

The Policy of Bluff in the N. T. W. U.

Instead of sticking to the facts of the present condition of the National Textile Workers Union, Clarence Miller, the "third period" secretary of that organization, in a recent statement issued to the Federated Press makes the usual bombastic account that has become the style in all unions and other organizations controlled by the Stalinized leadership of the Communist Party.

Anyone who has the least knowledge of the past activities of the N. T. W. U. can readily notice the Munchausen remarks made in behalf of the union by the incompetent Miller. It is in line with the present policy of the Party to disregard the true conditions and to broadcast those things which look good in print.

After reading the statement in question, the unacquainted reader gains the impression that the N. T. W. U. is many times more powerful than it actually is. It starts off by announcing that since the union convention last December, half a million leaflets have been distributed. Of course, if the organization had distributed that many pieces of working class literature to the hundreds of thousands of unorganized textile workers of this country it would be quite an achievement. However, it is far from the truth.

The Southern Membership and Organizers

The imaginative Miller adds that at the present time the N. T. W. U. has 4,000 dues paying members in the Southern districts of the union. This also is exactly the opposite from the facts of the case. From the time that the Gastonia strike started, practically none of the Southern textile workers who joined the union has paid any dues. Especially is this true in the Gastonia section where the strike made it impossible for them to do so, due to the lack of funds. When the strike was ended, not only did the workers find it impossible to pay dues, but they practically were unable to hold any union meetings whatsoever, due to the terrorist Committees of One Hundred organized by the mill owners.

Up until several months ago, the national office of the N. T. W. U. had no record whatsoever as to how many Southern textile workers signed application blanks in the union. Actually the N.T.W. had practically no Southern dues paying members several months ago, or at the present time, when Miller issues his colorful statement to the Federated Press which, while it may make nice reading, is just hokum.

Miller also stated that the N.T.W.U. at the present time has 40 full time organizers covering 15 districts, including 16 in the South. Without going into detail as to the rest of the country, it is sufficient to remark that in the South, where the chance for real organization work is bright, organizers have been withdrawn from the field, so that at the present, only a skeleton of the union remains, giving almost a clear field to the United Textile Workers Union, with its policy of betrayal.

The possibilities for the growth of the N. T. W. U. are good, but only by following a correct policy. To issue statements such as Miller's, undermines the workers whom the union is appealing to. Will the official Communist Party continue its bluff policy in the N. T. W. U., as it also does in other unions which it controls, or start a real organization campaign?

The continuation of the former policy will mean the withering away of the N.T.W. The latter policy will result in participating in the day by day struggles of the textile workers and the building of the organization. The issue is clear and a decision must be reached. It is up to the rank and file members to demand the adoption of the second line of action. —FRANK BROMLEY

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Several San Diego locals including the Culinary Alliance report to the Federated Trades and Labor Council that 50% of their members are jobless. Machinists reported that the navy is using enlisted men for work formerly done by shore workers, alleging lack of funds.

Max Shachtman, editor of the *Militant*, has just returned from Europe, after spending a number of weeks with comrade L. D. Trotsky in Prinkipo, attending the unification conference of the German Left Opposition, and the International Conference of the Opposition in Paris. In coming issues of the *Militant*, beginning with next week we will print a number of articles by Shachtman on the international conference, the prospects of the Opposition in Europe, especially in France and Germany, on the visit to comrade Trotsky, when many questions were discussed which are of interest and importance not only to the revolutionary movement as a whole but for the American movement in particular. Watch for these articles and insure getting the *Militant* regularly by subscribing for it now.

BLUMKIN ISSUE WILL NOT DOWN

In Bulletin No. 8 of the committee of the 9th district (France) we read the following:

Blumkin Affair: In a few words, Meche described what Blumkin had been—a militant Bolshevik who, until the 24th of December, the date of his death, held a responsible position in the U. S. S. R. About the 15th of December, after having paid a visit to Trotsky, he brought back a letter from the latter, a letter which was intercepted by the G. P. U. It is believed that Blumkin was thereupon condemned to death and executed. These are rumors which are neither confirmed nor denied by the Communist Party press. Meche believes that it is the role of the International Red Aid (in the United States the International Labor Defense—Ed.) to institute an inquiry for the exact facts. Rouquin objects that Meche puts the question in a political manner. As far as he is concerned, it is not at all the role of the I.R.A. to make the inquiry, but that of the Opposition; that afterward, if the rumors are well founded, perhaps the I. R. A. will have something to say.

The Bulletin adds that discussion on the question will continue, for it has not been settled, and it seems to have deeply interested the rank and file militants.

Those of our comrades from the Opposition—or sympathizers—who are active in the I. R. A. should take advantage of the 50 days between now and the National Congress of the I. R. A., to ask at the meetings of the basic units questions which should be linked with the deportation of militant Communists to Siberia and the murder of Blumkin. LA VERITE

Ford Makes Profits on Men

DETROIT—(FP)—The balance sheet of the Ford Motor Co., just made public, discloses that the company made nearly \$82,000,000 during 1929. This contrasted with a deficit of \$72,000,000 during 1928. Thus, a net gain of \$154,000,000 was registered during the past year.

This huge increase was in large part sweated from the thousands who work for Ford. During 1929 speedup and wage cutting became notorious at the Rouge. So much so that workers would go to the Rouge only as a last resort. It took the present depression to drive them there in thousands. Only workers who have never been in Detroit have a good word for Henry.

The speedup which accompanied the 5-day week was so successful that Ford admitted himself well pleased with results. Workers, who were promised a wage increase commensurate with their increase in production, were not at all pleased with results—they got wage cuts instead of increases.

Ford Cuts Wages

The wage cuts took place in the following manner: Workers are promised a periodical raise when they go to work. Up until the beginning of last year these increases took place rather regularly. Then the company not only stopped granting the increases but began cutting high wage men by "transferring" them to another department. Thus, \$7.20 workers found themselves getting \$6 and \$6.80 a day. Whatever grumbling they might have on that, was quickly stifled when they saw the thousands clamoring for jobs when Henry had the Associated Press advertise for 30,000 men for him. The

almost incredible jump in unemployment which took place in October last finally "put them in their places."

Besides that, the company has broadened its policy of letting out parts contracts to outside firms—that is, to sweat shops. In this way thousands of high wage workers have been laid off and the company is getting the beneficial results of \$3 a day labor while getting none of the odium which attaches to so frank exploitation.

By such methods did Ford pile up his millions last year.

\$25 MINIMUM FOR N. Y. GIRL

NEW YORK—Confronted with the problem of finding living quarters for many girl workers who come to New York City expecting to find jobs and live alone on their wages, the Welfare Council has issued the following warning: "Stay away from New York unless you have an assured income of at least \$25 a week. This allows only \$8 for rent, \$10.50 for food, \$3.85 for clothing, \$1.25 for carfare, \$1.40 for recreation and nothing for laundry, medical care or emergencies.

WINNIPEG—(FP)—The biennial convention of the Canadian shopmen organized in the American Federation of Labor meets in Winnipeg June 2.

NEW ORLEANS—Union railroad trainmen have protested the confirmation of Yellow Dog Parker to the supreme bench. The Polly of bluff in the National ext Union

POLICE CHARGE INTO CROWD OF JOBLESS

CLEVELAND—(FP)—Four workers were hurt as mounted police charged a crowd of unemployed when a speaker allowed a red kerchief to fly in the breeze for a second. The unemployed were gathered in the Public Square to listen to the report of a committee which had demanded aid for the unemployed from the Community fund. The police were waiting for the slightest provocation to charge the crowd.

WOONSOCKET, R. I.—(FP)—Despite business men's promises to Hoover, wage reductions of 20% have been put into effect at the Royal and Arctic Mills of B. B. and R. Knight.

SAN FRANCISCO—1,200 union taxi drivers are asking a wage increase of \$4 to \$5 a day and a 9-hour day to replace the 10-hour shift.

PITTSBURGH CAR MEN STAND PAT FOR MORE PAY

PITTSBURGH—(FP)—By a vote of 1,819 to 112, union street car men are standing pat on their demand for a 5 cent increase on 2-men cars and a 15 cents boost for 1-man car operators. The increases would mean 75 cents an hour on the larger cars and 90 cents on the smaller. The union is also seeking six days' work with seven days pay.

FURNITURE WORKERS GET 49 CENT WAGE

WASHINGTON—Average hourly wages of furniture workers in this country last autumn were 49 cents, and the average full-time week's work was 51.9 hours, according to the report of a study made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ALBANY, N. Y.—Employment in representative New York factories continued to decrease in March. Every month since October has shown a decrease in employment compared with the preceding month.

CHICAGO—The bakers union has signed up five hitherto non-union shops in Chicago.

JOBLESS TOLD TO LEAVE DETROIT

DETROIT—(FP)—The automobile industry has been inflated to such an extent that only a "migration of labor" will seriously affect unemployment here, says a report issued by the Union Trust Co. The review tries to be optimistic in its outlook for Detroit but has to admit that the only grounds for its optimism, "did not occur in any branch of industry or trade, but were financial in nature."

The report concludes, "Indications do not point to a complete solution of the unemployment situation in the immediate future."

As though to give added emphasis to this comment reports are current here that the Hudson Motor Car Co. has laid off 8,000 men. At the end of last week 2,000 were laid off, it is known. Workers say that an additional 6,000 were laid off this week-end.

Workers from the Ternstedt Mfg. Co., a General Motors subsidiary, have furnished the following revealing table:

Spring 1929	Spring 1930
6-dayweek	4-day week
Two Shifts	One Shift
9 hours	8 hours
Night and Day	Reduced force on days

"Nothing Doing"

Former workers who applied for jobs at this company were told that "there won't be anything doing for at least a month."

Downtown department stores have also been forced to retrench on their already severely reduced staffs. Two shifts are being installed—one from 9-1, the other from 1-5. This will bring salaries of counter girls and checkers down to about \$5-6 per week. Salesgirls may be able to squeeze out \$10-12 on the new schedule.

Welfare department officials admit 20,000 families dependent on the department during March—an increase of 6,000 over February.

Figures assembled by the Union Trust Co. indicate February, 1930 automobile production as 33% below that of February, 1929. Building permits have declined 70% below normal.

The local situation has become so acute that the city council admitted the existence of unemployment by adding five councilmen to an unemployment committee of eminent Detroiters. There is no labor representation on the committee. Workers expect no help from that quarter—committees have been committeeing since last October but idleness increases and hunger is ever more harsh. The workers want action.

BANKERS MOVE PHILA. HOSIERY CO. SOUTH TO GET SCAB LABOR

PHILADELPHIA—Over 350 union hosiery workers will be jobless here when the Cadet Knitting Co. recently purchased by southern bankers, moves its plant to Columbia, Tenn. At the new location the plant will operate non-union.

The purchaser is Caldwell & Co., Investment Bankers, Nashville. At the present time they are operating an open shop plant at Decatur, Ala., where workers are forced to sign yellow dog contracts. Products from both the Alabama and the Tennessee plant will be finish-processed in Philadelphia.

BOSTON—Over 4,500 workers in Massachusetts factories were added to the unemployed army in March, according to state department of labor figures. A decrease of 15% in hosiery workers' employment was caused by mills which shut down entirely "for reorganization". In 19 of 25 cities canvassed only half the plants employed 50% or more of the workers full time.

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