

CLERKS PICKET LAGUARDIA SCAB MARKET

Local 338 Charges Hit New Essex Street Establishment

Six union pickets, distributing handbills in LaGuardia's new market, asking customers not to patronize the non-union grocery and dairy stores, were arrested by the special market police on Monday.

"MR. MAYOR! WE WANT JOBS!" "MR. MARKET COMMISSIONER! WE WANT JOBS!"

Bearing these and other signs, pickets last week began to march up and down in front of the entrances to New York City Mayor LaGuardia's latest pride: the huge new Essex Street Retail Market, which stretches for three blocks from Broome to Stanton Streets on the Lower East Side. The pickets are members of Local 338 of the Retail Dairy Grocery and Fruit Clerks Union (CIO), which has 5,000 members in the city. They will continue to march until LaGuardia reverses the present scab labor policy of the market.

Cheap Goods—Cheap Labor
The Essex Street Market was allegedly built to house the pushcart men of the Orchard Street district. But the city authorities have allowed many regular grocery and dairy store owners to open up complete stores there. Because of the open shop labor policy instituted at the new market, wages are far below the union scale. Rents are also low. The result is that prices, according to City Market Commissioner Morgan, are from 8 per cent to 17 per cent lower in the market than they are in neighborhood stores. The reduction comes mostly out of the hide of the clerks employed in the market.

The LaGuardia Administration has been giving the union the run-around in the best "friend-of-labor" tradition. Two weeks before the market opened, Local 338 officials wrote LaGuardia a letter asking whether scab shops would be permitted in the new market. No answer. Another letter, again no answer. Finally, on the day before the grand opening, the Mayor's Secretary, A. Palmieri, saw Union President Meyer Winokur and Business Agent Julius Sum.

The Run-Around
"Don't picket the market tomorrow," begged Palmieri. "Don't embarrass the Mayor. He's the best friend labor ever had in New York." When the union official seemed unmoved by this plea, Palmieri hinted that the Mayor "had ways" of getting even if they went through with the demonstration. "But why should he want to get even if he's such a good friend of ours?" asked Sum innocently. No answer.

Winokur and Sum finally agreed to hold off the pickets on promise of an interview with the Mayor the next morning. The opening ceremonies went off smoothly, with LaGuardia getting—and dishing out—plenty of oratorical soft soap about "his" great gift to the people of the Lower East Side.

An Important Issue
Stakes in the struggle go far beyond this one market, huge as it is. The city is now completing similar markets in the Bronx, in Brooklyn and elsewhere in Manhattan. Local 338 is fighting to force the "liberal" LaGuardia Administration to put in a general union labor policy throughout all these markets. This fight is all the more vital because shops in the city markets can undersell shops outside, thus driving out of business many unionized retail food stores—or forcing them to take refuge inside the market to escape paying union wages.

One thing is sure: the concession will be granted by "labor's best friend in New York" only if the picket lines force it out of him. Until then, every day from seven in the morning to seven at night, in rain and snow and freezing cold, the pickets tramp up and down in front of the huge flag-decorated buildings.

"MR. MAYOR! WE WANT JOBS!" "MR. MARKET COMMISSIONER! WE WANT JOBS!"

Ready for Ten Million Of Us---Draft Notices!

When the United States declares war, some 10,000,000 men between the ages of 21 and 31 will be registered for the first draft in accordance with the Selective Service Act which Congress would pass immediately.

Between three and four million of these men will be placed in Class I and will thus be liable for immediate induction into military service. The following form (S.S. Form 150) is already prepared to bring them the news:

S.S. Form 150-Order of Induction into Military Service of the United States.
(Stamp of Local Board) (United States Seal) (Date of mailing)
ORDER OF INDUCTION INTO MILITARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES
(Prepare in Duplicate)
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
To: (First name) (Middle name) (Last name) (Order Number) (Serial No.)

GREETING: Having submitted yourself to a Local Board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining the capacity in which you can best serve the United States in the present emergency, you are hereby notified that you have now been selected for immediate military service.

You will, therefore, report to the Local Board named above at (Place of reporting) at (Hour of reporting) a.m., on the day of 19 for military service.

From and after the day and hour just named you will be in the military service of the United States.

(Member of Local Board)

(The term "military" shall comprehend both Army and Navy, including Marine Corps, except where such construction would be unreasonable.) (see instructions on reverse side)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ALL MEN SELECTED FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND ORDERED TO REPORT TO A LOCAL BOARD FOR MILITARY SERVICE

The day and hour specified on the Classification Record of this Local Board, and on the order and notice of induction into military service contained in this notice for you to report to this Local Board for military service is the time that marks the change in your status from civil to military.

Failure to report promptly at the hour and on the day named is a grave military offense for which you may be court-martialed. Willful failure to report with an intent to evade military service constitutes desertion, which, in time of war, is a capital offense.

Upon reporting to your Local Board, you will not need, and you should not bring with you, anything except hand baggage. You will not be permitted to take trunks or boxes with you on the train. You should take only the following articles: A pair of strong comfortable shoes; not to exceed four extra suits of underclothing; not to exceed six extra pairs of black or tan socks; four face and two bath towels; a comb, a brush, a toothbrush, soap, tooth powder, razor, and shaving soap. It will add to your comfort to bring one woolen blanket, preferably of dark or neutral color. This blanket should be tightly rolled, the ends of the roll should be securely bound together and the loop of the blanket roll thus formed slung from your left shoulder to your right hip.

You should wear rough strong clothing and a flannel shirt, preferably an olive-drab shirt of the kind issued to soldiers.

Wander of ILGWU Pleads He is 'Guilty as Charged'

Admits He Flouted Decision of 1,000 Union Members in Bayonne Negotiations

By E. R. FRANK

In the January 6 issue of the Socialist Appeal, we called attention to the signing of a new agreement between Local 160, attached to the out-of-town department of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and the Maiden Form Brassiere Company of Bayonne, New Jersey.

The negotiations revealed, we pointed out, the absence of all democratic procedure in the out-of-town department and the reactionary policies pursued by its general manager, Harry Wander. In the January 15 issue of "Justice," official publication of the ILGWU, Harry Wander attempts to answer our accusations.

He states: "Their (Socialist Appeal) accusation is that we refused to support the action of the shop when in the midst of negotiating a contract, one committee was abruptly withdrawn and another committee substituted.

"To this accusation I plead guilty as charged. My action was that of a responsible unionist," etc.

A DICTATOR'S IDEA OF UNIONISM

Doesn't it strike you as strange Mr. Wander, that you, one man, should possess the power to overturn the decision of a thousand union members? You state you did not think their decision was wise one, therefore you would not recognize their regularly elected negotiating committee and you decided to discontinue the negotiations with the company. Doesn't that bear out every one of our accusations that the local unions attached to your department and that the

appointed out-of-town department leadership exercises autocratic powers?

Doesn't your own explanation, Mr. Wander, reveal that you do not believe that the workers have sufficient intelligence to conduct their own union affairs and decide their own policies, but must be supervised by union officials who possess dictatorial powers and can veto the decisions of the rank and file membership?

Your explanation of why you opposed the election of a new shop committee is positively humorous. You state that "changing committees while negotiations are in progress is almost always a bad procedure," and besides such an action "offends members of the original committee." Isn't that a real gem? Here is a group of workers, staging a revolt against your autocratic conduct and your reactionary policies as displayed in the negotiations; they remove the old shop committee, because it is apparently too subservient to you. You proceed to veto their action and toss their democratic votes into the waste paper basket, because it is going to hurt somebody's feelings. How about the feelings of the one thousand workers whose democratic rights you have violated?

Your reply, in my opinion, serves only to underscore the crying need for reforms in the out-of-town department of the ILGWU by the introduction of democratic procedure in the negotiation of union contracts and the granting of full autonomy to all local unions.

Your article, I suppose, would

be incomplete without its tearful reference to "Russia's ruthless attack upon Finland" and the "cold and deliberate mass slaughter, including the bombing of open cities."

When Hoover, Roosevelt, the U.S. Steel Corporation or the Chase National Bank get all worked up about "poor little Finland," it is easily understandable. Finland is a semi-colony of the U.S. and the Wall Street men have a stake in a Finnish victory. What are you all excited about, Mr. Wander? Your trepidation is as indecent as that of a butler, who is in seventh heaven when his master's stocks and bonds soar upward and who is down in the dumps when the master's securities sharply decline.

Stalin's invasion of Finland has been used by all of the open shop manufacturers and their lackeys to divert attention away from America's ten million unemployed, the starvation and suffering stalking Cleveland and hundreds of other American cities, the billions of dollars that are being spent on armaments in preparation for war. These phony demagogues have one-track minds. They cannot understand suffering and starvation in Finland. But they cannot recognize it in the United States.

You and your friends are the younger brothers of these phony demagogues. You are ready to fight for democracy in "Poor Little Finland." But you do not have a very great interest in democracy in the ILGWU. Like all worshipers of "bourgeois democracy," you do not have a very high regard for it in your own labor organization. Before you get worked up about "Poor Little Finland" again, remember the words of a very wise man: "Charity begins at home."

TERROR ON WEST COAST EXPOSED IN TESTIMONY

Lewis Expected to State CIO Stand on Anti-War Fight

Vigilante Violence Described

The violence used by the cotton growers to break the Madera County cotton pickers strike was told in detail before the Committee. State officials who were there testified how five hundred or more vigilantes, armed with pick handles, clubs, auto cranks, rubber hose, bludgeons, and tire chains, attacked a strikers' mass meeting being held peacefully within the Madera public park. While the state Highway Patrol and the Sheriff made no move to interfere, the vigilantes beat up the unarmed men and women they found there. The strike was broken.

The same O. L. Baker told Senator La Follette, "I'm a Southerner from Georgia and when a big buck nigger gets up on a platform at a strike meeting and walks back and forth and agitates, I don't like it." He said the vigilante attack upon the mass meeting had "removed the core from the boil" and the cotton growers were proud of it.

In the Stockton Cannery strike in San Joaquin County the strike was broken by vigilantes who were supplied by the Sheriff with 446 pick handles, \$2,200 worth of assorted ammunition. These figures were obtained by the Committee from the county auditor.

Legionnaires Vigilantes
The vigilantes were recruited through the American Legion Posts and "were the better type of citizens." Forty-five strikers were treated for injuries, twenty-seven for gunshot wounds. Thirteen vigilantes were also injured, but none of them by gunshot wounds.

Elaborate Blacklists
The employers keep elaborate files on "reds." Just as the Nazis had a list of thousands of men and women upon whom they took revenge after Hitler seized power, just as Franco's agents before and during the Civil War, prepared lists of thousands of anti-Fascists, so, as revealed by the testimony, "Associated Farmers" has a list of some 20,000 men and women in California—liberals, reformers, "reds" of one political belief or another, who have incurred the enmity of the employer class.

New NMU Pact Up for Vote

(Continued from Page 1)

PANY STOOGE. Without the shipowners having to define, or limit what is meant by "satisfactory," we can only reach one conclusion—that the shipowner has the right to REJECT any seaman he doesn't like. The blacklist will automatically be again introduced, this time with the sanction of the union leaders. Any militant seaman who so much as opens his mouth, will find himself blacklisted and rejected as UNSATISFACTORY.

The same clause also delivers a deadly blow at the rotary shipping system. Rotary shipping is the sole guarantee of equal shipping rights for the rank and file. The rotary method absolutely requires that the seamen register at the UNION hall when they want to ship, and take out a shipping card, stamped with the date of issuance. The seaman longest on the beach, that is, with the oldest date, is sent to the job if he is in the hall when the job comes up. Regardless of WHO the man is, the shipowner must accept him, or if rejected for any VALID reason, the man next in line gets the job. This rotary formula, does not vary. It does not recognize any exceptions but one: Only when men quit a ship because of strike action, are they allowed to return to the ship without going thru the rotary system.

The contract, however, allows the company freedom to give company stooge vacations, leaves of absence, etc., then to re-hire them without a by-your-leave from the union!

Clause (b) states: "Unauthorized personnel may remain continuously in the employment of the Company, provided the Company and the employee desire such employment to continue."

Union's Hands Tied

Bona fide union men have a valid reason for asking the following questions in connection with this clause. Does it mean that the union no longer has the right to remove from the job a man who is not a member of the union, or who does not conduct himself as a union man, or who refuses to pay dues, or refuses to ship thru the union hall, or who violates the working rules? The union no longer has the right to interfere with the shipowner's continuing to employ any man he sees fit, according to the very clear wording of this clause.

Company Controls Promotions
Clause (c) states: "Unauthorized personnel may be promoted at the option of the Company." This is in direct contradiction with previous union regulations governing promotion, in order to avoid the evils of competition among the crew for pro-

motions. A boatswain, for instance, had to register and ship as such from the union hall. When he terminated his employment, a new boatswain was sent from the union hall, or in some cases a boatswain was chosen from the rank and file crew with union consent. According to the new contract, the company can at will fill the supervisory ratings from its stoozes.

Clause (d) delivers another damaging blow at the hiring hall, and job control: "Unauthorized personnel available may be transferred to another vessel on the basis of seniority within the company, seniority to be construed as continuous service with a company in a particular rating."

Thus if a ship is laid up for any reason, the company stoozes can be retained by the company merely by transferring the stooze to another ship. Which again raises the question of discrimination, for if certain men can be transferred without going through the Union Hall and rotary shipping, if they can be shifted from ship to ship (from job to job) at the option of the Company, while the rest of the crew must register and wait their turn, the rotary shipping system, guaranteeing EQUAL shipping rights, might as well not exist.

Freedom For Finks

Clause (e) specifically gives the company the right to hire non-union men and to maintain them in CONTINUOUS employment. Just examine this clause:

"Whenever an employee furnished by the union is deemed unsatisfactory to the Company, the Company shall promptly notify the union of its decision not to accept and the union agrees promptly to furnish a replacement. If for any reasons, persons who are entitled to employment under this agreement are not available to fill vacancies at a time fixed by the Master, the Company shall be free to fill such vacancies from any source. It is further agreed that any personnel selected under this section by the Company, shall not be discriminated against by the union."

In plain English, if the union sends a man who is arbitrarily called unsatisfactory by the shipowner, the union cannot take any immediate action, even if it is a clear case of blacklist or discrimination, but must immediately send a replacement to the ship, within whatever time the Master specifies. Thus the shipowners are assured that the ship under no conditions will be held up, that no job action can be taken by the union to fight discrimination. Otherwise the Company has the right to hire any fink, scab or landlubber. The man so hired

does not have to join the union at any time, the union cannot take any action to replace him, and he can remain on the job for any length of time!

Smashes At Union
Thus Section six of the new contract, like a sledge-hammer in the hands of the shipowners, delivers blow after blow at the fundamental pillars of the union structure—JOB CONTROL, UNION HIRING HALL, and the ROTARY SHIPPING SYSTEM.

The proposed contract is replete with many other union-smashing clauses. For example, in Section 2, titled "Stoppages of Work," any sort of immediate action is absolutely prohibited—no strikes, sit downs, quickies or any other stoppages of work. A refusal to sign articles for any reason, or participation by any seaman in economic action of any kind, is sufficient grounds for being discharged (and blacklisted).

Section 7, titled "Physical Examinations" is patently another blackball method, for if the company doctor rejects a seaman as "unfit for duty," another replacement must be immediately sent down by the union (the ship must not be held up) and the rejected individual must seek for redress in a maze of red tape and complicated procedure.

Vote No. Count Ballots

Every militant union man in the N.M.U. will not only vote against this sellout contract in the referendum, but will also call for guarantees that the ballots will be honestly counted. If the Curran leadership, who negotiated this contract and are committed to it, are permitted to take all the ballots to New York and "count" them through a stooze committee, they will announce that the contract has been accepted by the referendum.

Stalinists Did This

The explanation for this rotten contract is the Stalinist misleadership of the N.M.U. The negotiating committee—all Stalinists—was not primarily interested in winning union conditions now, any more than it was at any time in the three years during which the Stalinists have ruled the union. The Stalinists, now as throughout these years, are interested primarily in using the union as a tool for their reactionary political support of Stalin's foreign policy.

Some union men might have thought that the new Stalinist line dictated by the Stalin-Hitler pact, which forces them to renounce their previous support of the government, would lead them to fight the bosses. The N.M.U. sell-out contract shows that, under the new line, as under the old, the Stalinists are incapable and unwilling to defend the economic interests of the workers.

WORKERS' FORUM

MILITANT LOCAL QUITS WAA

Editor:
At a meeting on Jan. 3 of the Quakertown, Pa., Local No. G-1901 of the Workers Alliance, the membership decided to sever all connections with the Workers Alliance, and form an independent organization to be called the Project Workers Association of Bucks County.

At the last meeting in December, a number of members had been assigned to get the sentiment of the non-union project workers. The reports brought back were unanimous in favor of an independent union, several members reported that their projects would join an independent union 100%, and numerous Alliance members from other locals expressed their desire to join the new organization and expressed their disgust at the bureaucratic way in which business of the Alliance and some of its locals is conducted.

Grievances Against WAA

One grievance the Quakertown Local had when it received a letter from the Pa. state office of the Workers Alliance about "death watch against the Pierson forced labor bill," urging locals to rush funds to help keep the death watch going, and also send more pickets to show our strength. The WAA national paper, Work, stated that there were 400 pickets in line. The Quakertown Local decided to send money and three pickets. When these pickets arrived in Harrisburg they found 30 pickets, who dwindled down to a half dozen by Saturday morning. Then I believe the legislators felt safe to pass the Bill which they did Saturday night.

A second grievance was when we received the report of the delegate to the "Right to Work Congress," after which a committee was appointed to send a letter to Pres. Lasser in which the committee stated:

"It was the most unprofitable and wasteful expenditure of time and money in which this Local had ever been engaged.

"It is with the keenest regret that Quakertown Local laborers under the necessity of recording its disappointment in the meager results attained by the Right to Work Congress and condemns the dictatorial and autocratic methods in vogue during the session

Lasser's Reply

In reply Mr. Lasser says that "your officers have no business to write the kind of letter you have." In reply the Quakertown Local wrote that "You assume a far greater power than the office you hold confers. We would indict the

whole national organization and the devil, himself, were he a member, and we felt justified in so doing. Placing full and complete confidence in our delegate's integrity, our desire was that he would join with others in rendering the service and accomplishing the purpose for which the Congress was called. We had no desire or intention to provide a "rubber stamp," or a pawn to be pushed around, according to a prescribed formula, but a free and accepted member, independent in thought and action and exercising his own good judgment in accomplishing the purpose in view."

Loyalty Oath Issue

A third grievance was when we received a request that we take a loyalty oath to the US government.

The last grievance we had was when we received a letter that a special assessment was laid on each member by a referendum of the membership and we had no knowledge of such a referendum.

Among other things was a proposal to form a county organization and raise the dues to 50c per month to pay for a grievance agent for which a Stalinist was slated, and undermining our Local by trying to get our members to join a Stalinist Local.

Want New National Organization
We hope a new national organization will be formed that will not have the mechanical control of the organization apparatus that the officers of the Workers Alliance have.

An organization that will urge the thousands of independent and militant workers to take the natural path of militant action instead of accepting for themselves starvation and misery without a fight.

Hungry workers demand that their immediate needs be satisfied in the inevitable struggle for existence, they are driven by their stomachs to follow a militant class struggle policy. An organization devoted to democratic principles and program, where the right of initiative and action on the part of the individual is encouraged. Where confidence is maintained by permitting free expression of thought and action and where judgment is depended upon to indicate the right and proper course to pursue.

HOWARD STUMP
Quakertown, Pa.

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