

WORKERS
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UNITE

THE MILITANT



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COPS FIRE ON UNARMED PICKETS

A.F.L. Misleaders Betray Frisco General Strike

Terror Used by Bosses to Crush Strike

With the general strike at its crisis, and the reactionary bureaucracy carrying the bosses' colors into the ranks of labor, the bosses unleashed a new strikebreaking weapon: a whirlwind series of raids on Communist and other workingclass centres, workers' meetings, picket groups and soup lines. Thirty-five squads of "vigilantes," dressed as workers, backed up by the National Guard and the police, began an unprecedented reign of terror on the night of July 17, which is still going on.

Over three hundred militant workers and strikers were arrested and held on high ball, and a half dozen workers' headquarters were sacked and destroyed, including those of the Communist Party, the I. W. W. and the Marine Workers Industrial Union.

While the local authorities pretended that this work was done by "lawless vigilantes," and most of the capitalist press reported accordingly, some even attempting to say that workers made the raids, two or three liberal reporters let the real story through. Contradictions piled up, as the same issue of a newspaper carried both the fake and true story.

A special dispatch to the New York Times of July 17 is typical of the lying stories carried by the capitalist press:

The San Francisco Chronicle asserts that the "vigilantes" who raided the radicals' headquarters were organized by conservative labor leaders. The newspaper said that these union men were aroused by evidence that Reds had been masquerading as union strikers and flaunting banners and placards at variance with the aims of the strike.

Thirty-five squads of "vigilantes," said to have been composed chiefly of striking teamsters, according to this version, were sent out in automobiles to make the raids.

The identity of the "vigilantes" has not been officially revealed. At first general opinion was that they were connected with the Committee of 500 organized by prominent citizens yesterday at the behest of Mayor Angelo J. Rossi.

This gag was contradicted in the same issue in a dispatch from the Associated Press, which incidentally gives the bosses' prediction of the raids:

Gives Word of Raids.

By The Associated Press.—SAN FRANCISCO, July 17.—A series of raids on known Communist "hot spots" were under way here late today. The police are determined to smash the radical element in San Francisco. Youthful civic vigilantes aided them.

The first indication of the concerted drive against radicals came from Charles Wheeler, vice president of the McCormick Steamship Line, who said in a talk at the Rotary Club here today that the raids would start soon. He intimated government consent had been obtained for the raids.

Armed with clubs, thirty youthful vigilantes rushed the communistic quarters in the Ruthenberg House at 121 Haight Street, smashing windows and upsetting furniture. The few occupants of the building fled screaming down the street. By the time police arrived the youths had gone. The Ruthenberg House, which also was wrecked, quartered the Workers Theatre, Film Photo League, sports club, school, book shop and library and offices of the International Labor Defense League.

Signs advocating revolution and literature were seized.

Dolores Park, at Eighteenth and Dolores Streets, was the scene of another civilian demonstration against radicalism. Hardly had speakers mounted soap boxes to exhorted their cause when

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CAPITALISTS JUBILANT; LONGSHOREMEN STILL OUT

San Francisco, July 19.—Never have labor fakers so clearly "headed a strike in order to behead it" as have the reactionaries of the Labor Council led the general strike to disintegration.

Bitterly opposed to the strike, only to be over-riden by the overwhelming majority of the local unions, Vandeleur, Kidwell, Casey, and their clique rode along just long enough to find the first opportunity to break the strike.

After two days during which the strike was completely victorious, with the bosses on the run, with no sign of any weakening of labor's ranks, Vandeleur's gang suddenly sprang a resolution for arbitration on the general strike committee, Tuesday, simultaneously with the beginning of raids by troops, police and vigilantes, who began weeding out militant workers from picket groups, soup lines and other places, and jailing them.

A Phony Vote

The resolution introduced by Vandeleur was claimed to have been passed by the narrow vote of 207 to 180, but the vote was by a show of hands, which Kidwell counted, and the demand by Harry Bridges and others for a roll call was denied by Vandeleur. Bridges later accused Kidwell of miscounting, and declared many unauthorized individuals voted. Kidwell's only answer was a formal denial.

Green & Co. Knife Coast Labor Unions

Shrewdly timed to coincide with the boss terror against the left wing, and the reactionary drive within the union ranks, William Green, president of the A. F. of L., stabbed the coast workers in the back with the most damaging anti-labor statement of Green's shameful career. This statement was issued from Chicago, with Green en route to the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, on Wednesday, July 18, a day on which the hundred thousand strikers sorely needed the backing of the nation's organized workers. Green, in language identical with that of any bourgeois reactionary, claimed that "the strike in San Francisco is local in character, possessing no national significance . . . the American Federation of Labor neither ordered the strike nor authorized it."

Knowing that the American working class would react with horror at this traitorous act, Green finished his damnable statement to the press with a formula which mingles a disavowal of a desire to criticize—with the rest of the statement!—with crocodile tears. He said: "When working people are engaged in an economic life or death struggle, it does not seem appropriate for their friends to engage in comment which might be used against them by their enemies."

Press Understood Green

The capitalist press gorged themselves with Green's words. Headlines ran, "Green Disavows Strike for A. F. of L." (World Telegram); "Green Disavows Responsibility for Dock Strike" (Herald Tribune); "Green Says A. F. of L. Is Not On Strike, Puts Onus on Local Union" (N. Y. Times).

The bosses are fighting tooth and nail with the weapons of terror and demoralization. Police, thugs, vigilantes, National Guard, gas, pistols, rifles, machine guns—and not least the labor fakers, the yellow \$20,000 a year labor fakers who make unity with the bosses and government against the workers.

Green's anti-labor statement was only the most prominent of a whole series issued by A. F. of L. officials. Other declarations of No Solidarity were:

John Posschl, president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, issued the least swinish statement: "We have always tried to carry out our contracts, but if your friends are shot down, what can you do? Our West Coast organization is one of the best, and it is a conservative outfit. There are no Communists in it." He added—that he would not say what he would do if the bosses protested the broken contracts.

William Hushings, legislative agent of the A. F. of L. said he was not acquainted with the terms of labor contracts on the coast, but added: "Personally, I think contracts should be kept."

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Militant Pickets Close Alabama Textile Industry

So powerful is the sweep of the strike tide that it has inundated the very heart of the Bourbon South. 20,000 new fists were clenched in the statewide textile strike that has brought every loom to a standstill in Alabama.

The haven of lynchers and the home of the attempted legal murder of the Scottsboro Boys for the first time in years felt the might of organized and aroused labor when the United Textile Workers issued their call for a general strike of all cotton workers.

Bosses Fear to Open Mills

Militant action in Huntsville where a strong group of strikers closed down six plants that continued operations and threats to defeat similar moves has caused the bosses to refrain so far from any attempts to open their mills.

The Alabama strikers are pointing the way to American labor in being the first to initiate the battle for the thirty-hour week. Among their other demands are: a twelve dollar weekly minimum wage, elimination of the "stretch-out" system, reinstatement of workers fired for union activities and collective bargaining.

NRA has already issued statements denouncing the strikers in the first opening wedge of the bosses' battle to defeat the workers' attempt to win tolerable living conditions for themselves and their families.

The walkout of the 20,000 textile operatives in Alabama becomes a signal now for labor in the entire cotton and silk fabric industry to galvanize their forces and to make good proposals adopted by the United Textile Workers, the Hosiery Workers in convention a few months back and the National Committee of the American Federation of Silk workers to call a general strike for the thirty hour week.

Reliable reports have it that officials of the U.T.W. have been conferring for some time now over the question of a national stoppage. This momentous issue facing hundreds of thousands of textile, silk and hosiery workers has now passed beyond the talking stage. Labor scates like MacMahon, who conveniently allowed himself to be talked out of a general strike a couple of months back by rapid NRA promises, and statements like that made by the National Committee of the A.F.S.W. can only stem the tide and let the favorable moment pass.

Strike Now

The time for the cotton and textile workers to strike is now! Now, when working men throughout the country are joining hands in a formidable move to conquer those rights denied them by isolated, sporadic actions, the iron is hot for textile workers to take that step which labor fakers, procrastinators, and timid progressives have been delaying for months—the general strike of all textile, hosiery and silk workers.

ATTENTION!

All unemployed members and sympathizers of the Communist League are to report at the city headquarters Monday, July 23, before noon for important work.—City Organizer.

Tide of Strikes Sweeps Over the Entire Nation

BULLETIN

As we go to press news has arrived that National Guardsmen have been mobilized to smash the longshoremen's strike in Portland, Oregon which has been in progress since May 9th. The labor unions in this city are taking a vote tonight on the proposition for a general strike.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 20.—Armed with long range tear gas guns, Seattle police attacked striking longshoremen in an effort to smash picket lines. Many were injured by gas.

Baltimore, Md.—Taking their cue from Minneapolis, 574, 1000 members of the Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers Union went on strike following the bosses' refusal to recognize the union. Picket lines will be augmented by 800 more drivers who are expected out in a day or so.

New York, N. Y.—At a membership meeting of the Knit Goods Workers Union branch of the I.L.G.W.U., 18,000 workers ratified a strike proposal and prepared to take immediate action to enforce three demands: for the closed shop, a thirty hour week, and a thirty per cent wage increase. 2,000 members of the San Francisco branch of the I.L.G.W.U. have joined the general strike there.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Five thousand members of the Longshoremen Union here declared themselves in readiness to walk out in support of the general strike in San Francisco. The union is awaiting instructions from the Frisco strike committee.

Helena, Mont.—Attempts by the bosses to put scabs to work met with firm resistance on the part of 3,600 copper miners who have been on strike since May 8. Picket lines were reinforced by 1,500 smelter workers who struck in sympathy with the embattled miners. The National Labor Board is trying feverishly to break the strike but without success. The miners demand a wage increase of 65c an hour and a thirty-hour week.

Publication of all newspapers in this city ceased when the Typographical Union went on strike for a 30% wage increase on May 18th. Since then, the city has been without newspapers.

Danielson, Conn.—Five hundred workers at the Daylen plant of the Assawaga Woolen Co. have gone on strike in answer to the bosses' refusal to grant a 25% wage increase. Mass picket lines forced the shutting down of the plant.

Kohler, Wis.—The tranquility of this "ideal village," founded by the robber baron W. J. Kohler, was considerably disturbed when more than a thousand workers went on strike to enforce their demands for a thirty-hour week and a minimum wage of 65c an hour. Mass picketing continues despite the police terror.

York, Pa.—Four thousand members of the Cigar-makers Union of America went on strike here, following the bosses' refusal to grant the demand for a closed shop. The industry is paralyzed. The pressure of mass picketing has forced most of the cigar manufacturers to shut down their plants.

LECTURE

The General Strike Its Role in the Class Struggle

SPEAKER:

ARNE SWABECK

Sunday, July 22, 8 P.M.

at Our New and Spacious Home

144 Second Avenue

Admission 10 cents Questions and Discussion

33 Shot In Minneapolis As Strikers Stop All Commercial Vehicles

UNIONS MEET TO CONSIDER CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE

Minneapolis, July 20. (By wire).—Thirty-three pickets were shot with sawed-off shotguns by police who, at the same moment, in two different places, began firing volleys of slugs into groups of pickets. The authorities apparently had planned the double provocation as the opportunity for bringing in the National Guard, for within a few minutes of the shootings the first truckload of machine gunners arrived on the blood-spattered sidewalks, established military lines, and cleared the district.

Within twenty minutes of the shootings the rest of the battalion of guardsmen, held in readiness at the armory here since the strike

Olsen Threatens Martial Law

BULLETIN

One dead and fifty wounded is the toll taken so far by the murderous authorities of Minneapolis.

Governor Olson backed up the onslaught by the local police with an announcement that he is prepared to declare martial law. As we go to press no word has yet come from the vast gathering of all trade union members of Minneapolis.

started on Monday, were widening the area enclosed by military lines. Thirty-five hundred additional National Guardsmen were ordered here at once by Adjutant General E. A. Walsh.

Farmer-Labor Governor Olson is, according to the law, supreme commander of the National Guard. The Adjutant General's authority to order the additional guardsmen must have been previously arranged for with the Governor, which means that the whole manoeuvre was pre-arranged.

One attack took place on Third Street and Sixth Avenue North, in front of the Slocum Bergen Grocery Company, from which convoys of police cars were preparing to move a merchandise truck. The police were under orders from Chief of

Police Michael Johannes to shoot their way through picket lines and were armed with the murderous sawed-off shot-gun, favorite deadly weapon of American gangsters. As the scab truck began to move, swaddled around by police cars, a truckload of pickets drew alongside.

Without warning, according to witnesses and newspapermen, the police fired volley after volley into the tightly-packed strikers. While men fell like flies, the rest courageously advanced on the scab truck.

Their defiant advance probably saved the lives of many, for in hand-to-hand fighting with the bloodthirsty police, they prevented them from continuing their gunfire. Despite the number wounded and the truck drivers fighting with their bare hands, they sent two of their attackers to the hospital. Another, a sergeant, was shot by his berserk subordinates when he accidentally got into the line of fire.

The other police attack occurred at the same moment, a block away. Witnesses in between heard the shooting break out on both sides simultaneously, as if at a signal. The signal arranged for may have been the moment of arrival of the picket truck.

A block away, where earlier in the afternoon police lines had been established in preparation for the attempt to move trucks, crowds of strikers and sympathizers were lined up, when suddenly the police fired into the crowd. Four of the wounded fell here.

The militant answer of the labor movement of Minneapolis came immediately.

Union-driven taxicabs, ice, beer and gasoline trucks which had so far continued to operate by arrangement with the union, immediately went on strike.

The district surrounding strike headquarters was immediately cleared of police by the strikers, including traffic cops. Strike headquarters took over the directing of strikers took over the directing of traffic.

LOCAL 574 APPEALS FOR FUNDS

The Truck Drivers Union published the following appeal in "The Daily Strike Bulletin", organ of the strike:

Local 574 is fighting a battle which is the battle of every working man and woman. Our victory will be yours. Our defeat will be your defeat. Against us are arrayed powerful forces of reaction. We know that the battle will not be an easy one to win. It will require all the resources at our command. We feel justified in calling upon every man and woman in the organized labor movement, upon every friend of the working man, to grant us assistance.

To win a battle of the kind we have engaged in, means MONEY! Local 574 is calling upon YOU to help financially. Every contribution will be a blow struck in our behalf. Send in your donation immediately. Money given generously and promptly is doubly effective. Contributions should be sent to the General Headquarters of the Strike Committee of 100, 215 Eighth Street South, Minneapolis.