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McMaster Named Head Of Political Action Unit

Agnes Smedley Condemns Policy Of U. S. Government in China

GLOVERSVILLE, Aug. 30—Frank McMaster, business agent for the Layers-Off Union, was elected chairman of the Fulton County Political Action Committee at a meeting Wednesday night in the union rooms at 15 South Main St. The session was featured by an address given by Mrs. Agnes Smedley, author, in which she condemned the policy of the United States in China and compared it with the policies of Hitler and Mussolini in China.

McMaster was named at a short business session which followed the address, and Charles Hildreth, local C.I.O. organizer, was chosen as secretary and treasurer of the committee.

Lt. Gen. John Carlson of "Carlson's Raiders" fame originally had been scheduled to speak, but sent a telegram of regret from his apartment in Saratoga Springs, saying his physician advised against the trip.

As the result of Mrs. Smedley's speech last night, the Fulton County committee sent a telegram to President Truman, asking that U. S. troops be withdrawn from China and that further aid be given the country toward forming a coalition democratic government.

Mrs. Smedley told her listeners that, before the outbreak of World War II, millions of Chinese peasants were slaves of the landowners because of debts which had been handed down from generation to generation.

Serfs Harassed Japs

When war broke out, she said, the land owners fled or became Jap puppets, while the serfs formed into bands to harass the invaders as guerrillas. As each community was captured, a simple government was set up and elections were held. In this way, she declared, approximately 130,000,000 Chinese were given their freedom and presented with a democratic form of government.

Mrs. Smedley said the idea that the forces fighting in China are Communistic is in error. She insisted they are revolutionaries fighting for a democratic form of government.

Clarence Carr, president of Local 202 of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union, also addressed the group. He declared that organized labor must fight on the labor front and the political front and said it is time to elect members of Congress who will look out for the interests of the people. Carr averred that monopolies were instrumental in bringing about the death of the OPA, with resultant inflationary threat and possible depression. He insisted that union labor must fight to preserve the gains it had made in the past few years.