

# Akron Rubber Strikers Fight Police Brutality, Score Gains

## Strike Ended By Compromise Arrangement

(Continued from page 1)

and Goodyear had figured on utilizing the differences between the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. to divide Akron's workers and smash the Goodyear rubber workers union, the stand of the A. F. of L. unions blew their plans wide open.

### The Tide Turns

It was this factor—the unity of the labor movement—that turned the tide. By nightfall, union officials and Goodyear worked out a compromise on the demands that satisfied organized labor, even though mass picketing was not yet re-established. What was decisive was the removal of the greatest proportion of the cops from the scene and the reopening of Goodyear Local hall, giving the unionists a chance to return on E. Market St.—the strategic entrance to Goodyear's plants.

Meanwhile, the Akron newspapers carried many pictures of the bloody actions by the police, and the workers became more aroused. Also, a series of militant radio speeches began to whip up the old traditions of militancy in the Akron labor movement.

The resurgence of the labor movement reached a high point last Saturday when a mass protest meeting of 7,000 was held.

Many of the C.I.O. and A. F. of L. leaders had been gassed along with the rank-and-file on Thursday night. They forgot their conservatism and a fiery meeting resulted.

### Roosevelt Not Mentioned

Perhaps the most significant commentary on the entire meeting was the fact that although there were ten speakers, the name of Roosevelt was not mentioned once!

Speaker after speaker emphasized that the workers must depend on themselves alone.

Frank Grillo, secretary-treasurer of the United Rubber Workers, gave a marvelous picture of the Thursday night terror. He told the audience that the next time, "neither tear gas, clubs, machine guns or cannon will stop us from defending our rights."

Sam Pollock, A. F. of L. butchers union organizer and one of the initiators of the United Defense Committee, said: "We may have our own quarrels and disagreements within the family of workers. But when any outsider starts to kick labor around, we forget our family quarrels and stick together." He told the Akron workers how the Toledo workers had won a much tougher fight—the famous 1934 Auto-Lite strike.

### Recalls 1936 Strike

Thomas F. Burns, vice-president of the U.R.W.A., returned to his days of militancy of a few years ago and gave a flaming address that set the crowd cheering over and over again.

Recalling the 1936 Goodyear strike, Burns declared: "It was a different story then. Then you turned out in numbers—and you didn't come empty handed either." Shouts of "give them hell," and "give us guns," interrupted his speech frequently.

The entire emphasis of the speeches was on rallying thousands of workers for a well-prepared mass picket line for Tuesday morning when Goodyear threatened to re-open.

No doubt, negotiations were hastened by the militant tone of the mass meeting, which was followed by a demonstration and parade of the workers around city hall and the police station.

### Arrests Announced

Feeling became even more tense at the close of the meeting when Greer announced that six unionists had been arrested for distributing leaflets protesting the cops' activities and announcing the mass meeting. Greer reported on the threats made to the arrested men by the police who picked them up.

Sunday afternoon, the Central Trade and Labor assembly held a special meeting and voted unanimously to support the United Labor Defense Committee and its actions.

Frequent reports of the mobilization of the National Guard and their entrance into Akron have aroused much resentment. There are no illusions about the Khaki-uniformed tin-hats since Governor Martin L. Davey revealed himself as a notorious strike-breaker in the "Little Steel" strike last summer.

## The Lessons of Akron

# Organize Workers' Defense!

By B. J. WIDICK  
Labor Secretary S.W.P.

AKRON.—The most inspiring and commendable example of labor solidarity in this period of C.I.O.-A.F. of L. warfare was developed here last week when every C.I.O. and A.F. of L. union rallied behind Goodyear strikers whose picket lines were temporarily crushed by a vicious police attack that sent over 100 people to the hospital and tear-gassed hundreds of others.

Not since the tensest moment of the famed five-week Goodyear strike in February 1936 was Akron labor confronted with a graver crisis. Chaos prevailed for the few hours following the night-long reign of terror planned and carried out by Goodyear through its thugs and city police.

### Unity Achieved

In the face of this fundamental challenge to its very existence, Akron labor responded. The petty fights between C.I.O. and A.F. of L. unions here, as well as the deep cleavage between them, were forgotten in this hour of danger.

A United Labor Defense Committee backed by the entire labor movement was set up. Threats of an immediate transportation strike and a truck-drivers strike stopped the drive momentarily against the Goodyear workers. Talk of a general strike reached the ears of the labor-hating bosses and cooled off their violent passions.

Akron labor achieved unity in action against the boss class. The results speak for themselves. It is a lesson and an example for unionists throughout the country who want to defend their organizations in this time of crisis against the offensive of the employers.

The need for unity of the labor movement was never greater than at the present time. The example of Akron could be multiplied a thousand times. Labor must achieve solidarity in a common fight against its common enemy—the ruling class—if it is to survive.

### The Second Lesson

There is a second great lesson to be learned from the Akron experience. In the historic five-week Goodyear strike of 1936 that established

the C.I.O. as a mass movement, rubber workers did not suffer from brutal police attacks. Picket lines remained intact and the strike was won despite formation of vigilante movements, despite the hostility of the same mayor who holds office today, despite a march on the strikers by an army of deputies and police which collapsed before it reached the strikers.

Any Akron worker would tell you why the labor-haters failed in 1936. The picket lines were organized and well-prepared to defend themselves against any kind of attack. Labor relied on its own might and power then. It was successful.

Last Thursday night, Akron labor was empty-handed. It was unprepared, and Goodyear and the police department knew it. They took advantage of it. The reign of terror—a nice commentary on American "democracy"—followed.

### Defense is Necessary

The contrast between 1936 and 1938 was evident and the lesson to be drawn was made clear by almost every union leader who spoke at the mass protest meeting a day later. Akron labor must always be ready to defend itself. It must always be on guard. Let other union centers learn this lesson without the cost that the Akron workers paid.

The United Labor Defense Committee created by the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. unions here was a real stride forward in building an organization which can keep labor on its guard and which can prepare labor to defend itself against any attack.

This committee should be transformed into a permanent body whose duty must be to create groups of workers in each union subject to call day or night to defend the rights of labor. It should form workers' defense committees in every union. It should be able to mobilize thousands of workers to face any possible threat to the union movement.

Such a workers' defense committee today can prevent the smashing of picket lines. It can preserve free speech and assemblage to the unionists. And tomorrow it can be ready to meet Fascist hordes who today do their work in vigilante movements, as strike-breakers, as company thugs, and blue-coats parading as the "Law."

## Akron Militant Tells Of Big Picket Line Battle

(Continued from page 1)

breaking up the crowd before the hall with long range tear gas fire. We took refuge around the corner in Willard Street and prepared to defend the hall from assault. It was easier here because the wind blew the gas straight on down Market Street and two hundred workers, backed up by many more, successfully kept the cops at bay for two hours with stones and uprooted paving bricks. Our barrage drove them into the plant or out of range every time they paused to load their guns.

### Police Fire Wildly

Workers began knocking out street lights to cover our hiding places. Aiming their gas shells wildly in the night, the police made a shambles of the fronts of buildings in the vicinity. One shell pierced an upstairs apartment, window and exploded inside, calling forth the screams of a woman. Shells rose high in the air like sky-rockets, aimed at workers lodged on house and building tops. Jeers and taunts came from enraged workers in the nearby cemetery and Willard Street followed by showers of bricks. "Put down those guns

## Furriers Score In Strike Settlement

NEW YORK.—The strike of 15,000 fur workers that began 15 weeks ago with a lockout and has kept the fur industry of New York closed down tight, ended last week with important gains won by the International Fur Workers Union in a new pact signed for three years.

Most important feature of the new agreement is the guarantee of eight months' continuous employment per season, made possible by equalization of work. The union had asked for nine months, but accepted the eight months provision, a marked gain over the previous clause for six months' work, broken at intervals.

The agreement provides for new wage minimums representing increases of from \$2 to \$6 per week. Each year of the agreement the wage scale shall be increased a like amount.

## USE OF ARMY NAVY URGED TO BAN SITDOWNS

Senator Rants Against Sitdown Tactic As Bosses Applaud

The sit-down strike, potent weapon of organized labor, was attacked on two fronts last week, as employers banded together in the National Metal Trades Association listened approvingly while Senator Josiah W. Bailey called for the use of the army and navy against sit-downs, and American Federation of Labor bureaucrats of New Jersey endorsed a state measure providing for stiff prison penalties for sit-down and stay-in strikes.

### Form Defense Squad

The fighting continued until early morning, cops mopping up the whole area for a half mile from where their dirty work began. Every inch of retreat was contested by the workers in an inspiring display of courage and determination against overwhelming odds.

The sadistic attack of practically the entire force of 150 Akron police and 100 Goodyear thugs has infuriated the whole labor movement. The answer to them has already been grasped by every worker who experienced or knows of them. And that answer is: meet force with force; organize squads for labor's defense.

## Higher Pay Won By P.R. Dock Workers

Puerto Rican longshoremen have been granted a substantial wage increase by the arbitration board set up after the militant dock strike which completely paralyzed Island shipping from January 3 to February 10.

The award, announced on May 28, fixed the hourly rate at 45 cents, with 65 cents for overtime, and made provision for a higher rate for special cargoes and conditions. While a closed shop was not granted, the settlement ruled against discharge for union activity. The award is retroactive to the beginning of the arbitration period.

Before the strike, the longshoremen's wage rate was 32 cents an hour, with 47 cents for overtime. During the arbitration period, they received 40 cents an hour, with 60 cents for overtime.

ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

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ASK FOR THE APPEAL AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

## Relief A La Roosevelt!

CITY OF NEW YORK  
EMERGENCY RELIEF BUREAU  
D.O.#10-114 West 17th Street

May 25, 1938

Mr. Tony Franolich,  
431 West 25th Street,  
New York City

Dear Mr. Franolich:

You are not eligible for relief because Nicola Zoranich was placed on W.P.A.

When you were both receiving home relief, we considered you members of one family, even though you were not related. Perhaps living together are considered one family unit, regardless of relationship. We therefore sent one check to cover the needs for both of you. On this basis, we placed Mr. Zoranich on W.P.A. His earnings are more than the home relief allowance we gave for both of you, and we see no reason why you should not be able to manage on his earnings.

We cannot give you relief and allow Mr. Zoranich to remain on W.P.A. We are sure that Mr. Zoranich prefers to remain on W.P.A. and that you will make plans with his accordingly. Should Mr. Zoranich and you refuse to consider yourselves as one family unit, it will not be possible for Mr. Zoranich to remain on his W.P.A. job.

Very truly yours,

*W. J. ...*  
CASE SUPERVISOR

cc/ab

## Single Men Are Barred From N. Y. Relief Rolls

Jobless Client Told To Look For Maintenance To Fellow Roomer on W.P.A.; \$55.78 Enough Per Month For Two, Says Official

NEW YORK.—The present policy of the local Welfare Department in rejecting from the relief rolls as possible, regardless of their need, was revealed this week when Local 4, of the Workers Alliance released the photostatic copy of a letter sent to Tony Franolich, a relief client, in which the reason given for refusing him home relief, was that Nicola Zoranich, with whom he was living, got a W.P.A. job.

To quote the Welfare Department: "...we considered you both members of one family, even though you are not related. The Welfare Department holds that Zoranich's W.P.A. earnings, which total \$55.78 per month, should be enough to cover the needs of both of them."

### Morrell Denied Relief

Local 4 also made public the case history of another relief applicant, Charles Morrell, who applied for relief on April 7, 1938, and who, at this writing, is still being kept off the relief rolls, notwithstanding a doctor's statement at Bellevue Hospital that Morrell is suffering from malnutrition.

"These cases are typical of hundreds of others that have come to our attention," Rhoda Pearson, Chairman of Local 4, stated.

Morrell, a 60-year-old tool and die maker, was struck by an auto while being shunted around from relief bureau to relief bureau and sustained a leg injury, which together with his general bad physical condition, —malnutrition—has given cause for grave fears regarding his ability "to stick it out much longer." It is greatly feared that because of Morrell's physical condition the same thing will happen to him as happened to other clients who waited too long before receiving aid from the Welfare Department. It will be recalled that in a recent case of a Brooklyn child who died from undernourishment while her mother attempted to get relief, a check was received from the Welfare Department twenty minutes after the child died.

A week ago, in desperation, Morrell came to the headquarters

C.I.O. in this State, we wish to express our complete disapproval of this bill and its railroading through the Legislature," wired William J. Carney, state regional director of the C.I.O., who urged that action on the bill be postponed.

Still another group of employers met in New York last week, as the powerful American Iron and Steel Institute held its forty-seventh general meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria. Thomas M. Girdler, head of Republic Steel and leader of "Little Steel's" battle against the C.I.O., was re-elected president of the Institute.

All workers must be on guard against the plans of the reactionaries to wrest from labor the right to occupy factories during strikes.

C.I.O. Hits Measure

"In the name of 150,000 organized workers under the

of Local 4 for assistance and the local immediately took up his case. Last Friday, the local's grievance committee insisted that the bureau give Morrell a temporary emergency voucher to tide him over while they continued to investigate his case. In spite of the fact that this case was an emergency some weeks back, the bureau turned the request down. The committee reporting back to its membership who were waiting in the bureau's reception room, were summarily escorted out by the police, called by a Mr. LaBella, bureau supervisor, and member of the State, County and Municipal Workers Union, a Stalinist-controlled organization.

On inquiry of Milt Cohen, Secretary of Local 4, as to whether it was "in keeping with orderly conduct to allow a man to slowly starve to death," Mr. LaBella turned to the police. While Pearson and Cohen were being escorted out, the other militant members of Local 4 continued the fight against this starvation policy. They later returned and again took up the fight.

Local 4 announced the immediate setting up of a picket-line in front of the 53rd Street Bureau "to stop this policy of investigating relief clients to death through starvation."

### Against Discrimination

"We intend to fight this discrimination against single men with the most effective means at our disposal, even if it means that some of our members go to jail in the attempt," Chairman Pearson stated.

"Local 4, together with other Progressive locals in the Alliance, recognizes that what is needed now is real militant mass action that will stop this chiseling at the expense of the unemployed," spokesmen for Local 4 declared.

### 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.

### NEW YORK

SONGS AND BEER IN AN OUTDOOR GARDEN! The party has taken over the Terrace Beer Garden with its dance floor, orchestra and outdoor garden for festivities on Saturday eve, June 4 from 8 P.M. on. Admission at the door 25c. 1110 2nd Ave. (59th St.)

ENTERTAINMENT and dance, given by the Progressive Group of the Workers Alliance, Saturday, June 4, at Local 15 Headquarters, 155 Rivington Street, New York. Sub. 15 cents.

ATTENTION, Local New York! The New York "Build the Socialist Appeal" Contest ends on Saturday, June 4. Prizes will be given to the winners at the city beer party on that date at the Terrace Beer Garden. Winners of the contest will be announced in this column next week.

## Ohio Teachers Balk At Attempted Steamroller

Convention Quickly Adjourned After Uproar Over Stalinist Move To Ram Through Changes In The Union Constitution

By BLAKE LEAR

AKRON.—Members of the Ohio State Federation of Teachers have just had their first opportunity to taste the poisoned fruit of Stalinism.

Taking advantage of the looseness in the organization of the recent annual state convention, the Stalinists packed the meeting, and through control of a large bloc of votes made an attempt to ram through a change in the constitution which would have enabled them to throw out Michael J. Eck, the progressive executive secretary of the state organization, and Glenn Baxter, its president.

### Meeting Adjourned

As a result of the storming of the meeting and the ensuing uproar, the gathering was adjourned almost as soon as it began and a new convention was called for a month hence.

The candidate put up to oppose Eck was the Stalinist, Bronson Price, of the Columbus college local, who is being boomed—in a dignified way, of course—for the post of executive secretary.

Opposing Baxter was R. E. Abercrombie of Cincinnati, a witty or unwitting instrument of the Stalinists.

Hardly had the meeting opened than the Stalinists and their agents (Offiner, Goldstein, and Peirce of Cleveland; Kelly, their amateur floor leader of Columbus; and George Davis, former national executive-secretary of the federation, and an old

hand at running with the hares and hunting with the hounds) threw the meeting into an uproar by raising the "democratic" demand that the state officers be elected from the floor immediately.

### The Stalinist Plot

To have acceded to this demand—a direct violation of the constitution, which provides for the election of the executive secretary by the executive board—would have meant the turning over of the state organization to the reactionary Stalinist wrecking crew, who represent an extremely small proportion of the Ohio membership.

In the face of a packed auditorium and confronted with an impasse, the chairman wisely adjourned the meeting until June 18, when a genuine convention will be held with duly-elected delegates and credentials, instead of the genial open house which was held on May 15, at which every federation member present could vote, irrespective of whether he had been elected as a delegate or not.

What is needed is a strictly defined and organized state body, working under a new, complete, and democratic constitution. The present two-page constitution, sufficient in the old shoe-string days, is now outdated.

The situation also calls for the welding together of a progressive group in an organized caucus, and an implacable struggle against the union wreckers and war-mongers hiding behind the mask of "collective security."

## Appeal Army

Attention all comrades and Branch Literature Agents! The summer Appeal drive previously announced is to be launched July 1. The all-important aim of this campaign is to raise the circulation of our paper to the 10,000 per week mark. With a new upsurge beginning to sweep through the ranks of American labor, the job of increasing our circulation becomes a duty—and a possibility! Here is an outline of how the drive is to be conducted by each branch. Plenty of time is being given to make all essential local preparations. Branch literature agents will receive detailed information and assignments this week:

(1) Aim: Raise Appeal circulation to 10,000 weekly.

(2) Campaign to last three months: From July 1 to October 1.

(3) Campaign Drives Week-to-Week:

(a) July 1-8, National Newsstand Week: A week of concentrated efforts to place the Appeal on newsstands.

(b) July 8-15, Library Placement Week: Devoted to placing the paper in all available libraries.

(c) July 15-22, National Street Sales Week: All comrades and friends into the streets with the Appeal!

(d) July 22-29, National Advertising Week: Drive to get regular ads as a source of steady income.

(e) July 29-August 12, National Canvassing Weeks: Two weeks spent in visiting all contacts and former subscribers as part of the subscription drive.

(4) Subscription Campaign Contest to last for three months: The following sets of prizes are offered to those comrades getting the most subs:

(a) First Prize: "America's 60 Families" by Lundberg and "History of the Russian Revolution" by Leon Trotsky.

(b) Second Prize: "U.S.A." by John Dos Passos (3 novels in 1) and "The Revolution Betrayed" by Leon Trotsky (auto-graphed).

(c) Third Prize: One-year subscription to the Appeal and one-year subscription to the New International.

(d) Fourth Prize: Six-months subscription to the Appeal and six-months subscription to the New International.

The winner of the first prize must get at least 24 new subs, an average of two a week, during the contest.

Minneapolis is already in the midst of a local campaign and is showing splendid results. Local New York under the guidance of Abe Miller is getting a head start and launching its own local campaign with the aim of increasing its bundle order circulation to 2,000! We hope all branches take to heart the example set by these two cities in setting the pace for the National Campaign by pushing off on local campaigns as a starter. With such initiative our campaign slogan of 10,000 circulation for the Appeal is a long way towards fulfillment! Branch literature agents, it is up to you now! Let us get going and shoot the works!

Subs again declined this week, although bundle orders improved. Here is the list:

NEW YORK CITY	11
Minneapolis	9
Boston	4
Lynn, Mass.	4
Ohio	2
California	1
Montana	1
Detroit	1
Miscellaneous	2
TOTAL	35

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Don't forget that your local newsstand carries the Appeal! If it doesn't ask the dealer to take it and we'll see that he gets it every week.

Forward to a 10,000 Appeal Circulation by October 1!

**Socialist Appeal**  
116 University Place  
New York City

I enclose \$..... for which please send me the Socialist Appeal. One year—(\$2.00); Six Months—(\$1.00).

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