

10,000 Ohio Gum Miners Mass To Protest Wage Slashes

Boss Offensive Arouses Akron

Washington Acts Behind Scenes To Spike Union Vote

AKRON.—In a surprise announcement at the end of a mass meeting of 10,000 rubber workers held March 19 to protest against proposed wage-cuts, L. L. Callahan, president of the Goodrich local of the United Rubber Workers of America, stated that the union had reversed its previous decision to take a vote on the question of Goodrich management's demands.

The federal government, moving swiftly behind the scenes through the Department of Labor, succeeded in having the vote delayed, pending "further investigation" of Goodrich's financial position and a decision by the National Labor Relations Board on the union's petition to prevent the company from further decentralization.

Rubber Barons Active

For the past few weeks the interest of the entire population of Akron has been centered on the developments at Goodrich. Business men's groups by the score have been mobilized by the rubber barons and the Chamber of Commerce to bring pressure to bear on the Goodrich union workers who were to vote on the wage-cut proposals.

With one sweep, then, the Goodrich local executive board's vote-delaying decision postpones the settlement for an indefinite period, at the eleventh hour, without previous warning. Militants in the unions have every reason to fear that the company will in the meantime redouble its efforts at intimidation, and that the union's stated policy of "cooperating with our government in all its endeavors" will produce apathy and fatalistic resignation amongst the workers.

Since the Goodrich local enjoys sole bargaining rights with the company under the Wagner Act, and the vote on whether to accept or reject wage-cuts and hour-stretch was to be conducted by it amongst its members only, the bosses' attack has included demands that the voting be supervised by some other agency than the union, and that non-union workers be permitted to vote. The union has previously answered these reactionary restrictions correctly; it remains to be seen whether it will put up a fight in the future against possible government supervision of the vote.

Stalinists Prepare Ground

The road to last-minute government intervention was paved by the Stalinists. Every piece of union propaganda contained the reference to "labor's friend Roosevelt"; the main slogan of the mass demonstration was: "Don't Let the President Down—Fight Wage Cuts." This constant playing up of Roosevelt is calculated to enable his administration or its agencies to enter into a conflict, if it comes, for the purpose of averting a clash that might prove embarrassing to them.

The Goodrich workers in the coming weeks will face a real test. Every militant knows that the life of the union is at stake, that the company will attempt to wear down resistance to the wage-cut regardless of 100 Roosevelts, and that the maintenance of the anti-wage cut sentiment can be accomplished only by redoubled efforts on the union's part.

MARXIST SCHOOL

Wed. March 30 7 P. M. - C. I. O. A. F. L. Conflict. - Bill Morgan. 8:45 P. M. - The Struggles in the Russian Communist Party - 1923-1937 - Joe Carter.

Other courses being held are: Elementary Socialism, Monday, 7 P. M. Hal Draper, instructor; Marxian Economics, Tuesday, 7 P. M., J. G. Wright; Principles of Revolutionary Socialism, Tuesday, 8:45 P. M., Maurice Spector. Classes are held at 116 University Place.

Minneapolis Electrical Workers Vote To Strike

Power Company Attacks In General Offensive Directed Against Labor In Mid-West

MINNEAPOLIS.—Power "to take all steps necessary, including the calling of a strike," against the Northern States Power Company, was voted to the General Executive Board by 1,200 members of Electrical Workers Local 292 at a special meeting held March 15.

The meeting, called after the power company broke off relations with the union, crushingly refuted company claims that the union was divided, for only 12 members voted to withhold strike power from the Board.

Strike Won Agreement

As the result of the most militant strike ever conducted against a big electric utility company, the union wrested an agreement a year ago last February. The International "has termed the agreement the most advantageous in force anywhere in the country. The contract covers 1,200 men in the Minneapolis local and 2,300 others in outlying divisions are covered by similar agreements.

Minneapolis labor, vanguard of progressive unionism, is now confronted by a general offensive of the bosses. Desperation induced by the economic crisis, as well as an assault against all militant unions in preparation for the coming war, lies behind this offensive. The teamsters, spearhead of the labor movement of the Northwest, are confronted by open and systematic persecution by Mayor Leach, who is the direct instigator of a "financial accounting" suit filed by five renegades from the union, who aim to secure an order from the court paralyzing the operation of the union. Leach and the bosses backing him—he is a candidate for governor in the fall elections—are also sponsoring an "independent" teamsters organization.

Relations Severed

As part of this general offensive, the power company suddenly struck the electrical union on Tuesday, March 6, breaking off all relations with the union. With a brazenness seldom equaled in this area, the company informed International Representative W. B. Petty, two days later, that the company would not renew relations with the union until the union removed from office Assistant Business Manager H. A. Schultz and Business Representative William Heigel, the two union negotiators who have been dealing with the company.

It looked for a day or two as if the company was going to get help in doing serious damage to the union. For the International's representative, Petty, proceeded to arrange for an election at which the power company employees would vote whether or not they wished to retain the union representatives, Heigel and Schultz.

The General Executive Board unanimously opposed the election. The Board pointed out to Petty that the election meant bending to the demand of the company for the removal of Heigel and Schultz, and that bosses always demand the removal of representatives they cannot budge," the Emergency Bulletin of Local 292 reports. "The General Executive Board also demonstrated that such an election can in no way benefit the union. If the company were able to terrorize the men into voting the removal of Heigel and Schultz, it would wreck the union, because the precedent thereby established would henceforth give the company the last word in the union.

Dangerous Concession

"Winning the election would be an empty victory, for the company would still have to be forced to retreat from its demand for the removal of Heigel and Schultz. The very holding of an election would be a dangerous concession to company pressure, and could only encourage the company to make further arbitrary demands."

Despite the unanimous opposition of the union leadership, however, Petty insisted on going forward with the election. But within twenty-four hours, he called off the election and left town, and the union got down to the business of bringing the company to terms.

This significant victory for militant unionism is explainable by both local and national factors:

1. The union is led by outstanding militants, under whom the union has flourished, and the

membership has learned to assert itself. The unanimous position of the Executive Board was backed up by delegation after delegation from the ranks, who informed Petty in no uncertain terms that the reactionary election he proposed would never be held. A call to arms against the company, published in the thousands in the form of an Emergency Bulletin, rallied the membership to a program of struggle. Refusing to cooperate in the proposed election, the board instead called the special membership meeting.

2. The union undoubtedly has the backing of the whole Minneapolis labor movement. Any attempt by the International to violate the autonomy of the local would have encountered the indignation of the most progressive section of the A.F. of L. in the country.

3. The International is engaged in the East in a sharp struggle with the C.I.O. electrical workers' union. One of the chief weapons of the International has been the example of the Minneapolis union, which is a real industrial union. Bureaucratic usurpation of the rights of the Minneapolis local would destroy the International's standing among utility workers in particular and mass industry electrical workers in general. The day of arbitrarily lifting charters is gone for the time being.

4. The Minneapolis local has maintained good relations with the International as far as possible without giving up its autonomy and militant program. This fact is known to scores of I.B.E.W. locals, and any attack on the local would lead to a national scandal in the union.

Crucible Steel Workers Out On Strike In N. J.

Picket Squads Evidence Fighting Spirit Of Strike Committee

HARRISON, N. J. — Two thousand steel workers at the Harrison and Jersey City plants of the Crucible Steel Company plants are now in their third week of strike against an attempted lock-out by the company which violated an agreement settling a sit-down strike Jan. 19.

The strike was provoked by a lock-out of three departments at the Harrison plant and by a lay-off of the bulk of the working staff at the Jersey City plant.

Strikers' Demands

Demands of the strikers include: the closed shop, sole collective bargaining rights, 62½ cents per hour minimum, more flexible seniority rights, elimination of the stagger system, and the right of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee locals to negotiate supplementary agreements in the plants.

The company attack is part of a plan of assault in all steel. This was evidenced by the emergence of Desvervne, Liberty League attorney and counsel for the Sun Oil and Sun Ship Companies, as negotiations representative for the company. The Midland plant of Crucible in Pennsylvania also has been locked out as part of this drive.

Militant Leadership

Happiest sign in the strike is the militant class struggle policy being pursued by the rank and file strike committee. Flying squads of pickets from Jersey City have joined the Harrison mass picket lines which top the thousand mark. Squads from the whole body of strikers have helped Waterman Fountain Pen Company strikers in Newark on that picket line. The same squads have become contact agents for S.W.O.C. to bolster morale at the Murgot steel plant, also in Newark, where bosses have refused to negotiate a new agreement and a struggle looms.

The rank-and-file strike committee is being assisted by Edward H. Kaempff, S.W.O.C. North-east New Jersey organizer, whose leadership, buttressed by rank-and-file support, made a fighting organization of the Harrison and Jersey City locals, particularly the Harrison local which in one period had slumped in membership from 1,400 to less than 300.

The local recently won a sit-down strike.

Roosevelt War Aims Denounced At New York Anti-War Meeting

NEW YORK.—At an enthusiastic mass rally against war and in commemoration of the Paris Commune held at Manhattan Plaza on March 18, nearly 700 Socialist Workers Party members and sympathizers cheered the revolutionary program and pledged themselves to fight war and fascism by fighting to overthrow capitalism.

The speakers appeared against a background of red banners and slogans: "No support to the United States government in any war," "Against collective security, the mask of imperialism," "Build the Socialist Workers Party and fight against imperialist war." A large chorus sang revolutionary songs and the entire gathering joined at the close of the meeting in the singing of the "Internationale" and thunderous cheers for the Fourth International.

James Burnham spoke on the relation of the People's Front to war, tracing the history of popular frontism, its bankruptcy before the advance of fascism, and its transition to governments of National Union. "No one believes

now," he said, "that the government of Negrin is the government of victory. No one believes that the People's Front will stop war."

James Rorty, introduced by the chairman, Neil Harrison, as an intellectual who had been against the last war, described the Hippodrome meeting of the "Keep America out of war Committee" as "a lot of people gathered under the banner of 'War, what for?' and marching in every direction." "I listened painfully," he stated, "for three hours and I did not hear a kind word for socialism, except maybe from Bert Wolfe and he was not quite sure about it. I did not hear anybody say a harsh word for capitalism..." "If you are going to march against war, you will have to know the people with whom you are marching and the objective towards which you are marching," he declared.

Representing the Y.P.S.L., Nathan Gould spoke on the lessons of the Paris Commune, to which the victory of the Russian Revolution was so largely indebted.

Analysing the imperialist ri-

valries that are leading to the coming war, the main speaker of the evening, Maurice Spector, pointed out the impossibility of isolation or neutrality for the United States. He placed the responsibility for the rise of fascism on the "socialist" leaders who betrayed the revolution in the last war and castigated the betrayal by the Stalinist and reformist leaders who today place reliance on bourgeois democracy, and no longer even threaten revolutionary action against war.

"There is," he said, "no democratic war against fascism... The issue today is between fascism and socialism."

He was applauded time and again for such statements as: "It is the historic mission of the S.W.P. to stand up before the workers of the United States and say that we will not relinquish for a moment that propaganda which we have carried on ever since the last war... We are pledged to wage the only war which serves the workers' interests, the class war against all imperialist governments, the class war against the American government."

Bankruptcy Of Roosevelt's Reform Program Laid Bare By Gov't Acts

By DAVID COWLES

The fraud of Roosevelt reform has been worn threadbare. All pretense of New Deal concessions to labor has been dropped. The truth that the government is the "executive committee" of the capitalist class is jutting out boldly.

These facts are now public knowledge: On March 1, 1938, the New York World-Telegram reported "President Roosevelt has declared a quiet armistice on new reforms." Within two weeks even the Republican Mark Sullivan, whose custom it is to cry "Communism!" whenever Roosevelt smiles in order to show his teeth to the workers, conceded the truth of this statement. He added further that "the largest cause of the New Deal let-down is the business recession. That is the denial of all their promises of abundance."

Never Reached It

Nevertheless, it would be false to say that the New Dealers have abandoned reform. They could not abandon what they never reached. The fact is that they at no time did more than promise reforms. Even if they wanted to, they could do no more. They could not deliver reforms. For the basic premise of reform is that capitalism is progressive and on the upswing, that it makes sufficient profits to enable it to toss some crumbs of concessions to the workers. However, American capitalism has been declining since 1929. Its markets are contracting, and its profits as a whole have never reached the former peak. Even in the depressed recovery that followed the depression of 1933 capitalism could not tolerate reforms.

All that the Roosevelt liberals could do was to stall off the workers with reformist phraseology and promises of abundance, dangling before them the illusion that such abundance could be attained under capitalism. But the current depression, sharper than any in American history, has punctured the balloon of reform. Previously, when the New Dealers could not "deliver the goods," they at least were able to hand out promises. Now they can no longer do even this. The depression is "the denial of all their promises of abundance."

Consider Their Actions

The thorough bankruptcy of reformism comes out vividly if we consider the actions of the New Dealers instead of the promises. For convenience sake, we shall deal with the present session of Congress and the action of Congress and the New Dealers on major items of reform.

When the special session began the rank and file strike committee and strikers asking for aid in the organization of their shops and plants.

The rank-and-file strike committee is being assisted by Edward H. Kaempff, S.W.O.C. North-east New Jersey organizer, whose leadership, buttressed by rank-and-file support, made a fighting organization of the Harrison and Jersey City locals, particularly the Harrison local which in one period had slumped in membership from 1,400 to less than 300. The local recently won a sit-down strike.

on November 15, 1937, the first bill that aroused debate was the anti-lynching bill. The bill was almost as old as the New Deal itself. It had been proposed by reformers who hoped to use the Federal government to stop the wave of lynchings that was flaring up in the South against negroes, and especially against negro sharecroppers who were organizing.

The bill provided that where a state government failed to stop a lynching, or failed to punish lynchers, the officers and officials responsible would be subject to a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for no more than five years, or both. Where a public official conspired with the lynchers, he was subject to from five to 25 years imprisonment. At the same time, the state where the lynching took place was to pay to the family of the lynched person from two to ten thousand dollars.

The Senate committee which heard testimony on the bill said "evidence was presented demonstrating to the committee's satisfaction the continuing and increasing need for Federal legislation of this character." It reported further that "during the months from January 30 to June 5, 1934, when public opinion in favor of legislation to curb the practice of lynching was particularly articulate, no lynchings occurred. During the first week in June, 1934, word was generally circulated that the enactment of the proposed measure had been abandoned. On June 8 there was a lynching in Mississippi, followed in rapid succession by two lynchings in Alabama, one in Texas, one in Tennessee, one in Louisiana, a third in Mississippi, a third in Alabama, one in Georgia and one in Florida... A continuation of the practice of lynching, coupled with a complete failure of those States involved to apprehend and punish the participants of these crimes, supports the need for Federal legislation."

Nature Of Boss Justice

This fact sheds a floodlight on the whole nature of capitalist government and capitalist justice. It shows, also, the role of liberalism and reform in the period of declining capitalism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL office before six o'clock Monday evening.

MINNEAPOLIS

SOCIALIST PUBLIC FORUM Mar. 27: 7 P.M. MORROW "Is America ripe for Revolution?" Sundays, 3 P.M., Socialist Workers Party Hall, 669 Second Ave. North. Admission 10 cents.

NEW YORK

HOUSEWARMING AT OUR NEW Headquarters, 78 St. Marks Place, Saturday, April 2. Swing Band, entertainment. East Side Branch, S.W.P., admission 10 cents.

LOS ANGELES

ANTI WAR MEETING, East Side H. ROSEN and J. STEVENS speakers. Friday, April 1, 8 P.M. at Folk Studio, 429 N. 50th St. Admission 50c. Boyce Heights Branch, S.W.P., and East Side Branches, Y.P.S.L., admission 10 cents.

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Southern lynchings are not just accidental. They are part of the entire social and economic system of cutting down the political rights and economic standards of workers, sharecroppers and tenants. Lynching was part of the systematic planter terror against the negroes designed to deprive them of the political equality supposedly won them by the Civil War. Lynching is still the weapon with which capital terrorizes southern labor into submission.

Those who make laws in the southern state legislatures and those who run the state governments do both in the interests of southern capital. The representatives of southern capital sit in Washington among the New Deal Democrats and hold the balance of power in Congress. Had the anti-lynching bill passed, it would have fined and imprisoned the very men whose representatives sat in Congress as part of the New Deal. Needless to say, the New Dealers protected their own—the Southern Democrats who inspire, condone, or take part in lynchings. The New Dealers shelved the anti-lynching bill.

Family Affair

This close cooperation between lynchers, Democrats in state office, and Democrats in Federal office was convincing proof that the "progressive" New Deal administration represented lynch justice against the Southern workers. The 14th Amendment did give negroes the guarantee: "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." But the guarantee was a paper guarantee. The very New Dealers who are sworn to uphold their own constitution, break it in practice. They permit lynchings in the states and condone them in Congress.

The liberal reformers aid lynchings by giving the workers false hopes and illusions: false hopes that Congress may pass the anti-lynching bill; illusions that such a bill, even if it were passed, would not be as much a fraud as the Fourteenth Amendment. They take the workers' minds off the only real guarantee against lynching: mass organizations of negro and white workers, permanently based on a militant program of economic demands.

Increase for Four Weeks

Table with columns: Local, Bundle Increase, Sub Increase. Lists cities like California, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc.

WANT ADS

WANTED: OFFICE FURNITURE for the SOCIALIST APPEAL—Desks, Shelves, Typewriter tables, Filing Cabinets. Address Socialist Appeal, 116 University Pl., N.Y.C. WANTED: SINGLE ROOM, furnished or unfurnished, with Manhattan comrade, preferably near center. \$10 to \$15 per month, maximum. EDWARDS c/o Appeal.

Hull Reiterates War Aims; To Increase Navy Budget

(Continued from page 1)

"It would mean that our security would be menaced in proportion as other nations came to believe that... we did not intend to afford protection to our legitimate national interests abroad, but, on the contrary, intended to abandon them at the first sign of danger." If American imperialism did not have the army and navy to back its fight for foreign spoils, it "would necessarily shrink and shrivel." American capitalism, already in sharp decline, would be destroying one-tenth of its production and more than one-tenth of its profits.

The Real Reason

Isolation would not only destroy American imperialism but if capitalism continued it would mean the wholesale destruction of the living standards of the American people. "Thrown back upon our own resources, we would find it necessary to reorganize our entire social and economic structure. The process of adaptation to a more or less self-contained existence would mean less production and at higher costs, lower living standards, regimentation in every phase of life, economic distress to wage earners and farmers, and to their families, and the dole, on an ever-increasing scale." Although Hull does not mention it, this would also increase the pressure upon the workers and farmers to throw off the weighty burden of a declining capitalism through revolution.

The New Deal policy is to escape from the dangers which isolation has for American imperialism and to defend American imperialism from competitors. The method is: "Where this and other nations have common interests and common objectives, we should not hesitate to exchange information and confer with the governments of such other nations and, in dealing with the problems confronting each alike, to proceed along parallel lines."

Against the Japanese invasion of America's imperialist interests in China, the New Deal proposes collective action i.e. "parallel action" with Great Britain. The enormously expanded navy would back up American imperialism against Japan with arms.

Both isolation and collective security propose to keep "peace"

within the framework of capitalism. But both mean war: isolation will bring it by weakening American imperialism in the face of its rivals; collective security will bring it by strengthening American imperialism in order to destroy its rivals. The New Deal has chosen collective security and it is piling up vast armaments to prepare for the fast-approaching showdown-war.

La Guardia Cuts Relief Ten Percent

(Continued from page 1)

The Stalinist leadership of the Workers Alliance have been forced to move. While trailing along with Baby-starver LaGuardia in the taxation dispute with Albany, they mumble quietly: "Nevertheless, we do not condone the ten per cent cut."

Under the hammer blows of the Progressive Group in the Alliance, they were compelled to agree to a demonstration at City Hall and a "sit-in" strike at the bureau. Whether these pussy-footers will follow up their promises by militant action against the LaGuardia cut remains to be seen.

The cut went into effect at once on all new relief cases. Beginning March 26, all unemployed will receive 10 per cent less.

Demonstration Proposed

March 26 was the day proposed for a demonstration at City Hall. But at this writing no definite arrangements had been made. The Progressives in the Alliance are pushing for immediate action. In face of the rising anger of the membership, it will be difficult for the Alliance leadership to continue playing the role of taxation experts and acting as LaGuardia's political shock-troopers in the dispute with Leckman.

The ten per cent cut is here. The place to stop it is at City Hall. The time to stop it is now!

Appeal Army

Table showing drive ends with a showing that demonstrates the need for more determined efforts on the part of the entire party membership during the last month of the drive.

We feel sure that the next four weeks will show better results. It should be an easy job to sell the Appeal, particularly in view of recent developments in Europe. Our anti-war campaign, now in full swing, has already found thousands of sympathetic ears. Utilize the Socialist Appeal in connection with the anti-war campaign, supplementing all party activity with effective sale and distribution.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the comrades who have complied with the request for back numbers—Volume 1, No. 5 and Volume 1, No. 9. We still need more of both these numbers. Dig them up from your archives and send them in as soon as possible.

We're still getting promises of bigger bundle orders. Herbert Kimmel in Sullivan, Indiana, writes: "I expect to increase my regular bundle order in a short while... and hope to pick up some more subs. The Special Supplement on the Moscow Trials was a humdinger. Hope we have more like it." We will have more like it if we put this drive across!

Table with columns: Name, Address, City. Lists various locations like Newcastle, Reading, Canada, England.

Socialist Appeal

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