

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops—and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Auto Workers Didn't Give for Finland

Recently the Chrysler Corp. donated \$2500 to the Finnish Relief Fund and at the same time they placed contribution cans throughout the factories so that the workers could contribute money.

In my department they collected about three dimes. I've talked to friends in other departments and they all say the same thing. Either nothing at all, or else, just a few coins. It is significant that the Corporation has not published the amount of the contributions received.

The attitude of the men is simply this: they don't want to get involved in any war. They sympathize in a mild sort of way for Finland but you can't get them very excited about the whole affair. Quite often you hear them say, "Why do they send money to Finland. There's plenty of people that need relief here at home."

It will take plenty of high pressure propaganda to get the workers steamed up so that they'll go to war.

Detroit, Mich. J. D.

Lynn Labor Backs Anti-Lynch Bill

The Anti-Lynch Bill now before the Senate is receiving the unanimous support of organized labor in this section. The exact resolution passed by the St. Paul Labor Assembly was unanimously adopted here by the North Shore Industrial Council (CIO), representing more than twenty-five thousand workers in the greater Lynn area. The council called upon all of its affiliated unions to contact their senators and congressmen to support the act.

The resolution was also adopted by Local 20 of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union; and it is expected that the resolution will be adopted at the next regular business meeting of the Lynn Food Workers Union Local 701, (CIO).

Lynn, Mass. John Travis

American Labor Aid To Hear I.B.E.W. On Anti-Labor Drive

The American Labor Aid is launching its campaign against Thurman Arnold's vicious anti-union, anti-labor drive with a meeting Friday, March 29th at 8

p.m., at the Cultural Center, 125 West 33rd Street, New York City. The principal speaker of the evening will be:

H. H. BROACH, EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 3, whose union faces prosecution under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Assistant Attorney - General Thurman Arnold's anti-union crusade is a flagrant misuse of a federal law aimed at business monopolies. This law specifically exempts labor from prosecution. Under the guise of freeing the construction industry from unlawful restraints, Arnold's 200-man legal staff has indicted leaders of this nation's most powerful labor unions for the crime of exercising labor's hard-won rights.

The A.L.A. seeks to awaken the American public to the danger inherent in this sinister attack upon organized labor.

The A.L.A.—which defends labor, helps Negroes, Jews, foreigners and aids anti-fascist refugees—is also pleased to present at the same meeting Philip Adler, noted labor attorney, who recently defended, in the name of the A.L.A., the 13 Jamaica relief clients who picketed the Central Queens Relief Bureau in protest against the inhuman treatment accorded the unemployed by the administration.

We urge all liberal-minded persons actively interested in preserving the democratic rights of the American people to attend. Come with your friends and participate with us in our work. Remember the time and place: Friday, March 29th, at 8 p.m., 125 West 33rd St., Room 201.

ARTHUR P. BURCH Secretary of Local New York American Labor Aid

Promoting A Better Social Order, Etc.

The Twentieth Century Association For the Promotion of a Finer Public Spirit and a Better Social Order whose headquarters at 3 Joy Street, Boston, are a gathering ground for well-placed bourgeois liberals announces a

HOBBY GROUP On March 19th at six o'clock, a buffet supper (50c) will be served to the members of the Hobby group and their friends, to be followed by a lecture by Capt. Harry Brown of the National Guard on "Chemical Warfare." John Brooks Wheelwright Boston, Mass.

Steel Worker Reports Problems Of Uniting Black and White

We publish below a remarkable letter from a steel worker, describing the experiences of his section of the union in organizing Negro and white workers together. It gives many pointers which can be used to advantage by militants in other sections of the country and other industries. Let's have more letters like this!—Editor.

Editor:

During and after the war, in order to keep the wage scale down, Negro labor was induced by extensive advertisements to come North. In an effort, largely successful, to break the Iron Moulders Union, Negro labor was used to take the positions of iron moulders, striking for more pay.

Due to this the iron moulders in the foundries of Indianapolis, are practically all Negroes and wage rates are considerably below normal.

The meat packing industry in its search for cheap labor was likewise affected, except that strike action was not responsible for the induction of Negro labor; but rather the lack of appeal of many jobs in the packing industry to white labor during times of good work caused a large percentage of Negroes to be employed during the war.

The population of Indianapolis at the present time is approximately one-sixth colored and since these 45,000 Negroes have the right to vote they are quite a factor in local politics. So much so that local politicians, especially the township trustees who are responsible for relief distribution are giving lip service to no discrimination in order to appeal to the colored vote.

CIO TOPS MEET LAGUARDIA, BUT FIGHT IS ON

(Continued from Page 1)

bankers for the transit lines. With the demolition of these elevated lines, 4,800 union workers are thrown out into the streets. If we recall that the six hundred men from the demolished Sixth Avenue elevated line are still unemployed, we know that the promises of the Mayor and his lieutenants are not worth the paper they are written on.

The members of the TWU are beginning to realize that these leeches and rats run the city government of New York and are not interested in the welfare or the well-being of the poor people of this city. They realize also that this whole anti-labor drive of the LaGuardia administration is not due to some unfortunate "misunderstanding" but is the deliberate conspiracy of Wall Street to smash one of the strongest unions in this city.

Keeping these ideas in mind, every member of the TWU must insist that the union make all necessary preparations to strike and close down every single transport unit of this city if that is the only way of retaining the present closed-shop union contracts. Now more than ever before, the TWU members must watch every new move of La Guardia with the greatest suspicion. They must depend, not on the empty promises of capitalist politicians but on the independent strength of their union and the support of organized labor of this city, to win this fight and save the great Transport Workers Union of this city.

This lip service to no discrimination enables the Negro bourgeoisie to step up about one step higher and in doing so form a block headed by petty Negro politicians, preachers, Y.M.C.A. heads, etc. They have a decided influence on the Negroes and lead them to believe that Negroes are well treated and should be pretty well satisfied, especially with their conditions in the factories.

The companies, taking advantage of race differences, support the colored workers in social affairs and what not, in an effort to make it appear all the more true that the Negro is well taken care of, well treated, etc.—these sops being less expensive to the employers than would be united action of the Negro and white workers in a union for the benefit of both.

One of the outstanding examples of this method of fighting unionism by giving inexpensive favors to the Negro is at the plant of the National Malleable Steel Castings Co. of this city. Here a white woman, Mrs. Shirley, who is on the personnel staff of the company has formed a Glee Club for the colored women. She takes them on singing trips all over this locality, and by appearing with them and associating with them it really forms an appeal to the Negro that the unions have to equal at least, in order to meet.

WHAT UNIONS MUST DO—SOME EXAMPLES

For some concrete examples of the methods of work that unions must carry out, I will cite first the case of the Armour Packing plant here. Shortly after the men had started organizing that plant the company, hoping to scare first the Negroes and eventually the whites away from the union, began their attack by calling an elderly Negro into the office and after some conversation asked him how he would like to be laid off—a faithful employee for 22 years.

This man knew what that meant. But his reaction was not what the company had hoped for. Although he had not at that time joined the union, he went to the president of the Lodge and asked him what to do about the layoff.

The president signed him up in the union, called a special meeting to take the matter up and the unanimous vote of the Lodge was "If the old Negro was laid off to go fishing, the whole plant would go along to bait his hook."

This action occurred almost three years ago and when the company was informed of the union's decision the old Negro did not go fishing but has worked ever since; and naturally every Negro worker signed up with the union. Today, there is not a non-union employee allowed to work in the shop and a Negro would not think of refusing to pay his dues. Wages were raised, hours shortened and conditions made better through the strength of the union.

At the plant of the Indiana Steel and Wire Company in Muncie the company laid off a colored crane man. Acting especially in defense of this man and also against other acts of bad faith on the part of the company, a strike was called and the Negro's return to the job was won.

In the SWOC lodge of the Indiana Steel and Wire some six months before this a case came up which shows how sensitive the Negro is toward the least act of slight or discrimination on the part of the white workers.

The Steel Lodges had voted to raise money to pay for a headquarters by means of a box social. (A box social is where the girls and women bring along a box and the men bid on the box-

es and eat lunch with the girl who prepared the box).

Some of the white union members secretly started a move to have the box social changed to something else to avoid quite such close social relations with the Negroes.

They dared not bring up such an issue before the local union but tried to get it fixed up at the top. This they could not do especially because the leading white militant in the union would have forced their hand and brought the chauvinists out in the open on the Lodge or because he knew the reaction it would have on the Negro members.

To prove him correct it was only one or two days later that the Negro members sent an informal visitor to this militant white worker in whom they had confidence, to ask him what was going to be done about the box social. When he informed the colored spokesman that the box social was going ahead and for the Negro girls and women to be sure and be there with their boxes, the same as any one else, the reply of the Negro was "Fine, but if it had been called off we know why."

This was all that was ever said, but this lodge went ahead with the box social, a splendid time was had and money for four months' rent raised at the affair. What was more important, this lodge is another of the 100% lodges in this district and is getting wage increases and giving job protection to both white and colored members.

An entirely different situation is that at the Ewart plant of the Link Belt Co. where the company

made use of one of the leading Negroes to form a company union. Wages have not been raised, seniority rights are not respected and the employees are afraid to talk union for fear of discharge.

Behind the company's ability to use this Negro as head of this company union lies the fact that he was a member of the Railway Firemen and was discriminated against and let out of his job and a white man took his place.

Another instance of how the race question can wreck a union was shown in the Century Biscuit Company here. This union was formed in 1937, got a fair contract and increases in pay. There were a large number of colored workers in that plant and a Negro was elected president.

This man was as fine a man as ever served as president of any union but the white workers, no doubt due to stimulus of the company, started a whispering campaign against having a Negro for president. As a result, many white workers dropped out. The Negroes, sensing the situation played safe and dropped out too. Later the company found a chance to discharge the Negro president of the union.

One thing that has been attempted here is to create unity between Negro and white workers, has been the setting up of a Racial Relations Committee by the CIO Council. The purpose of this committee is to seek out and bring forward within the unions issues which will tend to draw together the Negro and white workers.

The efforts so far have revolved around attempts at getting support for the Anti-Lynching Bill and to educate the white workers regarding the treatment of the Negroes in general, and dealing especially with the right of the Negro to vote in the South. Progress along this line has been slow, but encouraging.

Indianapolis, Indiana C.A.

Will Probe Abuse Of Labor's Rights

(Continued from Page 1)

restraints trade. Yet such contracts have never been declared unlawful. "The very life of the collective bargaining agreement is at stake in this issue before the federal commission. No matter what position the bakery companies, who also were named in the complaint, may take, we will fight the issue to the end."

SIoux CITY, Iowa, March 18—Joseph A. Padway, general counsel of the AFL and the I.B.T., is scheduled to arrive here this week to organize the defense of General Drivers Union Local 383 members who were indicted here last week on charges of "kidnaping and conspiracy."

Howard Fouts and Ralph Johnson, union organizers, Charles Cunningham, financial secretary, and Jack Webster, a union member, were those indicted. After much fanfare by authorities who refused previously to admit them to bail because the maximum penalty on the charge was death, bail was fixed at \$1,000 each on the conspiracy count and \$2,500 each on the kidnaping count.

In describing this, the latest of a long series of frameups against this local union which has borne much of the brunt of the fight to maintain the 14-state over-the-road drivers' contract, the Sioux City Unionist states:

"This present case is the most outrageous example of malicious persecution that has come to our attention during 40 years of active participation in labor union affairs. . . . Let no honest friend of justice stop to cry over this case. This case is destined to become famous. Let every man and woman who believes in honor and justice hold up his head and let there be no faltering."

Describing the circumstances under which the frameup occurred, the Unionist states: "One morning three truck drivers for a merchant of Havelock, Iowa, were in Sioux City. Two of

them were members of Drivers Union Local 383. The Havelock merchant has not signed the over-the-road drivers contract. . . .

"These three men went to the Sioux City office of Local 383. They went freely and of their own accord. They went into the office of Fouts, who is business agent of the union. The three drivers talked with Fouts, talked by phone from Fouts' office with their employer at Havelock, then, when they got ready to go, accepted Fouts' offer to drive them back to their trucks. . . .

"Nobody laid hands on anybody. The three drivers were at all times as free to go and come as is any person who enters any office in Sioux City. They came of their own accord, and departed when they got ready. . . .

"Next thing was the arrest of Cunningham, Fouts and Johnson on the charge of 'kidnaping for ransom' which 'carries a penalty of either life imprisonment or death'."

A Revealing Contrast In stark contrast to the high bail set for union men on this flimsy charge was the \$1500 bail for two city policemen, recently suspended and now indicted on charges of protecting a dope ring and houses of prostitution.

Appropriately enough, these two cops were in a large measure responsible for securing convictions last winter against the same union officers, Fouts and Johnson, in a Sioux Falls case, resulting in four-year sentences against each unionist on a charge of damaging a truck. The case is now being appealed and the latest exploits of the prosecuting cops will look good in the appellate record!

Union Rejects Deal Overtures have been made to Local 383 officers to support certain boss politicians in the March 29 city elections with a promise that, in return, all the charges would be dropped. But the union is making it very clear to the bosses and their agents that this fight is not going to be settled behind closed doors, but right out in the open where it will hurt the bosses as they never got hurt before.

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Chicago deserves top mention in this column for the excellent efforts it is making to liquidate its back debt. At this writing they have reduced it by more than half.

H. S. of Evansville, Indiana came through with a big payment. Comrades in other parts of the country should blush for shame and envy at mention of this Indiana comrade's work. He distributes more Appeals than branches ten times the number. And then he pays—even if it means a big sacrifice.

Detroit came through with a \$15 payment on its bundle account and said: "Sorry for not being able to send the full amount of \$18.45 but we will send another payment next week. Publishing the amount due the Appeal was a good idea. The only way to get branches to act is through pressure from the center. This applies to Detroit too. Keep it up."

Payments in general were better last week. We received from Minneapolis, St. Paul, Flint, Akron, Newark, New Haven, Quakertown, Allentown, Lynn, Hutchinson, Boston, Ann Arbor. Keep it up, and we'll be out of the red before it gets warm.

SELLING THE APPEAL

Comrades who find it difficult getting up Sunday mornings for special Appeal sales one day a week should take note of the activity of Howard S. in Quakertown. He writes: "I have to make a trip of 45 miles to deliver six copies. . . ." His remark, it would seem to me, is directly addressed to those comrades who won't go around the corner to sell an Appeal to a worker neighbor.

From St. Louis comes another letter from M.V., chief Appeal plugger in that area:

"I was frankly amazed the first week I passed out no papers. The questions asked were gratifying: "Where's my Appeal, V—?" "I thought the papers came out weekly."

"Are your papers all gone, V—?"

"Red Sunday sounds like a great idea, but when I mention it to the comrades here they despair. They are loyal enough to know they should try, But."

"However, I'm going to do something similar. Here it is. Next week I'll send copies to one apartment house. I'll repeat the following week (same house). Then I'll call on them personally and try to drum up a few subs. How does it sound?"

Sounds good, M.V. It's the way to get results.

HOW TO GET SUBSCRIPTIONS

From Mark Knight, Los Angeles: "Enclosed you will find five six-month subscriptions to the Socialist Appeal."

"Each of these subscriptions were obtained from an auto plant in this locality. These men have just completed a successful election campaign for local union officers on the basis of a program suggested by the Appeal, which proves that our organ can be made a successful tool in the struggle for progressive trade unionism, and further, that our paper has a place in the home of all workers. We can sell the Appeal, if we try."

"Our worker-salesmen at General Motors promise us more subscriptions next week, and I promise, for them, more subscriptions in the following weeks. Their work indicates that it is possible to put into practise the slogan, 'More Appeals in the Factories!'"

LABOR UNION NOTES

The Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, will meet in convention at Chicago in May. The official policy is that it will not be a constitutional convention. However, influential Inland Steel, Lodge 1010 and Rubican Lodge 1014, representing the largest steel plant in the world, have passed resolutions proposing the contrary. Other lodges are following their lead. It may take something more than an old-fashioned Rah-Rah for the top officialdom to head off the demand for a constitutional convention.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union will meet in convention at New York City in May. This organization has remained independent since its withdrawal two years ago from the CIO. There is pressure from the top for reaffiliation with the AFL. In the rank and file there is a fast growing progressive movement against giving such support to the die-hard craft unionists of the Green, Wolf, Frey, Hutchinson and Co. camp.

ILGWU progressives are fighting for a 30-hour week with no reduction in pay, campaigns to unionize every garment shop in the country, and standardize agreements with uniform expiration dates. These slogans are arousing

a strong rank and file response. The jurisdictional agreement just concluded between the ILGWU and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers has two-fold significance. Inside both organizations, the top leadership has responded to strong pressure in the union for such an agreement as a first step in the fight for better job conditions—slated to be a big ILGWU convention issue.

Better relations between the ILGWU and ACW create another barrier against John L. Lewis' union-raiding policies in the AFL—CIO fight, and increase somewhat the pressure on Lewis to negotiate a settlement. This factor was more than a small part of Hillman's motive. Added to this is the desire of Dubinsky and Hillman to promote the interests of the Roosevelt third-term movement. Lewis has been more and more of a bull-in-the-china-shop to the third-term advocates.

The desire of both the ILGWU and the ACW rank and file in fighting for harmony between their unions and for unity in the national labor movement, is to promote the interest of the workers, not for the benefit of Roosevelt and his war plans.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, now almost a half million strong, will be heard from in no uncertain terms on the question of labor unity in its convention at Washington, D.C. in September. The IBT laws will come in for a revamping at this convention to clear the decks for a stream-lined organization drive. The American labor movement may soon see its first million-membered union.

March New International

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ON

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