

CALL STRIKE OF L.A. STEEL PLANT TO WIN DEMANDS

Chiseling Company Find Union Ready To Fight

LOS ANGELES.—Workers of the Dura Steel Products Co. last week voted unanimously to strike in answer to rejection of their demands by the company management, notorious chisellers in the steel fabricating industry in the Los Angeles area.

The strike decision was made after a whirlwind organizational campaign carried on by the United Electrical and Radio Workers of America, under the leadership of Bob Ontell and Rudy Garcia, militant leaders of the strike committee.

Demands of the union are for a closed shop, seniority rights, the reinstatement of four men fired for union activity, time and a half for overtime, or over 8 hours in any one day, and a minimum wage standard of 50c per hour.

At a final conference Thursday, August 4th, between the management, represented by William Brownstein, plant manager, Ed Black, sales manager, and Louis Brown, attorney for the company, negotiations were dropped by a curt refusal to recognize the union, claiming that a previous company union contract was still in effect.

As the union bargaining committee rose to leave, Brownstein blunderingly blurted out, "Why not wait a month or six weeks so that we can iron this thing out? We're busy now, and need time to think it over."

This revealed that the company fears a strike at the present rising seasonal production, with orders flowing in rapidly.

Record of Discrimination The company's consistent efforts to intimidate workers for union activity served as a fuse to ignite the sputtering discontent with open shop conditions.

Even the provisions of the company union agreement have been violated and ignored. Three union members have been fired, and the shop chairman, Bob Ontell, has been transferred to another plant operated by the company.

Three charges have been filed by the union attorney, Marshall Ross, with the National Labor Relations Board, charging the company with intimidation of union organization. Last week a charge was filed for refusal to bargain with the duly elected representatives of the workers.

Promises of support were delivered at the strike-vote meeting by representatives of several Los Angeles unions.

Progressives Win At CUCOM Meet

LOS ANGELES.—Progressives in the C.U.C.O.M., Mexican agricultural workers union, scored a victory at the union's annual convention, held recently in Los Angeles. The old conservative "do-nothing" bureaucracy was replaced by a young progressive leadership that may be capable of supplying the militant policies necessary to the building of a strong union movement in most unorganized industry in California.

A resolution to permit all workers in the industry to join the C.U.C.O.M., hitherto an exclusive Mexican union, marked an important step in breaking down the strong nationalistic sentiment in the union. In addition, a resolution was passed to form a pact with the Federated Filipino Workers Union, another agricultural union, and to act together in all dealings with the employers.

Through the agricultural section of the C.I.O. the Stalinists tried their usual attempt to capture the union. Despite the fulsome promise of money, organizers, etc., the delegates tabled the resolution calling for affiliation to the C.I.O.

Auto Union in Detroit Strike

(Continued from page 1) when workers at the McCord plant refused to work on scab materials produced at the American Brass Company during the recent strike there and forced the driver to return with the load.

Crucial Test The strike at McCord's is a crucial test for the entire auto union. It is one of the major attempts of the U.A.W. to resist the union-shattering decentralization moves of the motor corporations.

Workers everywhere in the auto union, harried by similar attempts of their own bosses—losing their jobs because of the exodus of plants and faced with wage cuts because of competitive non-union prices—are watching the McCord battle with intense interest. It is expected they will lend every support to the McCord men.

And once again the International is face to face with its big unaccomplished task, set out in the twenty-point program: organize the competitive plants. The strike at McCord's is a warning signal. Had the International acted six months ago—instead of passing the buck and giving local officers the run-around—the strike might never have been necessary. But the strike is here now. The International will be expected to support it every inch of the way.

Above all: it must immediately begin a serious and well-planned campaign with competent organizers and a qualified director for the organization of the competitive plants.

UNION OFFICIALS AID BOSS DRIVE ON FOODWORKERS

Union Fails to Back Up Fight Against Speed-up

By A CAFETERIA WORKER NEW YORK.—The drive now being conducted by the reactionary-Stalinist clique in control of Local 302, Cafeteria Workers Union, to frame-up and remove from their jobs militant, progressive workers, took the form last week of a physical attack on a worker by the manager of his store and was followed by an attempt of a union business agent to remove the worker for defending himself.

Christ Cordista, former shop chairman in Foltis Fischer, at 42 St. and 3rd Ave., and financial secretary of the Progressive group, has always defended union conditions in the shop and naturally excited the hostile prejudice of the manager of the store.

It was in this atmosphere of desperate reaction that Judge Reed struck at the most powerful and most militant of Minneapolis unions, the General Drivers Local 544.

It was clear to all except cowards and traitors that if Local 544 obeyed Judge Reed's order, it would mean the decisive turn in the battle. Four years of onward marching of the unions since the great 1934 strikes would be turned into a disorderly retreat. Judge Reed had to be challenged in a head-on collision.

And that is just what was done! After the most careful preparation, the Executive Board of Local 544, on Tuesday morning, August 2, handed to the press a 3,000 word statement challenging Reed's order. The statement exposed the plaintiffs who had secured the order as agents of the Associated Industries. It sharply attacked the judge for not sending alleged union members back to the tribunals of the trade unions to hear their cases first, as even the settled law of the land requires. Finally, it pointed out the irreparable damage to the union which would result from surrendering its innermost secrets to agents of the employers and made clear that the union stood ready to fight Judge Reed's order.

With Local 544 the outstanding union, not only of Minneapolis, but also leader of the North Central Area drivers' movement, that statement was news! All three Minneapolis dailies carried the full text and gave it the day's headlines. Wherever one went that day, there was only one subject of conversation uppermost—544's case against Judge Reed.

Meanwhile, the trade union movement was being mobilized. The Teamsters Joint Council, constituted by ten drivers' unions and the direct superior of Local 544, backed it in its stand and its organ, the Northwest Organizer, made that abundantly clear. The Minneapolis Labor Review, organ of the central body, came out on Thursday with flaming headlines in defense of 544 and a slashing editorial attack on Judge Reed. Across the river, the organ of the St. Paul unions, the Union Advocate, ordinarily none too friendly to the "radical Minneapolis drivers," gave its headlines and full space to the complete text of the 544 statement.

With the unions so aroused, even the timid Minnesota Leader, organ of the Farmer-Labor party, felt called upon to publish a favorable story, though there were many sighs and groans on Capitol Hill about what the fight might do to Governor Benson's chances of election.

So far as the purely legal aspects of the case went, Judge Reed's order was an "interlocutory decree" and if so defined, not appealable. Nor need one doubt that, in the ordinary course of events, any attempt to bring Reed's order before the Supreme

Plans were laid down to establish a maritime department within the A. F. of L. to assure support of teamsters and longshoremen to the seamen in case of strikes. On the vital question of government hiring halls, Green promised support to the West Coast union's declaration to call a general strike anytime the government attempts to ship West Coast men through the fink halls.

The main obstacle to unity between the two coasts has been the unwillingness of the Communist Party leaders of the N.M.U. to launch a serious campaign against the shipowners and their ally, the government. With the Stalinists out of the way in the N.M.U., the new leadership should find it possible to form a common front with all unions, regardless of affiliation, against the common enemy, the Maritime Commission.

With the militant unions of the West Coast now playing the leading role in the A. F. of L., there remains no reason to delay joining hands in the fight to close down the government fink halls.

The question of the fink halls is still a burning one among the ranks of the N.M.U., and pickets still parade in front of the Maritime Commission offices in New York. So far the new administration in the N.M.U. has not taken any steps to bring the union into joint action on the picket line. As we go to press, this question is being discussed at a meeting of the N.M.U.

Guild Wins Strike The American Newspaper Guild's strike of 11 weeks against the Hollywood Citizen News has ended with a victory for the union. The strike was marked by police attacks on strikers and arrests for the distribution of strike leaflets. Publisher Harlan Palmer has signed a standard Guild shop contract.

Labor In Northwest Rallies Behind 544

Relief Pickets Break Injunction

A militant picket line, staged in front of the central relief office, 902 Broadway, put to an end the vicious injunction restraining Will Lubin, unemployed worker, from entering a relief bureau to demand his relief.

Lubin was arrested recently when he staged a sit-down strike in the relief bureau after repeated failures to have his case heard. The judge forbade Lubin to return to the bureau because of the sit-in. More than 50 members of the Y.P.S.L. joined the picket line together with members of Locals 4, 15, and 17 of the Workers Alliance to demand that Lubin be allowed to return to the bureau. The picket line was successful. The injunction was lifted.

Court would have been refused by the august judges. But in the eight days after Reed's order had been published, the entire labor movement had been aroused. If nothing else intervened, there would be an immediate showdown: Judge Reed would have to try by force and jails to enforce his order against 544. And with an aroused and organized movement, that would mean a gigantic collision of the opposing class camps.

What to do? How far can the reactionaries go? They probably haven't decided, and much of their decision will depend on whether the labor movement remains aroused to the danger. Meanwhile, however, a reactionary judge has stayed execution of Judge Reed's order. The ensuing thirty days can be turned to good advantage by the labor movement in mobilizing its forces for future eventualities.

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Charge of 'Trotskyist Spies' in Steel Lodges Exposed As Lies

Organizer Answers Daily Worker Calumny

By BOB STILER The Stalinist G.P.U. in America attempted last week to link up a self-confessed stool-pigeon of Tom Girdler with the Trotskyite movement.

In its customary manner and with the usual clumsiness the Daily Worker recently reported that Harold Vargo, alias Richard Brooks, alias Ira Alberts, who had confessed before the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee that he had been paid by Tom Girdler's police to give information about the Republic Steel Lodge of which he was financial secretary, had been smuggled into the union by myself while I was secretary to Elmer Cope, sub-regional director.

The information was supplied by John Steuben, a former S.W. O.C. organizer in Youngstown, in a "special interview" with the Daily Worker's staff correspondent.

The only evidence offered that Vargo, who used the name Alberts in Youngstown, was a Trotskyite was that I had signed him up in the union. According to Steuben he had seen Alberts several times in the company of Sam Frank, whom Steuben believed to be a Trotskyite.

First let us dispose of this amalgam, and the we will deal with Steuben himself. I do not remember Alberts at all. The name doesn't even sound familiar. As secretary to Elmer Cope most of my work was done at the office of the S.W.O.C. From time to time steel workers would enter the office, wanting to join the union and asking for application cards. Generally, I signed them up and gave them a few extra application cards to sign up their friends and co-workers. It was the policy of the staff that any member who gave out cards should sign his name to them. Consequently almost every staff member has his name on cards of applicants whom he has never seen, or whom he has not directly signed up.

Ordinary Procedure I do not know whether or not my name actually appears on Alberts' application card. If it does, it is because Alberts probably got into the union by coming to the office and asking for an application card. Anyone who was there would have given him one. This is simple ordinary procedure.

The fact that my name appears on Alberts' card, if it does, does not make him a Trotskyite. If we were to accept the reasoning of the G.P.U. agents we would have to accuse the Communist Party of being in league with the McGuffin fink agency in Youngstown. Upon the recommendation of Steuben, the S.W.O.C. hired as an organizer Chick Welsher. Welsher was actually a member of the Communist Party. Later it was discovered that he was a spy in the pay of McGuffin. He was promptly fired from the S.W.O.C. Several months later the Daily Worker carried a story about his expulsion from the C. P.

The "crime" of signing Alberts up is not quite as heinous as making him an officer of the union. Let us see who is responsible for this. When I left the S.W.O.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Insertions in this column are 25 cents for five lines. Copy must be in at the APPEAL OFFICE before 6 o'clock Monday evening.

NEW YORK POLISH WORKERS CLUB and S.W.P. COMBINE to offer you an evening at the Terrace Beer Garden, 1110 Second Ave. (59th St.). Band, Beer, Entertainment. Proceeds to be used to publish a Polish pamphlet, outlining a class-struggle program for the Polish workers' movement. Saturday eve, Aug. 13. Admission 25 cents.

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toward the middle of January, 1937 no Republic lodge had as yet been formed. This was done after I left.

Who Appointed Alberts? Robert Burke, a member of the Communist Party, who took orders from Steuben, was in charge of the organization work of Republic. It was customary for the organizer in charge to make recommendations for the various posts whenever a lodge was set up. Consequently, it was probably Burke, working under the direction of Steuben, or possibly Steuben himself, who made the recommendation that Alberts be financial secretary of Republic Steel Lodge.

Now a word about Steuben. Who is he and what is his role in this frame-up? Steuben is an old G.P.U. agent. He worked for several years for the G.P.U. in China. He boasted of this to the S.W.O.C. regional director, Elmer Cope, in a moment of confidences.

Undoubtedly the G.P.U. in America has assigned him the task of concocting this frame-up to discredit the Trotskyite movement, and to bolster up the facade of the trials in the Soviet Union.

Present the Facts! If Steuben has proof that Alberts is a Trotskyite, why is this information confined to the Daily Worker? Why was this information withheld from the Civil Liberties Committees. If Steuben has proof that the Trotskyites are smuggling stool pigeons into the unions, it is his duty to present this proof and demand an investigation.

But such testimony is not forthcoming because no facts, no evidence, can be adduced to prove this Stalinist calumny. Alberts' connection with the Trotskyites exists only in the minds of the G.P.U. agents. There is no connection and there it will die.

It was my intention to write a complete expose of the role of the Stalinist G.P.U. in the S.W.

step forward in the second year of our publication.

For special mention this week we want to cite comrade Ruth Querio of Allentown, Penna., who led her entire branch in house-to-house sales of the Appeal last week and sold a total of 85 papers within one hour! Splendid work, Ruth! A special bouquet of orchids to you. Let other branches sit up and take notice—it can be done!

Here's the sub list for this past week:

CALIFORNIA 7
New York City 5
Minneapolis 5
Chicago 4
Missouri 3
Massachusetts 3
Oregon 2
Washington, D. C. 2
Philadelphia 2
New York State 1
New Jersey 1
New Hampshire 1
Cleveland 1
Connecticut 1
Youngstown 1

TOTAL 38

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A Welcome Sign!

An Editorial (Continued from page 1)

took a majority of posts on the national council, but Joseph Curran, kingpin of the Stalinist clique, remains president. Between sabotage and bribery, the Stalinists will leave no stone unturned to disrupt or domesticate the new board. Every effort will be made to plunge the N.M.U. into a fratricidal warfare with the S.U.P., newly chartered into the A. F. of L. Here again the struggle against the Stalinists must be a struggle for labor unity.

The explosion of Mortimer, Frankenstein and Hall from the auto union will hardly compose the differences in the auto union or put an end to the factional conflict. On the contrary, the suspended officers have already announced the calling of a conference of union presidents to challenge the expulsions. Above all, in the auto union the fight against the Stalinist wreckers must be waged in the ranks and not in the sheltered sessions of the Executive Board, and must coincide with the fulfillment of the 20-point program.

Other unions are not exempt from the perfidious activities of the Communist Party. The shipbuilders union which has successfully resisted all attempts of the Stalinists to seize control is now experiencing an organized raid on its membership with the purpose of pulling out locals and affiliating them with some paper creations of the Communist Party. Rumors have been quite persistent that steps of this nature were being planned in the auto workers union as well.

It is significant to note that in this life and death battle, waged against the purveyors of disruption and disorder in the labor movement, John L. Lewis, acknowledged head of the C.I.O., has maintained an unbroken silence. The only statement to come from his lips was a declaration favorably interpreted by the Stalinist caucus in the U.A.W. It must not be forgotten that Lewis appointed Harry Bridges over the head of the California labor movement; that he chartered the N.M.U. with Curran in control, despite the unquestioned leadership of the S.U.P.; that he has played ball with Stalinist groups in the top circles of the C.I.O.

Perhaps one of the strongest obstacles to unity between C.I.O. and A. F. of L. was the close tie-up between the top circles of the C.I.O. and Stalinist agents who have everything to fear from a united labor movement. The events of the past week are the handwriting on the wall. One of the outstanding points in the program of the Los Angeles unions is the ending of intra-union warfare and cooperation with American Federation of Labor unions. That is merely an indication of developments in this direction that are bound to come once the splitters are pushed to the sidelines.

The labor movement has taken a long step forward this week. Now the progressives must organize to see the fight through to the end. Los Angeles, New York and Detroit have started the ball rolling. Let's keep it rolling.

RANK and FILE WIN CONTROL IN NMU

(Continued from page 1) censed seamen to the Sailors Union of the Pacific. At a meeting of Harry Lundberg, secretary-treasurer of the S.U.P. and Green, with other persons from the A. F. of L. seamen's unions on the East Coast, the West Coast union was authorized to organize the unlicensed personnel on both Coasts, the Gulf and the great Lakes into one unified union.

Assures Support Plans were laid down to establish a maritime department within the A. F. of L. to assure support of teamsters and longshoremen to the seamen in case of strikes. On the vital question of government hiring halls, Green promised support to the West Coast union's declaration to call a general strike anytime the government attempts to ship West Coast men through the fink halls.

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FIVE BIG UNIONS DENOUNCE C.P.

(Continued from page 1) main body of organized labor on the West Coast, the A. F. of L. Under Stalinist leadership, the C.I.O. here has dissipated its energies in setting up "paper" unions without membership or power, in alienating itself by raids on established unions. Again and again the C.I.O. unions have been forced to capitulate to the bosses.

Coupled with this is a complete lack of democracy, with the Stalinists crushing all attempts to oppose the policies of Bridges. In many cases, Bridges has personally intervened in local union affairs, always with disastrous consequences.

The program of the new central body, to be known as the Los Angeles Trade Union Conference, provides a basis for the revival of the C.I.O. movement, and, at the same time makes possible working unity with local A. F. of L. unions. Promising no raids on established unions and offering aid to all unions in the fight against the bosses, the new group should do much to bring organized labor in Los Angeles into a common fighting front.

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