



General Strike Voted in Textile Convention

Conspiracy to Break Mpls. Strike Smashed By Committee of 100

Haas and Dunnigan Exposed as Aiding Bosses in Fake Agreement

Minneapolis, August 14.—A conspiracy to break the strike of local 574, with the Federal mediators as the spearhead was smashed to bits at the meeting of the Strike Committee of 100 where Haas and Dunnigan had gone to appeal to the rank and file "over the heads of the leaders".

The ugly conspiracy centered around a new settlement proposal of the bosses which would force a "discrimination" clause on the union and hold wage scales at their present miserable levels by means of a complex stalling process.

Prepared behind closed doors, the plot had wide ramifications and was intended as a body blow to the striking drivers. Its entire aim was to throw the onus for continuance of the strike on the union.

Acting in concert, the military, the kept press of the bosses, and the federal mediators planned against the strike as follows:

- 1. The press reported that Haas and Dunnigan abandoned their original plan in favor of the slavery proposal of the bosses, setting up a hue and cry that the union alone blocked an immediate settlement.

2. The military announced a loosening of the military permit system and at the same time began to slap heavy sentences on pickets in the military court.

3. The refusal of a permit for a strike mass meeting at the parade grounds on Tuesday.

4. A broad hint in the press that Haas-Dunnigan would attempt to cajole the strikers to accept the fake over the heads of the leadership.

But the bosses and their government agents reckoned without their host—the courage and intelligence of fighting strikers and not the cowardice of a herd of sheep.

Haas and Dunnigan were submitted to such a cannonade of dynamite-laden questions by members of the committee of 100, with whom they met last night, that they left the conference room with their tails between their legs, put to shame by the very rank and file they thought would fall for the thinly-disguised swindle.

A fusillade of questions After an admission by Haas and Dunnigan, who opened the session with speeches, that militant pickets would be discriminated under the new agreement and that the absence of the fixed minimum of 42 1/2 and 52 1/2 cents would be a blow to the union, the rapid machine-gun fire of rank-and-file questions began to resound:

Why do you force the 166 bosses to get together and take a secret ballot on the Haas-Dunnigan plan? Answer: We can't.

Why didn't you make the bosses accept the original Haas-Dunnigan plan? We did not have the power to make them do anything.

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Danger of War Grows as Japs Provoke Soviets

This week's dispatches from the Far East carry the ominous reports of renewed aggressiveness against the Soviet Union by the Japanese militarists and their Manchukuoan puppets. With the arrest a few days ago of 17 Soviet officials employed on the Chinese Eastern Railway there has been a sudden, sharp increase in the tension existing between the two countries.

Relations between the Soviet Union and Japan, strained ever since the creation of Manchukuo into a separate state, have been getting steadily worse. The seizure of the C.E.R. (Chinese Eastern Railway) merely added fuel to the flame and has since then served as the pivot about which the inevitable conflict between the two nations has taken form.

Japan, in continuing its ruthless policy, has been attempting, ever since the seizure of the railroad, to compel the Soviet Union to sell its share in the road. The Japanese militarists have organized bandit raids on the road, blown up bridges and tracks, stolen rolling stock and used every conceivable device to weaken the road financially in their attempt to force the Soviet Union to surrender its share in the road for a song.

The negotiations for the sale of the road have, despite these acts of sabotage on the part of Japan, never made much headway. The Soviet officials always point to the earning power and value of the line prior to the recent period of disorder and ask a much higher price than Japan is willing to concede. The Japanese, on the other hand, pointing to the present disorganized state of the road, the irregularity of trains and regularity of bandit raids, offer a ridiculously low sum for the Soviet share.

War Clouds Gather

Having made no headway in their attempt to secure "legally" what they have already seized by force, the Japanese police in Manchukuo resorted to the present action of arresting 17 Soviet officials of the railway. The arrested officials, citizens of the Soviet Union, have been charged by the Manchukuoan authorities with collusion with bandits in recent raids on the railroad. The brazen effrontery of the Japanese-Manchukuoan officials in leveling these charges against the 17 accused, when it is common knowledge that it is the accusers who have encouraged and incited these bandit attacks (frequently with Japanese manufactured arms).

The present arrests have taken on a critical appearance. The Soviet Union, in protesting the summary arrest of its citizens, has voiced fear that the present move is but a preliminary one to the complete seizure of the C.E.R. by Japan.

Precisely what action the Soviet Union will take in this eventuality cannot yet be predicted. In any case, the war clouds, ever-present on the Soviet-Japan horizon, again begin to gather. Now, more than ever, does the slogan of "defense of the Soviet Union" take on real significance for the workers of the world. Any moment may see it transformed into a slogan of action.

MARINES LEAVE HAITI AS DIRTY WORK IS FINISHED

The Marines have finally evacuated Haiti. Dispatches in the capitalist press from Port-au-Prince report that the evacuation was accomplished with great solemnity, and considerable enthusiasm on the part of the civilian population. Haitian officials and officers of the Marine Corps exchanged compliments.

In the general rejoicing, it was undoubtedly forgotten, save by the workers, that the marines have accomplished their purpose. American investments have been saved. The revolt of the starving workers has been crushed. The lackeys of American imperialism are, for the time being, firmly in the saddle.

There were conciliatory remarks and compliments passed a-plenty, but the assurance is still not forthcoming that the marines will not return—when it is necessary to protect American property and the sacred rights of foreign investments.

PHILADELPHIA JOBLESS FIGHT FOR TAINTED FOOD

Philadelphia, Aug. 16.—No one is starving in this country.—But today, a famished crowd of unemployed, "squatters" on the city dumps, fought deputies armed with revolvers, and braved a blazing gasoline bonfire, to get to a truckload of canned prunes, condemned by the city authorities as tainted.

As the crowd advanced to snatch at the cans, the City Marshal and his deputies drew revolvers.

"The stuff's poisoned," the Marshal shouted. "Who cares?" the hungry men yelled back. "It's something to eat."

The deputies hastily pitched the cans from the truck and poured gasoline over them. The flames mounted.

The crowd became frenzied as they saw the "food" being destroyed before their eyes. They ignored the guns of the deputies, and rushed to the blazing heap, snatching out the cans with sticks, and rushing away with their "loot".

Club Strikers as La Guardia 'Investigates'

Apparently uninformed of the grave investigation into police brutality against pickets being conducted by Mayor LaGuardia and Chief Inspector Valentine, the coppers swung into action again—while the investigation was going on—and beat up pickets of the Moving Picture Operators Union who were picketing in front of the Rugby Theatre, 823 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

While the Mayor was assuring union leaders that he saw no reason for the police attack with clubs on pickets at the Commodore Kutting Mills, also in Brooklyn, his coppers were gleefully swinging their clubs against a new group of workers.

Six arrests were made. Pickets and bystanders were bruised and trampled upon as the coppers charged with all the old-time gusto. But, at City Hall, the Mayor showed particular interest in the testimony of witnesses who reported that at the Knitting Mills demonstration, a policeman had rebuked an Irish girl for taking part in the strike.

"What the hell are you doing with these Jews and Wops," the policeman was quoted as saying. The Mayor, who is himself half-Jewish and half-Italian, pricked up his ears.

And he turned the whole case over to Inspector Valentine, who promised disciplinary action against the policemen involved—if the charge of brutality can be sustained.

Of course, it would seem a simple matter for Chief Inspector Valentine to issue instructions that would put an end to the beating up of pickets. And Mayor LaGuardia is Mayor, and not the foreman of a coroner's jury.

But they prefer to hold investigations. There have been many such investigations in the past few months. Witnesses, victims, have paraded their bruises, broken noses, cracked heads, hair torn from their heads, teeth knocked out, ribs broken, and other evidences of police brutality, before the Mayor and his investigators. The transcript of evidence piles mountain-high. The facts are common knowledge; have been reported even in the capitalist press.

But to date, not one police officer has been punished. Not one has been transferred, or even warned. And the dirty work of beating up workers who are striking for the right to live goes on without interruption—just as if there had been no investigations.

Food Prices Rise Gougers Active; "No Shortage"

There will be no food shortage because of the drought, Government agencies solemnly assure us. But the cost of foodstuffs this winter is going to rise sky-high.

The situation, as summarized by the Department of Agriculture is as follows: (1) Food supplies for the nation as a whole are ample.

(2) Stocks of bread grains and of several other food products are large. (3) Production of most canning crops will be normal.

(4) Fruits and vegetables are fairly abundant outside the drought area. (5) The supply of meat, dairy and poultry products will be adequate for the remainder of this year.

In a word, there will be famine only for the worker living on already near-starvation wages.

Price gougers and speculators are licking their chops in anticipation. Food prices, that have already risen ten per cent over last year, are to rise still higher. The thousands now starving will discover this winter that they did not know what starvation means.

"With smaller supplies and the necessary increase in volume moving through commercial channels, a higher level of food prices on the whole may be expected," the report of the Department of Agriculture reads.

However, the workers will not be without their champions. President Roosevelt has served public notice that he will frown his severest frown upon "chiselers" attempting to profiteer in grain and other foodstuffs as the result of the drought. He will combat—how he does not say—any "excessive" rise in prices.

"Officials," an A. P. dispatch reads, "said they anticipated no development which would make it necessary to use drastic powers; that cooperation was expected from the majority on the Exchange and from food handlers as well."

Nor does William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, intend to accept the situation lying down. He has hurled a typical William Green "challenge" into the teeth of the "gougers".

In the event of a price rise, Green says, the executive council of the A. F. of L. will seek revision of the codes of fair competition in the major industries to provide for an increase in minimum wage schedules.

"If the cost of living is to be affected," he said, with the old fighting spirit that has ever characterized him, "it seems proper and just that wages should be lifted to a higher level. We propose to make plans to meet the situation as best we can, so that the working population will not be compelled to suffer from this changed economic situation."

Not that he contemplates anything rash or "un-American," such as striking for a living wage. God forbid! Green expressly states, last

McMahon Out-Voted by Workers; 500,000 to Strike

Riding high over all moves of the reactionary officialdom for postponement, the overwhelming majority of the 570 delegates to the annual convention of the United Textile Workers, now in session in New York, voted for a general strike on or about September 1.

With a strike of 20,000 cotton workers already in progress in Alabama and the report that 2,000 have joined them in Georgia, the sentiment for a general strike which will involve more than 500,000 exploited slaves from Maine to Alabama, swept over the convention like a mighty tide.

More than fifty resolutions calling for the general walkout were introduced on the first day of the convention, and new adherents were gained every day.

As McMahon concluded his demagogic speech the entire delegation from Alabama, where the workers have faced bullets, tear gas, cops and soldiers, jumped from their seats and shouted for a strike vote.

Then a delegate right from the firing line in Alabama limped to the stage, wounded in head and foot by thugs and guardsmen, and said that he was ready to die for the union.

McMahon, Gorman and the rest of the sell-out tribe that now heads the United Textile Workers, moved heaven and earth to force another delay of the strike. It will be remembered that time and again this rotten clique has threatened strike only to call it off on some flimsy promise of the Washington administration. It took the power of the aroused rank and file to turn the hypocritical talk into action.

At the same time the danger of another postponement or a sellout soon after the strike starts is to be seen in the announcement from Washington that McMahon has been appointed a member of the Labor Advisory Board of the NRA. The NRA is already reported to be "ready to act" in the strike.

Reactionaries Challenged As we go to press, voting on a new Executive Council for the U.T.W. is in progress. A progressive wing is challenging the corrupt officialdom in the elections. The strongest guarantee that the strike will not be betrayed lies in the ousting of McMahon and Co. and replacing them with militant left wing workers.

Action on a tie-up in the closely allied silk and hosiery industries is to be taken at the convention today. A strike in these branches of textiles has been long delayed despite convention and executive board decisions to call a strike.

Strike Demands The demands of the strike reveal the coolie conditions under which the textile workers have been slaving. Chief among them is a demand for a wage scale ranging from \$13 to \$30.

Cotton operatives have been working for as low as six and seven dollars a week throughout the South. Second, but not less important, is the demand for the elimination of the vicious "stretch-out" system. The "stretch-out" is an inhuman speed-up under which the workers are required to operate more looms per person than is physically possible. One of the most intense means of exploitation, it has been a constant demand of the textile workers that the "stretch-out" be abolished.

The Fight for Recognition Recognition of the union and collective bargaining is another cardinal demand over which the strike is to be called. The bosses have in this industry as elsewhere, with the wholehearted cooperation of the NRA, been trying to foist a company union on the workers. Here, as elsewhere, it will again be proven that only battle and not the ambiguous section 7a of the NRA will win for labor the right to a union of their own choosing.

Together with the amended strike resolution, which was adopted as against the proposal of the officialdom, and which makes the calling of the strike within a definite period of time mandatory on the Executive Board, was the provision that the contracts of all locals with the employers be uniform on a national scale. A resolution condemning William Green for his desertion of the strike in Frisco, unanimously introduced by the Resolutions Committee, was lost after extended discussion by the narrow majority of 193 to 103. Other resolutions instructing the delegates to the Frisco Convention of the A. F. of L. in October to fight for a labor party and for industrial unionism were adopted by the convention.

DON'T FORGET THE BOATRIDE Tickets for this excursion are available at the City headquarters of the League, 144 Second Ave. The price is \$1.00. The boat will leave Pier 11, East River foot of Wall St. 6 P.M. Saturday, Aug. 18.

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REPORTERS PICKET SCAB PAPER IN STATEN ISLAND

Newspaper men, members of the Newspaper, Guild of New York, are picketing the plant of the Staten Island Advance, Staten Island, New York City.

They demand the re-instatement of Alexander Crosby, news editor of the Advance, who was discharged for joining the Guild. Crosby was with the paper for five years, and had been given a raise just prior to his joining the Guild. The reason assigned for firing him was "incompetency and incompatibility."

Realizing that the very existence of their organization is at stake, members of the Guild have developed unexpected spirit and solidarity in the fight against the publisher of the Advance, whom they defeated before when he sought to block the organizing of employees on the Long Island Press, which he also owns.

It is significant that the Guild refused Mayor LaGuardia's offer to "arbitrate" the dispute. The right of newspaper men to join the Guild cannot be arbitrator, was the reply.

Bronx Lecture Eye-Witness Account of the MINNEAPOLIS STRIKE Speaker: MAX SHACHTMAN Editor New International Sunday, August 19th, 8 P.M. 1739 Boston Road—Room 5 Auspices: Communist League of America, Bronx Branch. Admission 10c.

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