



TEXTILE STRIKE BEGINS TODAY

Sinclair Plan a Daydream of Middle Class

In the biggest vote cast in a primary election in the State of California, Upton Sinclair, running as a Democrat, received the nomination for governor by an overwhelming majority of three to one over his nearest runner-up, George Creel. Sinclair's program was Epic-New Deal, Creel's was more or less New Deal, and Wardell, an out-and-out reactionary who made a very poor showing, was for the old deal.

The vote for Sinclair undoubtedly shows a nascent radicalization, or what is probably more correct, a distinct dissatisfaction with things as they are by a large section of the lower middle-class and to some extent the workers themselves. That it represents a swing to the left away from the old line two-party politics of American capitalism no one can deny. To estimate how far a swing to the left Sinclair's nomination indicates, an examination of his program will disclose.

E. P. I. C.

Upton Sinclair's EPIC (End Poverty in California) program is unquestionably a petty bourgeois program. Its effect is to reform one single state within the shell of the 48 capitalist states in the union. And typical of all demagogic programs, it promises something to everybody. To the worker, the farmer, the unemployed, the little business man . . . not forgetting the old, the maimed and the blind. To all shall be given, from none shall be taken. To the unemployed will be given scrip; to the big business man security—in the fact that when the unemployed are "taken care of," the worker is "satisfied," then big business is secure. Idle factories will be taken over, the unemployed will be placed therein to produce shoes, clothing, etc., for themselves and for the farmers and farm-laborers on the idle land. From the idle land operated by unemployed farm-hands will come the foodstuffs for these categories. A system of barter will be instituted. Cash relief will be abolished. Money will flow out of the state and inflation will come in. But one point on the program which has more than passing significance for the working class in this country is that Sinclair promises to pardon Mooney immediately upon being inducted into office. Of this later.

Sinclair Sold on New Deal

Perhaps one can get a clearer picture of Sinclair's Epic by examining the New Deal. "All we are doing is to bring the Democratic party," says Mr. Sinclair, "into line with the forward looking principles of the New Deal." And just exactly what are these forward looking principles? asks the worker in Toledo and Detroit, the longshoreman on the west coast—particularly in California—the truck driver in Minneapolis and the unemployed suffering from dysentery in New Jersey, New York and elsewhere.

What has the New Deal given us? they demand to know. And the answer is: New brands of tear gas, vomit gas, saved-off shot-guns, the militia, vigilantes inspired by Johnson, fake arbitration boards and the National Run Around (NRA). Now E.P.I.C. becomes clear. It is the California catechism of the New Deal and Sinclair is its apostle.

A Socialist?

Is Sinclair still a socialist? Let those for whom he speaks answer. "What do I think about it? I think it's great stuff," said Mr. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Relief Administrator. "Sure, I'm for him. He's on our side. A socialist? Of course not. He's a Democrat, a good Democrat." He's on our side, say the bosses and their agents. Just as he was during the war.

Anything might happen in California. Witness the growth of the freak movement known as the Utopian society—which backed Sinclair's nomination. But we warn the workers in California not to rely on a freak sentiment to get Mooney out of jail. Promises or no promises, Mooney can and will get out of the bosses' dungeon in San Quentin only by mass agitation and pressure. We cannot repeat that too much or too often. This is not the first time that demagogues have offered to reopen the Mooney case—if elected. Whether Sinclair will or will not free Mooney depends entirely upon the mass sentiment for it. To rely purely on the whim

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JAIL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISTS IN MEXICO

Mexico City, Aug. 25.—The organization of Communists-Internationalists in Mexico received a serious blow when the police arrested four of its members, one a member of its provisional national committee, and one sympathizer, along with five members of the official Communist Party and two chauffeurs.

The comrades were kept in complete incommunicado for a few days, while the frantic families and friends searched for them. Without word they were deported to the disease-laden penal islands in the Pacific, where news has finally come from them.

The situation of these comrades and their families is desperate. One comrade was taken from bed where he was ill with intestinal fever. The wife of the same comrade, two days before his arrest gave birth to a child. She was forced to leave bed to go to work to feed the family of four little children, four days after birth, with of course serious consequences to her health.

Another comrade is tubercular, while a third has a chronic bronchial condition. The families are destitute.

Word coming from the comrades attest to the fact that while in agony, their morale is of the highest. They ask for medicines.

In spite of this handicap, the League in the capital has formed a new branch. This is an answer to the bourgeois government of Mexico, and all its attempts at suppression of the movement.

—Correspondent.

Richberg Report Omits Wage Drop

Donald R. Richberg, one of the NRA headmen, in a report to President Roosevelt this week, made known the "tremendous gains" made by the country since the inauguration of the National Recovery Act. The summary by Mr. Richberg, who correlated information submitted by various government departments, is supposed to be the administration's reply to all criticism of the results of the New Deal.

The report indicates a fairly substantial upturn as regards the profit end of industry. As for the working man, and his gains from the NRA, the figures, gathered from those submitted by the Secretary of Labor Francis Perkins, show very little improvement indeed.

The conclusions arrived at indicate that while the large corporations were making huge profit gains, the individual worker was turning out far more for his boss in a given length of time, but receiving no increases in pay for his increased output. The report shows increased profits, and increased production, whereas the returns to the individual worker remained at the low level of the spring of 1933.

Corporation profits, Mr. Richberg showed, rose a total of over 200 percent for the first half of this year as compared to the same period of last year. The rise in profit for industrial concerns for the same period, he pointed out, was over 600 percent.

Real Wages Drop

The average weekly wage in manufacturing (where the bosses' profits rose over 600 percent) increased from June 1933 to June 1934 a total of 8.5 percent. Against this slight increase there was a rise in the cost of living for the same period of 9.6 percent. This would indicate that while the bosses were making these huge profit gains the real wages of the worker took a slight drop.

These figures of course bring the story only through June (and very conveniently so for Mr. Richberg). Since June the cost of living has taken a sudden jump, and spurred on by the drought, is steadily mounting. Furthermore, the latest Labor Department report of a drop between the months of June and July of 3 percent in employment and 6.8 percent in wages, show a still further shrinkage of the weekly pay envelope.

As regards total employment, the author of the report credits the "New Deal" with an increase for private industry of 4,120,000 over the low of March 1933, and an increase of 2,820,000 for June 1934

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Steel Salaries Slashed; Utility and Truck Strikes Loom in N.Y.

As first fruits of Mike Tighe's betrayal of the steel strike in July, a drastic cut in the salaries of white collar employees has been announced by virtually all members of the American Iron and Steel Institute, the "union" of the steel bosses.

Even more drastic cuts of wages will follow as sure as death and taxes. So it was when the salaries were cut the last time, and the time before. The salary cuts were heavy; the wage cuts were heavier.

The present reduction in the salaries amounts to ten per cent. Salaried employees will be put on a five day week, with a corresponding downward revision of pay, and then some.

This is reported to be the first reduction in payrolls by a major industry since the NRA went into effect. Do not believe that it will be the last.

Cuts Announced in Big Companies

The announcement of the salary cuts was issued simultaneously by a number of the major steel companies, including the giant United States Steel Corporation. Others included Jones and Laughlin, Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, and the Republic Steel Corporation, third largest company in the industry. The National Steel Corporation is expected to take similar action shortly after Labor Day, when Ernest T. Weir, the chairman, returns from vacation.

A united front against labor!

The excuse given for the reduction is the drop in business. The steel industry reaped enormous profits through the rush of stock purchases fostered by the NRA. These profits were hailed as an index of the return of prosperity under the New Deal. "As steel goes so goes the nation."

More Profits—Less Wages

A natural lag followed the brief period of boom, during which period the steel corporations made sufficient profits to endure a year of idleness. Now, however, with their coffers swollen with swag, the first drop in business brings executives of the steel steel executives. Economy is the watchword. Reductions in pay, and more unemployment.

A New Stagger System

Eugene G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Co., has already announced plans for staggering employment on lines similar to the steps taken by the steel industry when the depression was previously at its worst.

Here then, in cold figures, is the price paid by the workmen in the steel industry for the leadership of Mike Tighe and Bill Green. For their trust in the NRA, they will pay more dearly yet.

Prices, as the NRA intended, will leap rocket high this winter—are already mounting with frightful velocity. Prices will go up, and wages will come down. Unemployment is increasing, and will increase.

That is the prospect facing the worker this winter, under the smiling regime of President Roosevelt, and his coterie of social workers and alphabet manipulators.

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God and Bosses Scare Hopkins out of Feeding Strike

With unprecedented—and hence suspicious—liberality, Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator, announced recently that the government would grant relief to workers on strike—the textile strike being particularly referred to.

This statement was greeted with howls of anguish by the manufacturers and their press. Hopkins was not only violating the rules of a strike-breaking government, but the laws of God.

God Against the Worker "Even God Almighty never promised anybody that he should not suffer from hunger," yelled John E. Edgerton, permanent president of the National Association of Manufacturers. The threatened textile strike, he continued, would not last a week if "the Government would revoke its unfortunate comment that no one shall go hungry in this country."

The God-fearing Edgerton, who opposes child-labor amendments of any sort on similar religious grounds, is needlessly alarmed. Hopkins has explained everything. He has no intention of disobeying the rules of capitalist society. Certainly he will not violate the intentions of God-Almighty.

The same policy, he says, that has been pursued by his organization in the past, will be observed in the future. This policy, he explained carefully, was "not a promise in advance that the strikers will be fed."

Hopkins Reassures His Masters "During the California strike," Hopkins points out reassuringly, "no additional funds were given by the Federal Relief Administration to California for relief needs, nor was the cost of relief appreciably increased."

What then, does the promise of Mr. Hopkins mean? It means exactly nothing.

Relief is administered through the local authorities, in every case composed of respectable and God-fearing elements, friends of law and order, tools of the bosses, and the bosses themselves—strike-breakers natural born.

They will pass upon each case individually, and upon them and them alone will rest the decision as to "need and worthiness."

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Utility and Truck Strikes Loom in N.Y.

Unless Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick, vice-chairman of the Regional Labor Board, succeeds in delaying the issue (when has she ever settled one?) 10,000 truck drivers in Greater New York will go out on strike today.

The issue is simple and clear. In January 1933 the trucking bosses succeeded in persuading the leaders of the truck drivers union that a voluntary reduction of \$5.00 a week would be for the good of the industry. The period of the reduction has expired, and presumably the bosses were to restore the wages to the 1933 level, but this they refuse to do.

There is no need to offer here the pretext on the part of the bosses for not sticking to their promise. The workers were tricked by pleas for cooperation with the bosses. Now they are undecided, and willing to fight for their most elementary rights. Prices have gone up 27 per cent, and are still mounting. Even a restoration to the 1933 wage level would still mean a substantial reduction in the real wages of the drivers.

There is only one method by which they can fight the bosses, and that is the method of the militant truck drivers of Minneapolis. If they monkey around with the Regional Labor Board, without showing their strength, they will most surely be gypped. If they put their faith in negotiations, they are licked before they start.

Efficient strike organization, systematic and militant picketing, unrelenting war on scabs, despite police thugs and the devil, these tactics, and these alone, will win for the strikers. They will win what they have the strength to win in open strike warfare, and no more.

A strike of tremendous significance threatens today to close the power plant of the Brooklyn Edison Co., the largest generating plant in the world, supplying light and power for all Brooklyn.

As in the impending truckers strike the Utility workers have been led a merry chase by Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick. While she fiddled with the issue the Edison trust fired members and officers of the Brotherhood of Utility Workers. The present crisis was precipitated by the discharge of the president of the Brooklyn Edison Local of the Brotherhood.

The union declares that it will not stand by and watch its national organization be destroyed but will take "matters into our own hands and fight the case with every means at our disposal."

An ultimatum has been issued to the National Labor Board and if reinstatement of the official in question does not take place a strike will take place in the plant. Other utility workers in New York will be called upon to support the Brooklyn men.

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CUBAN COMRADES NEED SUPPORT

From the Militant columns our readers have become acquainted with developments in Cuba and with the activities and conditions of the Cuban section of the International Communist League. We have described the difficulties under which this section is building up a serious revolutionary force. It is still suffering the persecution of the Wall Street puppet regime which has not at all abated under Mendicta. These comrades call upon us for assistance and such assistance should be given.

The problem of Cuba is to build the proletarian revolutionary force, to build up its press, to have available organizers, but insofar as our comrades are concerned, although their influence within the Cuban labor movement grows constantly, the means to carry on these activities of building are still entirely too insufficient. For a while they were compelled to suspend their weekly organ due to lack of funds. Publication will be resumed now if a little assistance can be given.

In general the developments in Cuba are again taking on a more intense character. Dissatisfaction with the Wall Street puppet government is growing and new struggles are impending. New and great possibilities are opening up for our Cuban section; but it must receive the support it asks for. Our members, sympathizers and friends should head this request and forward immediately to the Militant office their contributions to the Cuban Section.

—ARNE SWABECK
National Secretary, Communist League of America

Not a loom in the nation will move today.

750,000 cotton mill workers will quit the factories in a strike that will stretch out from Maine to Alabama.

When the workers leave their benches and become "hands" no longer but upstanding, fighting men and women, they will write the history of the first national strike in this industry. For the first time a major battle of the class warfare will strike the south and cause the black reactionaries to turn white with fear.

Despite the statements of the timid, treacherous Gorman, chairman of the strike committee, that the textile strike is not against the government, the fact remains that it hits directly at the NRA.

The first of the slave codes to be adopted in the country was the textile code. Incidentally this code was agreed to and hailed by the present officials of the U.T.W. The code did not abolish the stretch-out, nor did it raise wages, nor did it grant union recognition. It was even powerless in enforcing its own innocuous provisions.

Not only did the code and the code authorities grant the workers nothing, but through a plan of 25% production curtailment thousands were forced out of jobs and into the unemployed army.

The bosses had no kick against this code. The NRA—they take it to their bosoms. But a union—never. So great is their fear for union organization that they refuse to sit at the same table with the most cowardly of labor leaders. So strong is their hate for the slaves on whom they thrive that God himself is called upon to refuse relief to them when they strike.

The Yellow Press Howls Again "The public will suffer." "The business men will be ruined" holler the brass-check journalists. This familiar cry to estrange sympathy from the textile workers and demoralize the strike is once again polluting the atmosphere.

For the textile workers who have suffered and starved and wanted for years, whose bodies have been stunted in the mills, whose children have been victims of pellagra, this cry will invoke nothing but a curse of contempt. The bosses and the mill owners—that "public" be damned!

This sentiment has poured into strike headquarters in Washington in the form of hundreds of telegrams from every textile center on the Atlantic seaboard pledging to go down the line with the union to the bitter end.

The 500,000 cotton cloth workers will not be alone when they strike. Some 200,000 men and women in the woolen and worsted industries will down tools simultaneously. Reports from Chicago state that 60,000 cotton garment workers under the International Ladies Garment Workers are preparing to strike. A walkout of 100,000 in the silk industry has been agreed upon, only the date remains to be set.

As one of the capitalist papers says, this strike is a major test for the NRA and all of labor is expectantly watching it.

Since the institution of the National Recovery Act there has been no strike of nation-wide proportions. The auto strike was sidetracked, the steel workers strike was scuttled. Textiles are the first opening wedge.

If the strike depends on militancy and a will to fight alone, then there can be no doubt of the outcome of the strike. The greatest danger to the textile strike, however, comes from within. Terror, intimidation, deputy thugs and all the other trimmings of democratic America will not stop the textile workers once they are aroused. If the strike is crushed or sold out we can say in advance it will be due to the Gormans, the McMahaons and the rest of that treacherous crew.

Sinclair omens can be attached to any strike that starts with professions of loyalty to the government and violent denunciations of Communists by leading union officials.

Reports from Alabama strike workers already are on a strike, indicate that the battle will be fierce and the militancy surpassing anything seen in this industry before. The McMahaons and the Gormans will be forced to reckon with this stormy spirit and think twice before they pass off any rotten agreement on the textile workers.

WE ARE IN A CRISIS

The readers of The Militant know that we are not in the habit of shouting "help" at any and all times. We realize that we are dealing not with wealthy magnates but with workers for whom a few paltry pennies mean a great deal.

But the facts force us to send out this S.O.S. and to be as candid as possible.

WE ARE IN A CRISIS. Through a sheer miracle the present issue of The Militant will reach your home.

What held us up was the matter of a few measly dollars, enough to pay for the paper on which The Militant is printed.

It was precisely these few dollars that it was so difficult to get. Under these circumstances The Militant cannot appear next week.

We admit it quite frankly. Our activities in Minneapolis have drained our resources to the very bottom.

The members and sympathizers of the League have dug down and responded nobly to our Organization-Press Campaign.

But so great are our accumulated back debts and so much greater the tasks before us that this revenue has been insufficient.

No sooner did we release the pressure of debts that were dragging us down than we were faced with new bills, new burdens, and new tasks.

Here are the facts: It is only a matter of days when the marshal will appear at our shop and move our printing equipment into the street. A dispossession notice has already been served.

And even if the landlord should be merciful for a few days, then we probably will be forced to stop operating anyway. An electric bill is long overdue; the lights and power will be turned off.

The gas company, the paper company and a host of other bills collectors are on our necks demanding payments.

This issue of The Militant is made possible by the prompt response and the heavy sacrifice of a few comrades.

But that does not insure the next issue.

There will be no next issue of the Militant unless there is an immediate response!

We need not stress its importance to you. With a general textile strike due to break, and a truckers strike impending in New York, the absence of The Militant will be a veritable calamity.

We are counting on you!

Every dollar, every dime is important!

Duplicate the contributions of the New York comrades and the appearance of the next issue will be guaranteed. More—the first hurdle of the crisis will be passed.

Comrades! Friends! Sympathizers!

If you want The Militant—and we are sure you do—rush your contribution to us at once.

Appeal to your shopmates and friends, inform them of the urgency of the situation and solicit donations from them. We are certain that if you impress them with the seriousness of the crisis their contributions will be immediate.

ACT NOW!

The life of The Militant is at stake!!

Don't delay! Send your contributions at once to 144 Second Ave., New York City.