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NJ WPA Men Win Wage Rise

Officials Back Down in Face of General Strike Threat

By FELIX GIORDANO
NEWARK, N. J.—WPA workers in the Newark district have won a 10 percent increase in wages, from \$55 to \$60.50 a month, beginning from January 2, 1936.

This increase was due primarily to the organizational activity of the Association for Adequate Relief, Newark section of the N.U.L., which was the only organization to call the workers to a giant mass meeting which unanimously endorsed the demands for wage increases, lower working hours, and recognition of the workers' organization and committees.

The demands, presented to Mr. Lewis, district administrator, brought forth the usual answer that they would be kept in mind.

Tired of Promises
But the workers, who had organized to get results, were not satisfied with vague promises that bound the administration to exactly nothing. Dissatisfaction spread among them, which was heightened by the knowledge that in Pennsylvania and in New York, the two bordering states, wage increases had been obtained.

The mood of the workers was taking shape and found expression in the widespread response that the idea of STRIKE obtained on the various projects.

Local Strikes
On a number of projects, small local strikes occurred, in preparation for the general strike of all project workers, which was being prepared by the Association for Adequate Relief, and for which all the workers were getting ready.

It is against this background that the sudden decision to hand out a 10 percent increase is to be understood. For, undoubtedly the WPA officials, both local and state, were worried by the threat of an impending strike, and all the publicity that such a tremendous strike, involving close to 20,000 persons in this district, would have inevitably received.

Authorities Take Revenge
But the authorities would not be forced to grant a raise in wages without at least attempting to take their revenge. This they tried by firing a number of the more militant workers without previous advice or warning for no reason except that they carried on organizational work on their project. To be sure, this was not the official reason, but anyone with one eye could have seen it, and smelled it, a mile away.

This claim was further confirmed indirectly by Mr. Michael Condon, district labor manager, when he stated to a committee representing the Association which went to protest the firing of the men and demand their reinstatement, that one of the fired men had "threatened" to carry on organizational work on any other project he might have been assigned to.

The Association immediately
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NEC Suspends N.Y. Old Guard as Socialist Party Split Widens

By a vote of 8 to 2 the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party suspended the charter of the New York State Committee (Old Guard) at its meeting in Philadelphia last Sunday. The state committee set up at the Utica convention of the "Militants," however, was not recognized. Instead, a new temporary committee of fifteen members was appointed as a result of a compromise of Thomas and the "Militants" with Coolidge of Massachusetts and Hoopes of Reading, Pa., who had tried to steer a middle course in the two-day debate.

The new state committee contains 9 from the Utica conference group and 6 Old Guardists, some of them camouflaged as "independents." The new committee is to function under the supervision of a sub-committee of three members of the National Executive Committee—Krayek, Allen and Coolidge—and is to draft plans for a state convention to be held not later than June 30, when a permanent state committee is to be constituted.

O'Neal, editor of the New Leader and James Graham of Montana voted against the N.E.C. decision. O'Neal walked out of the meeting,

Cleveland Hot-Air Fest A Pacifist Jamboree

NEXT WEEK!

The second of a series of articles on the "People's Front" by Max Shachtman, entitled "The Government of the People's Front, and the People's Front and the War Danger," will appear in the next issue of the NEW MILITANT. For the first installment of this series turn to page 3.

Comrade John West will discuss the decision of the Supreme Court on the A.A.A., the Roosevelt message to Congress and the new budget in the next issue.

Left Wing is Only Hope in Silk Strike

Musf Fight to Save Union From Stalinist Suicide Policies

PATERSON, N. J.—The strike in the textile industry in Paterson has now been going on for over two months. But the strike in no way resembles the historic struggles that the silk workers carried on in 1931 and in 1933.

Now under Stalinist leadership, the union carries on the strike without the pep and the militancy that made Paterson a byword of active struggle in the labor movement. Strike meetings are a flop, the workers are demoralized.

What are the reasons for such a state of affairs? First, the adventurist policy of the Stalinists, which called the strike at the most unpromising time by whipping up a false enthusiasm among a few members of the union—mostly Stalinists and stooges—and on such a slim basis called the strike. Secondly, the very fact that there are practically no positive demands; all that the union is demanding now is a "stabilization of wage rates in Paterson." Thirdly, and most important of all, the local nature of the strike, which, as the NEW MILITANT pointed out as early as last May, could bring nothing but demoralization.

Yet, against this background, the Stalinists are now coming to the elections and asking the workers to re-elect them to office and to leadership. And what is still worse, it is safe to predict that they will be re-elected, so that the workers may be treated to a new and larger dose of the same kind of misleadership and adventurism.

Why is it that with such a record of lack of achievement the Stalinists will be able to maintain themselves in power?

Primarily because the efforts to form a coherent left wing, organized strongly and with a clear-cut program, up to now fell upon deaf ears, and also because the only other group in the field, led by Lovestonites and a couple of their stooges, is still living down some of the worst traits of the non-lamented Eli Koller.

The question poses itself: what
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Patriots Take Lead in League for War Against Fascism Congress

By PHILIP STRYKER
CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 8.—The "United States Congress Against War and Fascism" closed its three-day session here last night, and Cleveland's city officials and businessmen are unanimous in agreeing that it was a fine convention and that this convention city will not have such a spending crowd until the Democrats get here in the summer.

The Congress opened Friday evening with a stirring rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee." On the second line of this anthem, on the words "sweet land of liberty," Robert Minor's voice cracked, but Earl Browder and the rest of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (present to a man) manfully made up for Minor's misbehavior. The national anthem was followed by an original verse, sung to the tune of "The Vagabond King":

**War is coming nearer,
Fascist trends grow clearer,
Nations rushing to the fall
But the people waken
From their slumber shaken,
Form their ranks and heed the call,
Forward, forward, etc.**

Harold H. Burton, Mayor of Cleveland and a prominent Legionaire, gave the official address of welcome to the congress. "We welcome this gathering to our great forum," he declared, "with faith in God, with faith in America, and faith in ourselves to meet the future in the deepest interest of humanity."

Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner of Cleveland (desisting for the evening for his labors for his millionaire congregation) also welcomed the congress, and said that religion and war were incompatible. Bishop Edgar F. Blake, Methodist leader of Michigan and vice-chairman of
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Workers Pay for Tire War Report Shows

By JACK WILSON
AKRON, Ohio, Jan. 7.—Even a government fact finding board in the rubber industry was forced to criticize policies of the rubber barons which have brought lay-offs, longer work hours and less pay for rubber workers, as indicated in a report released by the labor department this week.

The report showed that every warning printed in the NEW MILITANT three months ago telling of the plans of the rubber companies to lower real wages so that a tire price war would be paid for by workers were correct in every respect.

The board which worked under the direction of Frances Perkins, labor secretary, made its findings specifically against the Goodyear tire company which returned to an 8-hour day last fall after having been forced on a six-hour day in 1930.

Nationwide in Scope
That this move was part of a nation-wide employer drive against workers as we pointed out long ago, the board admitted in saying, "the opinion appears to prevail that if Goodyear with its large production capacity lengthens hours, other tire manufacturers will follow a similar course."

The board, which was naturally conservative in its findings, declared that "an average of 36 hours per week would mean reducing the working forces by approximately 12 per cent." Actually a 40-hour week prevails so it can safely be said that at least 15 per cent of Goodyear's 15,000 employees have been laid-off permanently!

The basic reason for these offensives against the already poor standard of living of the workers can be extracted from a single paragraph hidden in the middle of the 90 page report.

It reads, "Goodyear management states to the board that one of the motives in changing from six to eight hours is to effect a reduction in costs. This objective appears to be to increase income. It would be better to approach such a problem from the standpoint of marketing methods and elimination of price cutting warfare than by decreasing wage rates and increasing hours per day of workers."

Workers Shoulder Costs
The relentless forces of competition drive rubber companies to gain market control at any cost and this cost has been thrown on the work-
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President's Speech Prepares the Masses for War with the Lie of "Peaceful" Imperialist America

STALINISTS PLEDGE FAITH TO GREEK MONARCH

(The following Havas dispatch is reprinted from the N. Y. Post, Jan. 7, 1936)

ATHENS, Jan. 7 (Havas).—The Greek Communist Party today formally pledged allegiance to King George II whom it hailed as a "guarantee against Fascism and against any authoritarian regime."

A delegation of the party that used to call for the overthrow of existing governments and the prevailing economic and political system came to the royal palace today and was received by King George, whom it assured of the unflinching support

of its organization.

The delegation announced that the Communist Party had decided to function "within the framework of the present regime."

This unprecedented scene followed similar steps taken by Communist parties in various countries since the dictum of the Seventh World Congress of the Comintern last July which called upon members of the Third International to support existing democracies instead of seeking to overthrow them.

He Flaunts U.S. Slave Hold on South America

By A. J. MUSTE

President Roosevelt put on another good show when he made his annual address to Congress last week in person at nine o'clock in the evening. No president had ever addressed Congress at that hour in the entire peace time history of the nation. It took a little parliamentary maneuvering to arrange it and the Republican politicians would have liked to chew our dear President's ear off for thinking up this bright publicity stunt, for nine o'clock in the evening is a swell spot for a radio broadcast and one was arranged which took in every station in the good old U. S. and quite a few in some of the more benighted lands outside our borders.

Under the circumstances we shall not be far wrong, and we shall also for once be in accord with every one else in the country including the newspapers and the Republican party, if we assert that F.D.R. was addressing the American people and not Congress and was firing the opening gun in the Presidential election campaign. This only makes it more important of course that the workers should look beneath the lovely, liberal surface of the President's speech and behind his smiling face and analyze what he was really putting across.

A Cheerful Picture

The content of the speech was at many points as clever as the time and manner of its delivery. Not least the opening touch. In 1933 when I came into office, said Roosevelt, everything here in the U.S. was in a mess while abroad everything was quite calm and there was general hope that an era of peaceful settlement of disputes had dawned. Today everything is bright and smiling in the good old U.S. and look what a mess things are in elsewhere, what with war, armament building, etc. Fundamentally that picture holds good neither for 1933 nor for 1936, but on the surface it seems plausible and plenty of people will be fooled by it—though in all probability to elect F.D. next fall.

Nearly half, and this the first half of the speech, was devoted to Mr. Roosevelt's views on the world situation and the relation of the U.S. toward it. This is in itself significant. In the same breath almost he says that this country is neutral, that it stands apart from embroilment in the quarrels of other nations and he must also say that "the people of the Americas must take cognizance of... a situation which has in it many of the elements that lead to the tragedy of a general war." In other words, Roosevelt gives warning that war is coming, that we will not and cannot stand aloof, we shall be embroiled.

Creating War Psychology

The President in all this first section of his speech tried to create a psychology which will prepare the American masses to take part in the next war and in the meantime permit American capitalists through his administration to continue their huge war preparations without interference. How is this done?

In the first place, he builds up the picture of the U.S. as a righteous, noble, peace-loving, irreproachable nation. We have "democracy," not autocracy. We want to reduce armaments (sliding over the fact that we are increasing them) while others are building armaments. If a fight breaks out anywhere, we virtuously stay out of it and hope that this good example will persuade others to stop fighting. We as the big nation in the western hemisphere follow the policy of "the good neighbor" and just see the result compared to the frightful mess in Europe, Asia and Africa. Never "in four and a half centuries" has there existed "a greater spirit of mutual understanding, of common helpfulness, and of devotion to the ideals of self-government than exists today in the twenty-one American republics and their neighbor, the Dominion of Canada. . . . There is neither war, nor rumor of war, nor desire for war."

False Pictures

The picture, again, is false to the core. It is only a few months since there was actual war in the Chaco. American capitalism is so
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Toledo Auto Plant Shut Down By Mass Picketing

Two Month Old Strike Galvanized by Militant Tact Wins First Concession From Mathers Spring Co.

TOLEDO, O., Jan. 8.—Mass pickets today forced the promise from the Mather Spring Company that the plant will be shut down immediately.

The company's vice-president made this as a personal pledge to pickets at the plant gates in return for permission for strikebreakers to leave the plant unscathed. Negotiations are expected to start immediately.

Burke Cochran, strike leader, stated that picket lines will continue until the union's demands are met.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 6.—Open clashes broke out here today between striking pickets of the Mather Spring Co. and police and strikebreakers, as the company management proceeds with its threatened attempt to reopen the plant which was shut down two months ago. Flying bricks shattered the windshields of scab-conveying cars, police-billies flew as scores of blue-coats scurried about the picket line, which is swelling into the hundreds as a showdown fight appears imminent.

Although the strike involves only 425 men, the bitter battle between members of the Mechanic Educational Society of America have put up since the strike was called on November 1 is beginning to stir up the coals of class-warfare which have smoldered here since the Auto-Lite strike. In response to an appeal for aid issued yesterday by the strikers to all Toledo working class organizations, scores of workers from the Chevrolet plant (members and shop chairman of the A. F. of L. auto international), from the Spicer Mfg. Co., the Lucas County Unemployed League and its affiliated organization, the WPA Workers Union, and from other groups, joined the mass picket line.

Present attempts to operate the plant, or to prepare it for operation (since as yet only several dozen maintenance men have been run through the picket line under heavy police protection), began as a surprise move last Thursday when the management announced its intentions of reopening the plant, after two months of solemn declarations that they were preparing to move it elsewhere or close it permanently.

Heightened significance is added to the present developments as all signs increasingly point to the fact that the Mather strike is being used as a test battle by the automobile and parts manufacturers to determine the present temper and organizational solidarity of Toledo labor as a guide to the strategy to be employed in the general union-busting campaign which was inaugurated here over a month ago by General Motors with the firing of 900 Chevrolet union men.

For the first time since the Auto-Lite strike, police are being used in imposing numbers and are attempting all sorts of vicious intimidation and provocation. A rigid conspiracy of silence which has been maintained in the capitalist press about the issues of the strike, in the face of wide-spread disapproval of the company's policies in refusing even to talk with the union committee or negotiate through the Toledo Peace Board, established here by Edward L. McGrady shortly after the Chevrolet strike, is expected to be broken any day, as the daily press distills its venom in
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Progressives Gain in AFL Union Meets

Radio Workers Decide to Affiliate with Lewis Movement

By ARNE SWABECK

The convention held in Pittsburgh last week of federal local unions, representing about 50,000 workers in radio and refrigeration manufacture, decided to demand from the A.F. of L. Executive Council that it be given an international charter guaranteeing the industrial form of organization. The delegates assembled apparently had no difficulty in making up their minds on this question. At the same time it is reported, that the delegates also decided to align themselves with the aims of the Committee for Industrial Organization, headed by John L. Lewis.

Both of these decisions are important and indicative of the present trends in the trade union movement. Once again they prove that under modern industrial conditions the most elementary questions of union organization bring forward from the outset the disputed progressive issues. They are not injected artificially. They grow out of the problems that arise and thereby become necessary measures for the movement to adopt. Once the trends, now beginning to take form around the progressive issues, get to a solid basis they can be expected to sweep the trade union movement like a prairie-fire.

Join With Lewis Movement

Like the unions in other mass production industries the federal locals in radio and refrigeration manufacture found their first real obstacle to organization in the
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WPA Official Gets Told by Project Union

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 5.—Many hundreds of WPA workers here jammed the large Memorial Hall auditorium this afternoon at a mass meeting of the WPA Workers Union, which has been organized by the workers from Wood, Fulton and other northwest Ohio counties as far distant as fifty miles helped swell the crowd beyond the 800 seating capacity to fill all standing room. This meeting was the climax of a two weeks' intense organizational drive by the new union, and veterans of unemployed organization here declared it to be the largest indoor meeting of public project workers and unemployed ever held in this city.

William B. Schuhl, WPA administrator for Lucas and Wood counties, spoke at the meeting in response to the insistent pressure of the union that he publicly face the WPA workers to explain the reasons for the partial break-down of
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Protest Lays Cuban Terror Regime to Roosevelt Gov't

In a sharp protest to President Roosevelt, leading labor organizations and prominent individuals today laid at the door of the American government the responsibility for the terroristic regime of Cuba. The Cuban general elections, set for January 10, are denounced as a fraud, since the only political parties permitted to participate are those of the wealthy landowners and employers, while every group which participated in ousting Machado is declared illegal, the trade unions are ordered dissolved, and hundreds are assassinated or executed and thousands jailed.

The protest was issued by Norman Thomas, chairman of the Labor and Socialist Defense Committee; Joseph Wagner, Secretary of the General Defense Committee; and Felix Morrow, Secretary of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

Among the signatories are John Dos Passos, Lewis Corey, Charles Yale Harrison, James Rorty, Anita Brenner, Sidney Hook, Carlo Tresca, Bertha Poole Weyl, Elsie Gluck, Adelaide Walker, Martha Gruening, Grace Lumpkin, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Babette Deutsch, Sherwood Eddy, Anna N. Davis, B. W. Huebsch, Matthew Josephson, Wil-

liam Pickens, Quincy Howe, Chas. S. Zimmerman, manager of Dress-makers' Union, and Paul Sturm, secretary of the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund. Another signatory is Clifford Odets, noted playwright, who was refused admission to Cuba recently because he went to investigate labor conditions.

The letter of protest to President Roosevelt, copies of which were sent to Ambassador Jefferson Caffery, President Jose Barnet of Cuba, and Secretary of State Cordell Hull states in part:

Letter of Protest

"The present political regime in Cuba came into existence through the direct intervention of Ambassador Jefferson Caffery. After years of terrible oppression, the Cuban masses had finally ousted Machado. But the American government refused recognition to the government of President Grau Sgn Martin, which granted a minimum of democratic rights.

"In grim contrast to this treatment was the American government's immediate recognition of the present regime which violently seized power and has held it through a reign of terror."