strict class voting pattern has been established: Even when obvious vote-stealing is disregarded,

black and Hispanic unemployed as well as white trade unionists cast their vote for Labor in percentages ranging from 10 to 14 per cent in some areas to as high as 46 per cent in one largely Hispanic working-class precinct.

The Organizing Process

The 46 per cent return came from a district in the Inner Mission section, where Labor Party penetration in the past six months has, on the surface, been minimal. This district was the target of a Labor Party organizing drive last spring, exposing the CIA's responsibility for the Symbionese Liberation Army/"Zebra killings" terror campaign.

The CIA eventually deployed the local police to harass the Labor Party out of the area. Although the San Francisco Labor Party was unable to counter this harassment effectively, cross-penetration into the district continued through New Solidarity sales and a widely-circulated poster ripping the mask off United Farm Workers (UFW) leader "Saint" Cesar Chavez.

When Labor Party organizers returned in force to the district a week before the election, they discovered that the cumulative effect of this process had created tremendous interest in the Labor Party. Sales of the Spanish-language New Solidarity hit 100 a week. A United Farm Workers dupe admitted the deadly effect of the Labor Party expose of CIA counterinsurgency field-hand Chavez, when he confessed sadly that "Chavez isn't popular here any more." This accumulated motion was concretized in the 45 per cent Labor vote--a severe body blow to the CIA since the Inner Mission section is a hotbed of their operations.

During last June's statewide elections the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the CIA's left electoral arm, beat the Labor Party 14 to 1 in this area in the race for Superintendent for Public Education. This time around, the Labor Party received a 10 per cent overall vote, decisively beating the social-fascist SWP.

There are indications that many of the stolen Labor Party votes were in fact funnelled to the faltering SWP. For example, in the Visitacion Valley section, where the official tally of 10 to 11 per cent was low compared to actual Labor Party influence, the anti-working-class SWP vote nearly matched the Labor Party's --although they have never dared organize in this heavily blue-collar district.