

WORKERS  
OF THE  
WORLD,  
UNITE

# THE MILITANT



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## Arbitration Award Won By Local 574

### Minneapolis Union Forces Wage Increases; Triumphs In Minor Strikes

We reprint the following from the October 10th Organizer, official weekly of General Drivers Union Local 574, Minneapolis:

"The completion of arbitration with the employers in the transfer industry has brought an agreement from all companies involved to increase the minimum rates of pay.

"The drivers are to receive not less than 52 1/2 cents per hour from Sept. 15, 1934, to May 31, 1935, and not less than 55 cents per hour from June 1, 1935, to May 31, 1936.

"Helpers, platform workers, and inside workers are to receive not less than 42 1/2 cents per hour from Sept. 15, 1934, to May 31, 1935, and not less than 45 cents per hour from June 1, 1935, to May 31, 1936.

"All members of Local 574 working in the transfer industry should now be receiving pay per the above schedule and they should receive back pay for the time worked at the old wage rate since Sept. 15, 1934. Report any violations of this to union headquarters.

"There shall be no reduction in wage rates which are in excess of the above minimum. In a few concerns it has been the past practice to pay some workers more than the newly established wage minimums. These wage rates are not to be reduced. Violations of this rule should be reported immediately.

**Time and a Third for Overtime**  
"The arbitration board checked carefully the code provisions for hours and overtime wages and agreed unanimously that the code provided for overtime payment at the rate of time and one-third after eight hours in any one day and for all Sundays and legal holidays.

"The exact wording of the amendment to paragraph 8 in the strike settlement of August 21, 1934, follows:

"Each firm agrees to pay effective September 15, 1934, and until the 31st day of May, 1935, not less than 52 1/2¢ per hour to truck drivers, and not less than 42 1/2¢ per hour to helpers, platform workers and inside workers as defined in the August 21, 1934 agreement; and to pay for a period of one year from June 1, 1935, until May 31, 1936, not less than 55¢ per hour to truck drivers and not less than 45¢ per hour to helpers, platform workers and inside workers.

"The hours and overtime rates provided by the respective codes shall apply. In figuring overtime, it shall be based on rate of wage covered by this agreement.

"It is understood that the minimum wages herein specified do not apply to boys temporarily employed on small package delivery trucks.

"It is further understood that no wage rates in excess of the minimums above specified will be reduced."

The strike settlement set a minimum wage of 50 cents for truck drivers and 40 cents for helpers, with arbitration to follow on demand of the union for higher wages. This clause the Stalinists denounced for many "reasons". One was that the union had been demanding 52 1/2-42¢ hourly, since accepting the Haas-Dunnigan proposals, rejected by the bosses.

Secondly, the Stalinists (whose sole functioning union, the furriers, is subject to the rulings of an arbitration board with an "impartial" chairman) objected "in principle" to arbitration of any sort!

**Another Bone to Chew On**  
No doubt we will now read all about this new "defeat" in the Daily Worker.

Perhaps the editor will add the story of the unions "defeat" two weeks ago at the Ready-Mixed Concrete Co. Here all the drivers were dissatisfied because the company made them report at 7:30 A.M., only to waste half an hour or more (unpaid) before loading. Furthermore, three active strikers were kept off their jobs, although men hired during the strike were still at work. When the company refused to negotiate, the union called a strike of Ready Mixed drivers, and set up banners.

In response to 574's appeal, the building trades workers on a big construction job refused to accept delivery from scab drivers. The strike was settled on the day it was called. The 7:30 rule was abolished and remains abolished; the three strikers were put back on the job with seniority rights.

## Poincare Dead; Slew Millions

Raymond Poincare, war-time President of France, who retired from active politics in 1931, died last week. The workers of France, and the world over will not mourn the passing of this infamous leader of the capitalists of France. As President of the Third Republic from 1913 to 1920, after a long career of reactionary statesmanship dating from the Dreyfuss affair, Poincare carried out the mandate for war given him by the French bourgeoisie in 1914. It was he who directed the pact with the Czar, cementing the first big alliance of the Allies. The workers of today mourn not the death of Poincare, but the workers of yesterday who died as the human arsenal of French imperialism.

## Stretch-Out Okayed by New 'Order'

President Roosevelt has affixed his seal to the Winant report which tricked the textile strikers back to work on the miserable slave conditions they had fought and bled to change.

Over the signature of Franklin D. Roosevelt appears the "Order for the Textile Work Assignment Boards". Translated into simple English this high sounding name means research, investigation, inquiry, study, but do nothing.

This principal purpose of this new board, according to the Presidential order, is to study the "stretch-out" and maintain a balance between the "usage of manpower and machinery in the cotton, silk and wool textile industries" and further according to point (2) that no change in work assignments be made over that of Sept. 21, 1934 "in order to provide opportunity to develop a sound method and an adequate organization."

This is the "great victory" hailed by Gorman. And for this the textile workers braved the National Guards and the deputies, went to concentration camps, sacrificed 15 of their best fighters and then returned—or staggered—back to work.

**The Old Stretch-Out Remains**  
The two major demands of the textile battle which struck at the roots of the misery of the mill workers—the 30 hour week and union recognition—were scuttled by the Roosevelt board with the consent and connivance of the leaders of the union. In its stead the Board munificently offered to study the stretch-out. Here are the results: the unbearable speed-up prior to Sept. 21 is to remain unaltered.

However "pleasing" this may sound to the ears of the mill operatives, who went out on a general strike to abolish the stretch-out of

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## Terror Rules As Spanish Revolt Ends

### United Defense Action of World Proletariat Set Hope of Rebels

The general strike and the armed insurrection that swept over Spain during the past two weeks as a mass protest movement against the entrance of three Fascist ministries of the Popular Action party, and which in some sections took on the character of an armed struggle for power on the part of the workers, is now virtually over. In a few localities, however, especially in the mountainous regions of Asturias where the miners have fortified a number of villages and mining camps, the workers are still holding their own valiantly against the armed forces of the reaction. The death list in the province of Asturias now runs into many hundreds while the casualties nationally range in the thousands.

Many of the leaders of the revolt have undergone military trials and a number of death sentences have been decreed. Hundreds if not thousands of rebels are now in prison awaiting trial and in some cases execution. Among these prisoners are to be found Francisco Largo Caballero, president of the Socialist party, Luis Companys, ex-president of the Catalanian Generalitat, Manuel Azana, first Provisional President of the Republic, and Angel Pestana, ex-Syndicalist leader who recently passed over into the left republican camp with his ill-starred "Syndicalist Party". The few military officers who supported the revolt—and in Catalonia there were many—have also been court martialed and sentenced to death.

In its efforts to smash the resistance of the workers, the Fascist elements in the government will do their utmost to create a genuine reign of terror against the whole labor movement preparatory to their final effort to seize the whole power for themselves and set up an open Fascist dictatorship. The present coalition government of Radicals, Agrarians and Fascists is already showing signs of weakness, however, as is indicated by the unwillingness to satisfy fully the blood-thirst of the Fascists.

According to latest reports, the Cabinet has decided to refer the death sentences already passed by the Military Tribunals, to the Supreme Court for reconsideration.

In this breathing space, that can be won only by means of continued struggles, the working class can reorganize and realign its forces, build its national united front organization and prepare for the coming struggles which are bound to be decisive. The workers of all countries must show their solidarity with their comrades in Spain in their present difficulties.

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## Six-Hour Day, Five-Day Week Is Now Watchword for Labor

"8 hours work, 8 hours play, 8 hours rest."

This battle cry that set hundreds of thousands of workers into motion and drew the class lines sharp in 1886 gains force once again.

Today, however, with the technological advances made in industry and the huge strides in the mechanization of the machinery of production labor is inscribing on its banner the fighting watchword: THE SIX HOUR DAY AND THE FIVE DAY WEEK!

The overpowering sentiment for thirty hours a week is taking hold in every factory and workshop of the country. The convention of the American Federation of Labor has unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing this slogan.

"From this convention," said Green, "there will go out a united and determined army that will drive home the acceptance of the five-day week and the six-hour day, and nothing will stop us in the realization of this economic reform."

These are strong words coming from a man who only a few days previously agreed to the Roosevelt edition of the Old Deal capitalist labor truce. The thunderous ovation that greeted these hypocritical words clearly.

On the other is the antagonism of the capitalist class. Avarice and greed for bigger and bigger profits underlies their almost unanimous

opposition. The mock chorus screams: "The thirty hour week is socialism! It will drive us out of business!"

Roosevelt is a partner in this opposition. The unofficial "brain trust", Raymond Moley, reported to an "informal" gathering of industrialists that Roosevelt's greatest achievement was staving off the 30 hour week. A reporter in the Herald Tribune observes that when the demand for a reduction in hours gained in force a year ago, Roosevelt sidetracked it by intimidating the NRA!

"Friends" of the working man are not wanting today. In congress the Black-Connery "30 hour week" bill is awaiting action. Under the appearance of reducing hours it is in reality a grandiose stagger system. No limit is set for a day's toil. 30 hours is merely a weekly maximum. This system already prevails in many industrial establishments to-day. A sop to the workers, it constitutes no serious improvement of their conditions.

Bill Green supports the bill! This is not the thirty hour week American labor wants. The six-hour day and five-day week, without reduction of wages but rather with increases to meet the rising standard of living—that is what the workers in Frisco meant when they applauded Green.

On whom shall the workers rely? On themselves! On their own strength and power!

## Suicide Strike Inspires New Open Battle

The 1,200 Hungarian coal miners of Pecs, Hungary, whose grim "suicide strike" sent shivers down the capitalist spine, are now threatening to strike again—this time along sounder militant lines.

They charge that they were "tricked" into settlement. The entire community seethes with resentment and unrest. Troops are still surrounding the village, in their vain effort to overawe workers already resigned to immediate death in preference to slow starvation.

"We were crazed with hunger," spokesmen for the miners said. "We did not know what we were agreeing to."

**\$2 a Week**  
For more than 100 hours, the miners remained underground, without food or water, threatening mass suicide if their demands were not granted. They were earning \$2 a week. They were demanding \$3.50.

In vain government agents pleaded with them to return to the surface. In vain their own union leaders, government flunkies for the most part, tried to intercede. The miners stationed five stalwarts at the entrance, armed with pickaxes, to guard against being "rescued". Troops dared not enter for fear of being slaughtered by the infuriated workers. The food that was lowered was flung back.

A more startling revelation of the desperation of which capitalism has driven its slaves can not be imagined. The labor-crushing dictatorship of Geombos, fearful of the world scandal that would result from the mass suicide, prevailed at length upon the mine-barons, controlled largely by British and French capital, to offer a settlement.

**Many Driven Insane**  
The terms of the settlement granted the men three days work a week, and a consequent \$3 weekly pay, with Christmas bonuses. The men accepted, and were removed from the mine many of them in stretchers, some driven insane by their experiences, others to weak to be moved.

They had gained only a partial victory, but they had driven their point into every capitalist stronghold in the world.

For never before in history has a working class group undertaken such extraordinary measures to better its conditions. Strikers have fought the police, the armed forces of the State, have bared breasts to bayonets; women have brought suckling babes with them to the picket lines. The Molly Maguires, syndicalists and anarchists have used the most desperate forms of terror as their weapon in the class war. But never before have workers so dramatically announced their willingness at once to die rather than face slow death by starvation.

**Capitalism Must Go!**  
Woe to a civilization that can drive masses of men to such extremities! It is a festering sore. It must, it will be obliterated!

Never by suicide! If workers are to sacrifice themselves in the struggle for better living conditions, let them go down fighting their enemies, as did their Austrian brothers. Let them take their toll of the enemy before they go down. Let their masters, too, get a taste of what desperation means.

It was not the death of the self-imprisoned miners that the Geombos government feared, but rather the anger it would inspire in an aroused working class. Not the action that was taken, but what might follow.

Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the miners have helped to drive their point home. They have taught how little life is worth under capitalism.

They have said to the workers of the world: "You need not starve. It is better to die!"

And in many a country in the world today, bourgeois leaders are shivering in their boots, lest this lesson be taken to heart, and improved upon. Lest the amendment be added, as it has been added, by an infuriated working class.

"It is better to die fighting!"

**INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Classes in the International Workers School have already begun. All those interested who have not yet registered can still do so by coming down to the classes. See page 3 for schedule of classes.

## Government Shows Colors In Houde Case

### Attorney General Decision Reveals N.R.A. Promises To Be Soap Bubbles

The decision of the National Labor Relations Board in the case of the Houde Engineering Corporation, hailed by the A. F. of L. fake leadership as "epochal", is now to be ditched by the Roosevelt administration.

It was a trifle too epochal! The Board had decided that the Houde Corp. had lost its right to the Blue Eagle by refusing to grant its employees the right to organize for collective bargaining. But the Houde Corp. grasped the Blue Eagle firmly by the neck and refused to surrender it.

The NRA Board had selected the Houde case as one of the strongest cases of open violation of Section 7a. In the Houde plant, the United Automobile Workers Union had secured a decisive majority of the workers as against the company union. But the corporation refused, nevertheless, to recognize the A. F. of L. organization, and continued to deal with its own company union.

**Getting Away With Murder!**  
This was clearly flouting the proviso in Section 7a of majority rule, and it was generally expected that the Government would sue for return of the Blue Eagle.

The Department of Justice, however, refuses to take the case to court, and Attorney-General Cummings has announced that, in his opinion, the Government has no case.

This announcement has been taken lying down by the NRA labor boys who are already beginning to crawl from their previous bold and blustering attitude.

For if anything is certain, it is that Attorney General Cummings would not have dared so openly to snub the Labor Board if he were not sure of President Roosevelt's silent consent.

Only one recourse remains now for the automobile workers of the Houde plant, and that is: Strike!

Only through their own strength and power can they force recognition, as did the truck drivers of Minneapolis, with or without the Labor Board and its various intermediaries.

But President Bill Green, of the A. F. of L., who denounces the action of the Houde Corporation as a "challenge to the Government", remains silent when the Government refuses to accept the challenge.

This faker is even now planning his most colossal sellout; attempting even now to persuade the A. F. of L. union to engage in a one-sided "industrial truce", which as always will be binding only to the workers.

JOIN THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE

## Write in J.P. Cannon as Your Vote for New Party in Elections

The working class of New York is confronted with many grave problems in this coming election. For five years they have been pressed down by the catastrophic crisis of capitalism; many of their families have been separated, many of their homes destroyed.

Obviously the workers can gain nothing by voting for the Republican and Democratic parties. Just as a worker cannot support his boss in the factory, he cannot support him on election day.

The workers must gain unemployment insurance, the right to join unions of their own choosing, a 30-hour week with no reduction in pay etc., etc. But can they gain these concessions from the capitalists by merely writing in a name on the ballot? NO!

Voting is only one of the ways the workers can apply pressure on the capitalist government, and not the most important way at that. We say to you openly, "You will not gain these concessions by merely writing in the name of our candidate on the ballot, even if he were elected. You will never vote Socialism into power by the ballot."

You can only gain major concessions from the capitalists when you possess and are led by a strong, able revolutionary party. NO SUCH PARTY EXISTS TO-DAY.

The workers can have no faith in the ability of the timid reformists of the Socialist Party to lead them in their battle against the capitalists.

The Communist Party (Stalinists) has proved itself incompetent to pursue a revolutionary policy. It has completely discredited itself before the working class by its bankrupt policies in America and in the rest of the world where defeat after defeat has been the result of its efforts.

The task of the hour for the working class, therefore, before which all other tasks pale into insignificance, is the building of a new revolutionary party which will be able to wring concessions from the capitalist class, abolish the system of hunger and unemployment and lead the workers onward towards a workers' republic.

What is necessary in this election is that the leftward moving workers of this state show their sympathy and their solidarity with the building of a new revolutionary party in this country.

YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE BUILDING OF THIS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY BY WRITING IN THE NAME OF JAMES P. CANNON OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA ON THE BALLOT, FOR GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE.

—New York District, Communist League of America.

## Price of Militant 3 Cents on Nov. 1st

On November 1st the price of the Militant will be raised from two to three cents. Increased expenses oblige us to take this step. The original price reduction was made in order to boost the circulation of the paper. Appreciable gains have been made in this direction. Hundreds of new readers have been obtained and many workers have become acquainted with our organization for the first time through the Militant. To accomplish this end we went to considerable sacrifice, printing the paper at a deficit. This is no longer possible. In the meantime the Militant has become more popular and we believe that our circulation builders will be at no disadvantage by the rise in price.

## 9 Negro Boys Need United Movement

The skepticism expressed last week by the Militant as to the validity of Samuel S. Leibowitz's claims to represent Clarence Norris and Haywood Patterson, two of the Scottsboro boys, has been justified by subsequent developments.

Leibowitz, who has been a consistent enemy of the idea of a mass defense campaign, recently dealt the organized Scottsboro defense movement what he thought would be a death blow. After walking out on the I.L.D. at a crucial moment, a development predicted more than eighteen months ago by the Communist League, Leibowitz, backed by a handful of Negro parsons, announced that the I.L.D. had been discharged from the case and that he would represent the boys in their appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It now appears that his claims were entirely unjustified. The I.L.D. at any rate, has printed in the Daily Worker copies of letters from the two boys and their parents, which place the future of the case in the I.L.D.'s hands rather than in Leibowitz's.

It would have been a grave mistake, indeed, had the boys, misled by Leibowitz's false promises, put their lives in his hands. This "mouthpiece" of New York gangsterdom is such a fine "friend" of the boys that in the Decatur, Alabama, courtroom itself he declared himself in favor of lynching in principle, being opposed to it in this case only because he believes the boys to be innocent of the crime of rape.

The I.L.D. remains the official representative of the Scottsboro boys, and all who are aware of Leibowitz's character and intentions will be glad to learn that he is not going to represent the innocent youths.

**The Industrial Union Issue**  
Undoubtedly the outstanding focus of these conflicting issues at the A. F. of L. convention is represented in the definitely progressive move toward industrial unionism.

Contrasted to this, however, was the just as decidedly reactionary jurisdictional dispute in the Building Trades Department. The step toward industrial unionism finally agreed upon after long debate in the resolutions committee and adopted by an overwhelming convention majority will have far-reaching significance in all future A. F. of L. developments. That should by no means be minimized. It is true that so far the industrial union basis is to cover only the unions in the automobile, aluminum, and cement industries. It is true also that it is explicitly declared that there is to be no interference with the craft union prerogatives elsewhere. Nevertheless this step definitely marks the beginning of a change of the A. F. of L. from a craft union to an industrial union basis.

It is the first serious sign of its attempt to adjust itself to the requirements imposed by the problems of unionization under modern industrial conditions, at least insofar as organizational form is concerned. This is the one most important sign of progress within the main trade union body which is set into motion by the changes in the national economy of the country, the regroupment of class forces which is taking place and the wide spread working class awakening, organization and militancy.

**The Scramble for Spots**  
On the other side of the picture is the intense and bitter jurisdictional dispute in the Building Trades Department which is again bringing to the fore in a most acute

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## Left Wing is Crucial Issue In A. F. of L.

### Forward Step of Industrial Unions Is Checked by Reactionary Leaders

The American Federation of Labor Convention, just concluded, was marked by the conflicting issues running through all of its sessions. At times they rose to considerable heights and compelled the inauguration of progressive steps despite all reluctance and misgivings, only to be smothered again when meeting the still impregnable barriers of reaction. Conflicting forces were at work, of course, this was not yet expressed in a conscious left wing, or progressive wing, giving battle to the reactionary hierarchy in control of its whole craft union structure, but rather expressed in the fact that this hierarchy faced at every step the shadow of their powerful home constituency of an awakening mass, of a militant rank and file showing signs of restlessness and rebellion.

The latter had some of its own representatives in the convention halls. They came mainly from the newly organized federal unions in the mass production industries. They did not dispose of hundreds of votes, as did the officials from the international unions; they were neither glib-tongued masters of demagogic nor trained in parliamentary convention manoeuvres, but their presence served as a constant reminder honing the officialdom with the spectre of the powerful home constituency.

**Dilemma of Labor Skates**  
On the one side of the conflicting issues was the impact from the head-on attacks throughout the country against union organization and against the recent strikes by the employers thoroughly alarmed by the working class militancy displayed. To the A. F. of L. officialdom it presented a dilemma. It is firmly wedded to capitalism in theory and in practice, but it faced at the same time the enormous pressure from the awakening rank and file workers demanding more militant methods to meet the attacks.

This leadership itself, united by reactionary ideology, reflected the conflicting issues in its attempt to chart the course of the trade union movement for the immediate future. Some of the officials sponsored progressive moves of one character while others would take a like position on other issues. In this they expressed their bewilderment aroused by the new conditions they find themselves in. But all of them combined in reactionary utterances and maneuvers to throw up new barriers to stem the tide of developing labor militancy.

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