

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE

THE MILITANT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA (OPPOSITION)

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PRICE 1 CENT

Call 30,000 Cab Drivers in General Strike

Brand Lies On Union Contracts

Show Complete List of Amalgamated Demands

In a renewed attempt to discredit the general strike of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union...

Strike Committee Unanimous At the last meeting of the general strike committee...

1. All individual shop settlements made in the course of the strike are to be considered as temporary...

2. Any general settlement with the hotel bosses must be approved by the general strike committee...

3. All temporary shop settlements must be approved by a shop meeting of the workers involved.

As a matter of fact, the constitution of the Amalgamated union specifically provides that at least two shop delegates are to accompany an official of the union...

In order to give a final refutation to the false assertions that the Amalgamated general strike has not presented specific economic demands...

WAGE-SCALE DEMANDS of the HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS UNION Branch of the Amalgamated Food Workers of America

Scabs a Flop at Casino de Patee

Strike-breakers are a pretty miserable lot. They take the job from a good union man—and they are unable to do the work themselves.

Take the fashionable Casino de Patee, ritzy Broadway night club. Paul Coulcher, racketeer and president of Local 16 of the A. F. L. has been supplying strike-breakers.

But there has been trouble between Local 16 and the Casino de Patee. The scabby waiters spilled so much soup that more than four hundred of them have been in and out of the night club since the strike.

The big demonstration around the leading hotels, following the imposing mass meeting at Madison Square Garden, revealed a militancy of spirit and a readiness to fight with unbroken ranks...

Now, however, the strike has entered a new stage of development. The problem that arises before the men is: To consolidate the forces that have been assembled, to spread the influence and power of the strike to houses which have not yet walked out...

And here the fundamental question is: the morale of the strike, of the men in it, of their union. How is it to be kept up, and strengthened, how are the ranks of the strikers to be welded into a smooth-working, hard-hitting machine...

The problem is first of all one of the leadership of the union and the policies which it pursues. Their capacities are tested and at the same time reflected in the morale of the union and the strike.

First: a policy of militant class struggle, which does not conceal the essential nature of the strike either from itself or from its opponents.

Every attempt to represent the union as an inoffensive body which means no harm to anybody, must be promptly repudiated. The union is organized as a fighting body.

The class struggle policy is the only way to keep up the ranks of the strikers and to add to them. It is here, we repeat, that the leadership will be tested.

Second in importance is the education of the membership. The primary need in this respect is the furnishing of complete and systematic information to them.

Every effort must be made, thirdly, to destroy the myth of the invincibility of the employers. The workers can win this strike and establish themselves as a power that must be dealt with.

The big objective of the union, it should be remembered, is to build up and consolidate a strong militant union. The fight for better conditions, higher wages and a shorter working day is inconceivable without union organization and direction.

Big Companies Already Tied Up

The strike wave launched by the general strike of the hotel and restaurant workers in New York has spread to the taxicab industry.

All the big companies are tied up. The Parmelee System, Yellow Taxicab Corporation, Keystone, Five Boro, Radio, Terminal, General and Checker have been forced to admit that they are crippled.

The strike is spreading like wildfire. Even the capitalist newspapers have been forced to admit this. The New York Evening Journal admitted on February 2 that...

of men on strike at only ten thousands. That this is an obvious and deliberate understatement, will be clear to all workers who have seen how they lied about the strength of the hotel strike.

Old-timers who have been through other strikes say this is one of the greatest demonstrations of solidarity in the history of the industry. By a unanimous vote of the strike meeting of the United Taxi Drivers Union of Greater New York...

- The following are the demands of the striking drivers: 1. The entire "tax" to the drivers. 2. The 8 hour 6 day week (48 hours) 3. No firing for low bookings. 4. Elimination of political and insurance racketeers. 5. Eliminate police persecution. 6. Against the vicious blacklist system. 7. No double shifts. 8. Recognition of the Union.

were six thousand men in the union headquarters and the strike halls. Thousands are pouring into union to sign up. —CARL COWL.

CWA Workers Rebel

With tens of thousands of hotel and restaurant workers, and taxi drivers out on strike against exploitation, and more thousands expected to come out in the morning, a movement of rebellion against mistreatment began to take on militant form among the CWA workers of the city.

In flagrant violation of the official regulations of the Department of Labor, cooks from the Italian Fascist ship, the S. S. Vulcan, were sent from the ship to scab at the Hotel Ambassador.

Grand Central Joins in Strike

Among the latest hotels and restaurants to join the big strike parade have been the Columbia University Club, the Blake and the Grand Central controlled by the Union News Company, the Bossett Restaurant, Brooklyn, the Wellington.

The strike-breakers at Hotel Lincoln joined the walk-out on Thursday. A worker at the Seymour Restaurant reports that the head waiter persistently refuses to fire one of the bus boys and several waiters who have been openly agitating for the general strike.

The Carteret Restaurant is the latest to settle with the Amalgamated. In flagrant violation of the official regulations of the Department of Labor, cooks from the Italian Fascist ship, the S. S. Vulcan, were sent from the ship to scab at the Hotel Ambassador.

Strike Has Cut Menus To Bone

Stories by Diners Show Hotel Men Bluffing

Reports coming to The Militant from sympathizers of the striking hotel workers made it plain that the great hotels of the city continue in a crippled condition, as far as restaurant service is concerned.

On Tuesday night there were banquets at several hotels in honor of Roosevelt's birthday. To protest the act of the President in showing solidarity with those who employ and support scabs, the striking hotel workers held a great militant demonstration before the banquet hotels.

"I saw Oscar at one point getting so red in the face that I thought he would burst. He was furious because of the sloppy way in which the banquet was being served. Of course, the skilled hands which usually serve the rich banqueters were outside on the picket line.

Another person, Mrs. Elinor Novack, went to half a dozen of the leading hotels on Tuesday afternoon to find out what was available for a dinner for eight people.

The captain at the Park Lane said there would be no a la carte menu. There is no a la carte menu at all. "There was one item in each course, nothing fancy. The dessert was ice-cream. Theodore, the head waiter, admitted that this was "not usual" but that there are ordinarily four dishes on each course.

The Savoy Plaza head waiter offered \$4.50 dinner without choice of courses. The captain explained that the strike did not bother them. A guest said indignantly: "Then why is the food so terrible?"

The menu at Marguery's offered seven choices on the main course. One was a vegetable plate, four were fish. Pierre, the head waiter, said a dinner for eight would have to be ordered definitely before six o'clock or they would never get it ready, not even the vegetable plate. Service as usual?

These conditions were duplicated at the Pennsylvania-Information about the Pennsylvania from another source reveals that in the grill for the last three days the only dessert has been pie. A diner at the Brevoort reports that the women hired for the dining room are not a great success at scabbing. After failing to get any of the famous French dishes which the Brevoort usually provides, this diner turned to cheese. It took him 25 minutes to get a portion of Port du Salut; the waitress admitted that she had never heard of it.

Service as usual? Bunk! It is YOUR UNION! JOIN UP!

EDITORIAL

A week has passed since the call was issued for the general strike of the hotel and restaurant workers of New York. In that period, scores of the largest and most powerful hotels in the city have been tied up by the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union.

In spite of the disruptive tactics by the leaders of the "Industrial Union", which was and remains the greatest danger to the strike, the men who walked out have remained solid.

The big demonstration around the leading hotels, following the imposing mass meeting at Madison Square Garden, revealed a militancy of spirit and a readiness to fight with unbroken ranks which is the most favorable index to the strike's prospects.

Now, however, the strike has entered a new stage of development. The problem that arises before the men is: To consolidate the forces that have been assembled, to spread the influence and power of the strike to houses which have not yet walked out, and to integrate these new forces into the union.

And here the fundamental question is: the morale of the strike, of the men in it, of their union. How is it to be kept up, and strengthened, how are the ranks of the strikers to be welded into a smooth-working, hard-hitting machine capable of battering down the resistance of the hotel men?

The problem is first of all one of the leadership of the union and the policies which it pursues. Their capacities are tested and at the same time reflected in the morale of the union and the strike. Above all it is the leadership which, by the confidence which the rank and file has placed in it by its support, bears the burden of the responsibility for building up the necessary fighting morale, for holding the lines of the strike, for spreading the walkout movement to the other hotels and restaurants, and possibly to other branches of the industry.

How is this to be done? There is no miraculous recipe. There are only those policies and steps which have been tested over and over again in countless labor battles.

First: a policy of militant class struggle, which does not conceal the essential nature of the strike either from itself or from its opponents. To inspire the men with the feeling of class solidarity, with a reliance upon their own strength, their own power, their own invincibility, means to disregard capitalist "public opinion". It means a contemptuous refusal to crawl before the bosses or the bosses' press in any shape or form.

Every attempt to represent the union as an inoffensive body which means no harm to anybody, must be promptly repudiated. The union is organized as a fighting body. Its aim is to win the fights of the workers in its ranks against their employers. There cannot be a victory for both sides of this fight. A victory for the one is a defeat for the other. The sooner every worker understands this simple truth, the firmer will be their determination, the less attention they will pay to the barking and calumnies of the kept boss press.

The public opinion about which the leadership of the union must concern itself is the public opinion of the membership! The class struggle policy is the only way to keep up the ranks of the strikers and to add to them. It is here, we repeat, that the leadership will be tested. Our support will go, as it always has gone, to those elements who show their colors in the fight, and to none others.

Second in importance is the education of the membership. The primary need in this respect is the furnishing of complete and systematic information to them. Daily strike mass meetings and enlarged committee meetings are imperatively needed to fuse the ranks of the strikers into a solid mass, to reply to the enemies of the strike regardless of where they come from, to fight back the insidious poison of the capitalist press and to combat tendencies toward defeatism.

Every effort must be made, thirdly, to destroy the myth of the invincibility of the employers. The workers can win this strike and establish themselves as a power that must be dealt with. Other workers who are not yet in the ranks of the strike, can do the same as those who have already walked out.

Boss Press Persists In Fighting Strike

The bosses' press in reporting Tuesday's Madison Square Garden meeting and the mass picket demonstration that followed it, once again showed its enmity to the hotel workers' strike for decent conditions and union recognition.

The meeting and the demonstration had made history, not only for the hotel workers, but for the working class of New York. A strike meeting of almost 10,000 workers in a single industry is rare enough in New York, but even more significant was the amazing mass picket line after the meeting. Marching for two hours demonstrated before almost every major hotel in the city, stretching out half a mile along Park Avenue, protesting against the refusal of President Roosevelt to rebuke scabbing, it was a most unusual event in the city's history.

The bosses' press, however, minimized, distorted and even suppressed the news of this demonstration. In the Herald-Tribune, the marchers were reduced to 2,000! The New York American made it 2,500. The Journal made it 4,000. The World-Telegram suppressed any reference to the 10,000 at the strike meeting and estimated the picket line at 4,000. The ultra-liberal Evening Post some days ago, said a "kind word" for the strike editorially by attacking a strike-breaking editorial of World-Telegram, its liberal competitor from whom it wants to steal worker-readers. Now it pushed the number of workers in the picket line down to 2,000! By unapologetically playing down one of the most extraordinary strike demonstrations in recent working class history, the boss press once again dealt a vicious blow to the interests of the workers.

But not only did the press minimize the numbers in the picket line. They reported nothing about the splendid spirit of the marchers, their effective demonstration before each hotel, the purpose of the march, the applause of people on the sidelines and the rush of workers from inside hotels to greet the marchers. Furthermore, they hid the whole report of the march of workers under a report of a minor incident in a Sixth Avenue scab agency, where, they say, some windows were broken when workers protested against scabbing.

This inconspicuous incident was played up by the boss press as a desperate act of violence. Although even the police who always try to break strikes, made no arrests, the boss press blamed the strikers. "Striking Waiters Make Hash of 6th Ave. Agency" was the headline of the Daily News. "Job Agency Wrecked," said the Herald-Tribune, and it went so far as to say that the incident of the windows is a "measure taken by the Amalgamated Union to call the continued existence of the strike to the public's attention." The Times reported this at length as "the first outbreak of violence in the strike", ignoring the earlier use of thugs against strikers on several occasions.

"Daily Worker" Hits Hotel Strike With Slander and False Charges

The irresponsible and malicious story of the Daily Worker, charging the A. F. W. with selling out the general strike of the hotel workers, is only the latest and most flagrant attempt of the Stalinist organ to break the solidarity of the strikers.

Having failed to win a following in the industry on the basis of their program and "organization", the 18th St. "Union", the Daily Worker, and the Food Worker have fallen back on slander and misrepresentation of those who have the workers' confidence. As a result, the strike, assailed viciously by the lying capitalist press, has also had to face a barrage of attacks by the Daily Worker.

The Daily led up to its latest attack with a series of articles inimical to the strikers' interest. From the outset, the Daily has failed to print statements of A. F. W. officials. It has supported the splitting policy of the Stalinist Food Workers Industrial Union. The F. W. I. U., instead of helping militant elements in the A. F. W. has persistently sought to discredit them. At critical moments the Daily has ignored important developments in the strike. Whenever the strike suffered a blow, the Daily has featured the bad news. Whenever a victory was won it played it down, ignored it or lied about it.

Like the boss press, the Daily minimized the strike's strength. At the membership meeting which adopted the general strike resolution, 3,000 were present; the Daily said 1,000. At the Madison Square Garden rally of Jan. 30, there were almost 10,000, the Daily of Jan. 31 said 4,000.

On the other hand, the Daily has persistently exaggerated the strength of the Stalinist union. The Jan. 30 meeting of the F. W. I. U. in Bryant Hall was attended by about 500 people, most of whom were not hotel workers. The Daily report on Jan. 31, that 900 strikers were present was not so bad. In fact, it was so little like the Daily that on Feb. 1 the figure was boosted to 1,000.

During the first days of the strike, minorities of strikers in three hotels were tricked into the F. W. I. U. by Stalinist bunk. One after another these groups bolted and joined the A. F. W. After wandering for three days in the Stalinist wilderness, the New Yorker shop, the Stalinist "fortress", unanimously decided on Jan. 30 to join the A. F. W. Not even the four professional

Stalinists in the New Yorker dared vote to stay out. These developments the Daily ignored. Indeed, on Jan. 31 when the whole shop was already in the A. F. W. it published a manifesto "by the New Yorker strikers" supporting the F. W. I. U. The Daily reported on Jan. 30 that 150 houses were ready to come out at the call of the F. W. I. U. Of course, they have not come out, the simple reason that there were never any such houses. The Daily has tried, like the boss press, to discredit the strike in the eyes of the strikers. It has told many types of lies.

The Daily attacked the A. F. W. for lack of militancy. For example, on Jan. 31, it said: "Strike pickets paced up and down in the bitter cold in front of the struck hotels, while leaders of the Amalgamated Union maneuvered behind the backs of the workers to sidetrack any militant action which might develop at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel where government officials and A. F. W. leaders were preparing a birthday party for President Roosevelt. They issued explicit orders to the strikers not to stage a demonstration."

The Jan. 31 issue also characterized the union's telegram to Roosevelt, protesting birthday dinners at scab hotels, as "cringing and belly-crawling", and said that, in order to prevent a demonstration during the birthday party, the leaders had organized a fake demonstration the previous night. The issue also contains a cartoon which shows A. F. W. leaders feasting with Sec. Perkins in the Waldorf while telling the freezing picket outside not to make any noise.

The capitalist papers minimized and sneered at the mighty protest demonstration in front of the Waldorf and other leading hotels, organized and led by the A. F. W. during the President's birthday party. But the Daily Worker pretended that it had never occurred, that the A. F. W. leaders had prevented it from occurring! The Daily of Feb. 1 which might have corrected the "mistake" still did not say a word about the demonstration, the most sensational mass picketing New York has seen in years.

The Daily has also accused A. F. W. leaders of rejecting demands of their own rank-and-file for unity with the Stalinist "union". The Daily of Jan. 27 reported that 150

(Continued on Page 2)

What the Amalgamated Stands For

The Amalgamated, first and foremost, is a workers' union. No bosses allowed.

It is a democratic union. The membership elects or recalls officials as it sees fit. There are no thugs and no tyrants in its ranks.

There is freedom of expression. The worker can speak up without fear of losing his membership book or dues card.

There is no political discrimination. Every hotel and restaurant worker is welcomed whether he be Democrat, Republican, Socialist or Communist.

There is no religious discrimination, no racial discrimination. Do you work in a hotel or a restaurant?

That is the only question asked when you join the union.

The Amalgamated is an industrial union. Cooks, chefs, waiters, busboys, bellhops, chambermaids, pantrymen, dishwashers are all eligible for membership in the same union. No craft divisions separate them.

It is not a dues paying, assessment collecting, officious racket. The Amalgamated doesn't make deals behind the workers' back.

The union is out to get better conditions for the workers, less hours, higher wages—and get them by struggle, which is the only way they can be obtained. It is YOUR UNION! JOIN UP!

Service as usual? Bunk! It is YOUR UNION! JOIN UP!