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Roosevelt Kicks Bill Green Downstairs

CAPITOL NEWS LETTER

Labor Bureaucrats Howl as Roosevelt Disregards Auto Union

By JACK ELDER
WASHINGTON.—For once in their lives, the bureaucrats of the A. F. of L. spoke the plain and simple truth when they howled that the newest version of the automobile code had been "imposed" not on the employers, but on the workers.

Did the President consult with organized labor before extending the code, for the third time, without the formal pretense of a public hearing?

He acted as if the Labor Advisory Board—executive arm of the A. F. of L.—simply did not exist.

Did the President accept the advice and counsel of his National Industrial Recovery Board?

By a vote of 5 to 2 the Board recommended that the code be scrapped rather than renewed on the basis proposed by the Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

Did the President ponder upon the joint report submitted by his two disinterested experts, Messrs. Henderson (Research and Planning) and Lubin (Bureau of Labor Statistics)?

His report, he blithely informed the press at large, had been "lost" in the shuffle of papers on his desk.

One readily sympathizes with the A. F. of L. leaders in their disillusionment and dismay. But what on earth did Mr. Green and Co. expect? They had their chance to assert the claims of labor in the automobile industry last March when the rank-and-file workers were pressing for a nation-wide strike.

Face to face with the threat of direct mass action, the President was ready to deal with the A. F. of L. He dealt so well, assisted by Green's stupid betrayal, that the workers have been groaning ever since under the burden of works councils, proportional representation and the ineffable Wolman board. Rather than drop the class collaboration ideal (that famous partnership among management, government and labor) the A. F. of L. leaders sold out the strike. They entered the agreement of March 25, 1934, with their eyes wide open, fully aware that the President's settlement meant a complete tactical route for the United Automobile Workers.

Thanks to that sell-out by its leaders, the A. F. of L. has lost most of the power which it once commanded among the robots whom General Motors, Chrysler and Ford find it convenient to employ. Today the federal unions in the automobile industry are pitifully weak, low in membership, downcast in morale, torn by internal strife, the theatre of a bureaucratic scramble for offices and emoluments.

The President, after all, is a consummate master of Realpolitik. Why should he pay the least attention to a negligible quantity? Why should he disturb himself for the benefit of a ghost?

We can leave Green and Co. to their agonies. They have the capacity to discover, but not to learn. What is more important, is that the rank and file workers should profit from the lesson. They have nothing to rely on but organization and force. They can acquire what is worth fighting for, only when they are ready and able to fight for it.

There is no hope for them in the New Deal's professions of belief in "social justice", "economic planning" and the "redistribution of wealth and income". There is still less hope for them if they trust to Messrs. Green, Collins, Dillon, etc. And by fooling around with the apparatus of official labor boards, they merely paralyze their ability to strike.

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Business Manager

Fantastic Evidence Used by State in Labor Trial

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 4.—Most of this week's session of the trial of 17 defendants charged with criminal syndicalism has been taken up with testimony and cross examination of 70-year old William Hanks, stool pigeon hired last April by Prosecutor McAllister to frame-up the union.

The prosecution's attempt to make capital out of Hanks' fantastic claims that he had been driven out of Sacramento in September at the point of a gun by persons he believed to be communists was turned into a farce by Hanks' thick-witted remarks.

Hanks declared he "didn't think it was necessary" to notify police that he had been intimidated. Asked why he didn't telegraph local authorities of his plight when he reached Omaha, Nebraska, Hanks replied: "Well, there's communists there, too." He decided, he said, to stay out of town because there "was a big communist convention in Sacramento September 20, and I didn't know but that I might be hurt."

Union Pledges Solidarity to 18 Framed-up

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The immediate release of the 17 workers and union leaders on trial in Sacramento on charges of violating the criminal syndicalism laws is demanded in a resolution passed by the General Drivers Union Local 574 of the A. F. of L. Copies of the resolution were sent to the California authorities.

Denouncing California employers for their attempt, under cover of a "red scare", to crush the Cannery and Agricultural Workers' Union, the resolution continues:

"The membership of Local 574 is convinced that these 18 men and women are being prosecuted not for their political beliefs, not for any crime they may have committed, but simply because they have given their best efforts to organizing the unemployed and the cannery workers. The membership of Local 574 is well aware of the attempt of the bosses in Minneapolis to invoke the red-scare, to threaten the militant union members with the criminal syndicalism law, to frame our own brother, Happy Holstein. They were not able to accomplish their ends because of the solidarity and support of the trade union movement of Minneapolis and the P. S., including the Shipyard Workers Union in San Francisco who passed a resolution backing Local 574 in its struggle.

"In the same spirit of solidarity which other local unions demonstrated in supporting us, Local 574 hereby goes on record as supporting our 18 brother workers in Sacramento brought to trial through the machinations of the Industrial Association and the agricultural growers' associations, bitter enemies of the labor movement in California and firm supporters of the open shop.

"We extend our brotherly sympathy to the 18 framed-up workers in Sacramento, Cal., and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to work for their immediate release, and for the immediate repeal of the vicious laws under which they are being prosecuted."

Want Plenty? Nice, Easy Secret Way--Its Utopian

Would you be able to use about \$15,000 a year? To be got by a secret, mysterious process?

The Utopian Society, Incorporated, can tell you how—almost. The Utopians want to change the economic set-up of the United States and end poverty.

They make it easy. All you do is just realize that plenty is possible and swear allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. You are then given a mystic number to be known by—7 by 133 by 7n—and asked to bring your friends. Everyone raises his right hand to the American flag, tacked on the wall in a room with the blinds down, and swears to support the Constitution. The ritual is respectable. You are even blindfolded by a lady. A Voice speaks from behind a screen. Whispers. Mystery. Awe. It's done! The Utopian movement has jumped forward again by creeps and sounds.

Not Again Flags
The effort to end poverty the easy way may be retarded, however, for there are not factories to make enough flags. The Chambers of Commerce and the American Legion must have flags. Also the bankers and industrialists are hot for flags. But the cotton industry should boom, and that may help. Serious-

Judge's Trick Approved by Union Leaders

Stay of Injunction Gains Time for Bosses in Waterfront Fight

The battle of the New York truckmen and longshoremen against the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association has just begun. Last week's one day rank and file strike forced Justice Humphrey to postpone decision on the threatened injunction restraining collaboration of the two unions until this Tuesday. The injunction as finally handed down contains a stay until an appeal can be made in March to the Appellate Division.

This stay grants absolutely nothing to the truckmen. It is nothing more than a trick to give the merchants and shippers time to mobilize against the union; to save the face of the union leaders, cashal and Ryan by giving them a breathing space between now and March, and to postpone action until the attacks of the bosses, by the trickery of the union leaders, and by the long wait, the uncertainty and confusion attendant on an appeal. The stay will not prevent for a moment the wholesale laying off of union truckmen which has been going on for the last month, under the mere promise of an injunction.

A Lousy Plot

The terms under which the stay was granted reveal the whole lousy plot. "It is to be operative," said the New York Times, "only during the good behavior of the defendants. . . . Under the terms of a 'gentleman's agreement' the plaintiffs agree not to enlarge their non-union personnel and the unions agree not to molest non-union crews already at work."

What a farce! The stay on the injunction remains in force so long as the bosses refrain from firing union men. If they fire union men the stay is inoperative and the injunction comes into force.

What a Victory!

If the merchants try to break the union the court will "punish" them by . . . enforcing the injunction! In other words the court says to the merchants, "You mustn't take that easily, because if you do take it, we will give it to you." This is what Lyons, secretary of the Joint Council, Joe Ryan, president of the I.L.A., and MacGuire, attorney for the unions all hail as a victory sufficient to warrant calling off the strike.

To quote Joe Ryan—"The most pleasing part of the stay is that while it prevents us from making any demonstration until the appeal is heard, it also guarantees that the practice of discharging union employees will have to be stopped in the interim."

What is Ryan pleased about? He is pleased that the rank and file is prevented from demonstrating. He is pleased that the merchants have "guaranteed" not to discharge union employees, by the "guarantee" of the very injunction they applied for.

The bosses and the union leaders are following exactly the same tactics which broke the auto strike, the tactics of hesitation, compromise and deception. Instead of the usual phony "impartial" board, like the auto board, the "impartial" Appellate Court is the machine used to crush the strike and break the union.

The truckmen and longshoremen's unions are in the greatest danger. Unless a broad rank and file movement, well organized, is started, headed toward a militant strike, regardless of all the legal maneuvers of the bosses and the unions' leaders, a strike set and called to throw the whole question of injunctions, stays, "gentlemen's agreements" out of the window, the unions will be smashed.

Truckmen! Longshoremen! Act now, or you are lost.

The Department of Agriculture, so reports run, has just discovered that the A.A.A. program is divorcing thousands of share-croppers from the soil.

An army of special agents has been sent into the field (Arkansas and other states) to go through the motions of "investigation and adjustment."

Naive as ever, the Department of Agriculture suspects that something has gone wrong with the program to make it bear so heavily on the poorest of the tenant farmers.

Mass Meeting Calls Hearst Labor Enemy

Audience of 2,500 Indicts Millionaire Publisher and Red-Baiter

William Randolph Hearst, multi-millionaire publisher, arch-jingoist, and friend of all munitions makers, was indicted as "Labor Enemy No. 1" in a statement unanimously adopted by 2,500 workers, students and friends of labor at an anti-Hearst meeting at the Central Opera House, New York, last Sunday. The meeting was called by the provisional committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

Speakers included labor leaders, college professors, noted liberals and heads of student organizations who had been assailed in the Hearst press for "subversive activities". They denounced the "stool-pigeon" campaign Hearst has been waging against them, made clear the anti-labor, anti-culture character and purpose of his attacks, showed clearly his pro-Hitler and pro-Mussolini sympathies and revealed him as the prime mover and instigator in the prosecution of the 17 labor leaders in the Sacramento criminal syndicalism trial.

Among the speakers were Professor Sidney Hook, chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Professor James Burnham, professor of philosophy, both of New York University; Professor George S. Counts, professor of education, Teachers' College, Columbia University; Luigi Antonini, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union; Roger Baldwin, chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union; Heywood Brown, newspaper columnist; Morris Milgram and Monroe Sweetland, organizers of the Student League for Industrial Democracy; Carlo Tresca, anti-Fascist editor of *Il Martello*; Felix Morrow, secretary of the provisional committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense. George Novack of the provisional committee was chairman.

Telegrams of greetings were read from two of the Sacramento prisoners, Jack Warnicke and Norman Mil.

The "indictment" passed at the meeting read, in part:

"We, 2,500 workers, students and friends of labor, assembled in mass meeting, accuse William Randolph Hearst of being an enemy of labor and culture. Like his fellow magnates in Europe, Hugenberg of Germany, the late Coty of France, Rothermores of England, he is using the power of his press to make systematic attacks upon all that is progressive in American life. . . . We call upon all members of working class and cultural organizations to bring this indictment to the attention of their fellow members in order to broaden the struggle against Labor Enemy No. 1, William Randolph Hearst."

Father Coughlin Adopts Popes' Fake Liberalism

By DAN EASTMAN
"Father Coughlin," says L. B. Ward, one of his apologists, "bases his social and economic philosophy on the liberal encyclicals of Pope Pius XI and Pope Leo XIII."

Pope Pius XI, the present incumbent, who gained his knowledge of politics and economics while scaling mountains (he is the author of a textbook on the Climbing of Alps) has done very little but elaborate the basic thesis laid down in the encyclical of Leo XIII, *On Social Evils*.

On December 28, 1878, seven short years after the "hallowed" heads of the French government had shot down twenty-five thousand men, women and children, Parisian workers, because they dared to abolish night work in bakeries and institute an eight-hour day in the name of socialism—seven short years after the cold-blooded slaughter of the Paris Commune, that kindly shepherd, Leo XIII, produced his famous "liberal" encyclical. Let us quote:

Leo Takes Sides
"In short they (the Socialists) are spurred on by greedy hankering after things present, which is the root of all evil, which some covetings have erred from the faith, they attack the right of property, sanctioned by law of nature (!) and

'Leaders' in Dilemma Still Cling to F.D.R.

Labor widens rift with Roosevelt, announces recent capitalist newspaper headlines. This, of course, refers to the official Federation of Labor family. It appears that William Green—usually so soft spoken—together with the more beligerent John L. Lewis has made some strong remarks on the action taken by the President in extending the automobile code. Advertised by the Federation officials as "Labor's hope and strength", Roosevelt now turns around and kicks these labor officials in the pants. He feels he can afford to do so. The automobile agreement of March 25 last year put the manufacturers on the offensive while the automobile unions still suffer from the demoralization of the policy pursued by the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

By ARNE SWABECK
The Executive Council faces a dilemma. Organization of the unorganized under its leadership has come to a stop. The "perfect" equilibrium of cooperation of labor, industry and government is coming tumbling down over the heads of these labor officials like a house of cards. Instead of striking out boldly in favor of the masses sympathy for the organization they stall and sabotage in fear of the consequences of the struggle. Now these craven souls feel that they have been let down. Dangers threaten their position from two directions.

Obviously the government is moving toward some form of compulsory arbitration in labor disputes while the rank and file union membership is showing increasing signs of discontent and restlessness. A most damning indictment of the A. F. of L. officials is contained in the rather frank statements publicly made, that in the inner circles of the administration it is felt that the A. F. of L. cannot organize the basic industries—steel, rubber and automobiles.

Silk Strike Is Voted Pending Referendum

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—Continuation of unbearable conditions in the silk industry led a conference of 80 delegates from 36 locals of the American Federation of Silk Workers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York to go on record for an industry-wide strike if approved by a referendum of locals. The local unions represented all took part in the 1934 textile strike. The A.F.S.W. is affiliated with the United Textile Workers.

Delegate after delegate at the conference, held Feb. 3, expressed disappointment over the outcome of the 1934 strike and bitterness that the Winant report on wages and hours, due Feb. 1 and one of the reasons for the calling of the conference, has not yet been made. Only realization that the time is not yet ripe prevented an immediate strike call. A regional conference to get further support for strike action will be held in New England shortly.

Strike sentiment is growing and it is evident that in any 1935 silk strike the workers will not abandon the picket lines until explicit wage-hour and stretchout concessions are won—regardless of White House promises.

A telegram was sent to Governor Earle of Pennsylvania demanding the immediate release of organizers indicted in trouble at a mill in Columbia, Pa.

THIRTY DAYS, SAYS BUFFALO JUDGE, INSTEAD OF FOOD

Buffalo, N. Y.—(When Mary Janowski was brought before Judge Peter Maul of the Buffalo court on a vagrancy charge, he asked her, "Have you any money? Have you a home?")

"No," she replied.
"Where do you sleep?"
"In box cars," answered Mary.
"In box cars, no place to be sleeping in this weather. Thirty days . . . ordered the honorable judge. . . . So Mary, who recently came from Toledo was assured regular shelter and food for the next thirty days at the Wende prison.

Several respects the otherwise soft spoken officials are preparing to reinforce their blast against all opposition and against all progress, whom they label "reds", with a campaign of expulsions, beginning in the very fortress of the basic industries, in steel. All local lodges of the steel workers union that sent delegates to the recent Pittsburgh progressive conference they threaten with outright expulsion. Make no mistake about it; their next step will be outlawing of strikes. This is the most serious feature of the present situation.

The Auto Agreement
In 1934 the automobile industry agreement of last year entered into by the Federation officials became a turning point. It was a blow to the whole trade union movement. It advanced the automobile manufacturers into a position of being the spearheads in the struggle against organization of the unorganized in the basic industries. This agreement provided that any group of workers may be represented in conferences for collective bargaining with the employers. In other words, it legalized the company union and put the trade unions on the defensive. The trade unions, of course, had rich possibilities of embracing the great majority of the workers and becoming the recognized spokesmen of all the workers in the industry. Due, however, to this treacherous agreement these possibilities were frittered away, as the recent elections in the Detroit automobile plants, conducted by the despised Wolman Board, show.

The Result
In these elections conducted in twelve different plants, 90,000 workers were eligible to vote. A total of 53,771 ballots were cast and the voting gave the following results: Voting for unaffiliated representatives, 40,143; for employees

With such doctrines spread far and wide and such license in thought and action it is no wonder that men of the most lowly condition, of humble home and lowly workshop, should fix eager eyes on the abodes and fortunes of the wealthy.

(They still the Socialists) in good sooth cease not from asserting that all men are by nature equal, and hence they contend that neither honor nor respect is owed to public authority, nor any obedience to laws, save those sanctioned accord-

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