

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.

No May Day This Year For Clothing Workers

Editor: My experience yesterday while selling Appeals at the Workmen's Circle Lyceum may be of interest. The Chicago section of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers is not holding a May Day celebration this year. The official explanation is that now that Stalin and Hitler celebrate May Day, it has ceased being our holiday. This breaks a tradition of twenty-four consecutive years of celebration and no work on the first of May. This year you can work if you want to.

The members of the Amalgamated who understand what May Day is had this to comment on the decree abolishing May Day: "Hitler also eats, does that mean we shouldn't?" "Samuel Levin, (Chicago Manager of the Amalgamated) wants to prove to his fellow members of the Chicago Board of Education that he is a 100 and 1% American, and this is how he does it." (Levin is an appointee of the Kelly-Nash machine.)

Was this a national policy, did they work in New York City? Chicago, Ill. Karl Hillier

[The same policy prevailed in New York—EDITORS.]

California Canneries "Manned" by Woman

Editor: I was very much interested in the articles printed in recent issues of the Appeal on Women and Socialism. Women have so much more to look forward to under the new system than they can ever hope to attain under the present system of inequality and exploitation. For a striking example of women's condition under capitalism, one has only to look at the factory system, and at the canneries

here especially, where three quarters of the workers are women, exploited and subjugated to a degree not found in any other industry. Not only are women in this kind of work paid far less in proportion to what they produce, but all the State laws governing minimum wages, conditions of work for women, etc., are declared void because of the seasonal nature of the work, and perishability of goods. Especially is this true of the fish canneries, where there is the added problem of the uncertainty of work due to the changes of the moon, storms, and generalized vagaries of man and nature. These conditions make it impossible for women who have to work for a living in this industry to have any sort of a "normal" life, such as their bourgeois sisters lead.

Some women in the fish canneries are part of the vast army of migratory workers who travel from one end of the state to the other, working first in fish, then in fruit and vegetable canneries, and then back again to fish. Others, who have managed to establish some sort of stable family life, remain at home after the cannery season closes and either live on the much reduced income that their husbands are able to provide; or must seek work in laundries, as domestic servants, or in some other kind of industry. These women and their families are forced by economic necessity to sell their labor power at the lowest scale possible to exist. For it is practically impossible for the majority of them to earn enough money to support even themselves, let alone their families, and it is only by using every available member, even down to the smallest child, that they are able to live.

All the hypocritical glamour and romance that surrounds women in bourgeois custom and literature is definitely not for the woman who works in the cannery. San Diego, R. D. California.

Bethlehem Steel is the Main Fight Front For New SWOC Unionization Drive

A Threat to Wage Structure of Union Until it is Organized

Bethlehem Steel Corporation must be the main target in the S.W.O.C.'s campaign to complete the unionization of the steel industry. Employing over 111,000 workers, ranking as the second largest steel producer in the world, and considered one of the world's leading producers of armaments and munitions, this enormously important firm has so far resisted all efforts to really organize it.

The tremendous importance of Bethlehem, which in normal times produces 16% of the total national steel production, is enhanced by the European War. Situated mostly in the East near Atlantic shipping facilities, Bethlehem is one of the American firms which has already reaped huge profits from the European blood bath.

Evidence for this is seen in the statement to its stockholders made by Eugene G. Grace, President of Bethlehem, on April 25 and published in all newspapers. The statement reported that Bethlehem had made almost 11 million dollars net profit for the FIRST THREE MONTHS of this year alone. This was the highest earnings for any first quarter since World War I (who said there is no profit in this war?).

Grace admitted that "export business" (war orders from the European slaughterhouse), was a "more important factor in the company's business than for years." He further added that Bethlehem's production rate had been considerably above the national average.

Because of its export facilities and European connections, Bethlehem is not only able to profit more so far from the War, but what is perhaps even more important, it is the leading manufacturer of heavy armaments in this country. Being the largest ship-builder in America, it is in a position to capitalize on the juicy orders coming from the U.S. Navy which President Roosevelt is frantically expanding. During the last war, Bethlehem became notorious as one of the leading profiteers, making the astonishing amount of 51 million dollars net profit in 1917 alone.

Viciously Anti-Labor

This gigantic corporation has consistently had a vicious anti-labor policy. One of the reasons for its huge profits is that it has for many years paid below the average wage rate for the industry. This, plus the fact that Bethlehem imports much of its raw materials from cheap, non-union foreign sources, gives it a lower production cost than other steel producers. It vigorously fought the passage of the Walsh-Healy Act, which provides for a minimum wage for employees of steel firms bidding on government contracts.

Today it is the only large steel corporation which refuses to pay the \$5 a day minimum wage for laborers. One of the first companies to adopt the company union plan, it still maintains one, despite the provisions of the Wagner Labor Act.

Must Be Organized

Because of its threat to the wage structure of unionized plants and because its 111,000 workers cannot longer remain outside the fold of organized labor without affecting union conditions throughout the industry, the S.W.O.C. must start a vigorous campaign to organize this citadel of anti-unionism.

Already its significance has increased as a result of the European War and it grows in importance as the war clouds hover darker over this country.

MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL BODY ADOPTS ANTI-WAR RESOLUTION

MINNEAPOLIS—Cutting through all the lies and war-mongering surrounding the invasion of Norway, the last meeting of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union again re-affirmed its hatred of all imperialist war by adopting a resolution voicing "militant opposition to any attempt to involve the U.S.A. in war, and declaring in favor of international militant working-class solidarity to stop the war."

Text of the resolution, adopted unanimously at the April 10th meeting, follows: WHEREAS, the war now raging in Europe is of a definite imperialist character and against the interests of the overwhelming majority of the population of all nations, and engineered by the war-mongering exploiters of the people of the participating nations, and

WHEREAS, said imperialist war if not stopped may involve nearly all nations, and WHEREAS, the entrance of the United States into this war would be a crime against more than eighty-five per cent of the population of this nation and in the possible interest only of the war-mongering greedy exploiters representing a small percentage of the population, and

WHEREAS, the invasion of Norway and Denmark is another consequence of said imperialist war and its participant governments, and WHEREAS, this bloody and contagious war can most successfully be stopped by the international solidarity and militant opposition by the workers and farmers and liberal people of all nations.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this Central Labor Union go on record condemning the invasion of Norway and Denmark caused by the imperialist participants in this war, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we go on record re-affirming our position of militant opposition to any attempt to involve the U.S.A. in war, and that we declare in favor of international militant working-class solidarity to stop the war, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Central Labor Union send a letter to all Central Labor Unions in the nation, and call upon all Minneapolis unions to take like action."

Copies of the anti-war resolution were also sent to Roosevelt, congressional representatives from Minnesota, William Green, the public press, and the ambassadors of England, France, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

Indiana Harbor Lodge Sets Militant Pace

Spontaneous Strike Last March Put Company on Defensive

When it comes to militancy and union spirit, the boys from the Indiana Harbor plant of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. are way up in front. From the very beginning of the CIO organizing drive in steel, they have shown everyone that a well-organized lodge, having the confidence of all the workers, can really go to town.

Taking part in three strikes since 1937, this lodge is now better than ever and is constantly battling to safeguard and improve the workers' conditions. All during the Little Steel strike of 1937 the Harbor plant of the Y.S. & T. Co. was kept shut tighter than a drum. Not a single solitary scab even dared to come near the place. A company union, starting a phony back to work movement, was promptly squelched. For seven weeks a mass picket line was maintained and when the strike was finally settled, the men marched back to work with colors flying, their militancy undampened by the long strain.

Back at work again, the job of organization was completed. The company knew that it had a real union to deal with, one that fought every grievance. In March of this year a long smouldering grievance came up for action. The company consistently refused to accede to the union's demands. Tiring of fruitless conferences, the men spontaneously struck, tying up all production and showing the now panicky bosses that the men were not going to stand for any more stalling. The company at first tried to make this a test of strength, but seeing that the union was really determined, it capitulated and granted all demands.

However, this is not all. Like

all great steel producers, Youngstown is going in for "mechanization" throughout the plant. A new Electro-weld Seamless Tube mill was recently installed which cut down the working force by three-fourths and increased production by one-half.

The union men in this department demanded that all employees replaced by the new process be retained and not be made victims of the corporation's insatiable greed for profits. The company refused; but, displaying the old CIO spirit, the men promptly walked out until the company promised to keep all workers. The company was forced to bow to the union's demand. Here the lodge showed the bosses that it was not going to sit idly by and let technological "progress" wreck havoc with the workers.

The record of this lodge is one to make all SWOC members feel proud. Maintaining itself through strikes and layoffs, it is today girding itself for the toughest struggle yet—the ever-growing danger of unemployment.

The boys in the plant, as always, have their answer—a strong campaign for the thirty-hour week!

Trabajadores de Habla Espanola CONFERENCIA

Patrocinada por el Ateneo Hispano: "Causas del Fracaso de la Revolucion Espanola." Orador: G. MUNIS (Secretario de la Cuarta Internacional en Espana) El jueves 9 de Mayo de 1940 a las 8 p.m. en el ATENEO HISPANO 59 Henry Street Brooklyn, New York

GULF SEAMEN FOLLOW S.U.P. IN WAGE RAISE

West Coast Marine Firemen Get It Too; CP-Led Unions Don't

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4—Seamen won wage increases on a national scale this week when the Seafarers International Union of North America forced Waterman Steamship Co., largest operator in the Gulf, to comply with the standard set by the Seafarers' West Coast affiliate, the Sailors Union of the Pacific.

As reported in last week's Appeal, the S.U.P. blazed the trail for all seamen by a new wage agreement securing a ten dollar per month raise on April 26.

Since then the Marine Firemen of the Pacific have also signed a new wage agreement in line with the raise established by the S.U.P.

Stalinists Sabotaged Fight

The wage raise might well have been more had there been a united front of all maritime unions, rallied around a militant and aggressive program. But last September 30, when all union agreements expired, the Stalinist-controlled West Coast longshoremen, led by Harry Bridges, put all other unions out on a limb by consenting to an indefinite extension of the contract.

Pacific Coast sailors and firemen, meeting in joint committee, agreed to grant the operators a seven-day extension only, and this policy was ratified by the members of both unions. Shipowners' profits were nearing their peak at that time, and the Sailors and Firemen rightly decided to make hay while the sun was shining.

But then Malone, secretary of the Firemen, under pressure from the shipowners and the Stalinist fraction in the headquarters branch of his union, signed for a 60-day extension of wages after gaining some minor concessions in working rules.

Sailors Came Through

Left alone, the Sailors Union negotiated working rules and agreed to hold in abeyance the question of wages. Careful preparations in the interim, however, climaxed by a decision of the membership to instruct its officials to conduct a secret referendum strike vote for higher wages, enabled the Sailors Union of the Pacific to come off first best.

The Marine Cooks and Stewards of the Pacific, captive of the Stalinists, followed Bridges, "peace and extension" policy. On May 2, after Firemen and Sailors had already won their wage increase, did the Cooks finally serve the bosses with notice of their intention to terminate the present "extension agreement."

This agreement contains a clause which requires 60 days notice, which means that the Cooks are prevented from sharing the gains of the other two seafaring crafts for another two months at least.

SUP Asks United Front

In order to extend and develop its aggressive policy against the shipowners the Sailors Union of the Pacific has called for a united front of all seafaring unions on the basis of its program of victory.

"Six months from now," the May 3 issue of West Coast Sailors warns, "the shipowners will be in a fair way to sweep aside all our gains and the gains of the other seafaring unions, unless we can reach a working agreement with the marine firemen and marine cooks and stewards on the following basis:

- "1) Uniform demands for the unlicensed seagoing personnel. "2) Simultaneous expiration of agreements. "3) Joint action against regimentation of the American seamen.

"It is easy to list these three fundamental points for a united stand of all seamen against encroachments on union conditions and wages, and there is hardly a single member of the Firemen, Sailors or Cooks unions who would not agree on this—but we cannot forget that between this general rank and file sentiment for closer cooperation and real fighting unity of the unlicensed crafts, stands all sorts of barriers—the chief barrier being the activity of the termite followers and stool-pigeons of the Communist Party."

TRADE UNION NOTES

by Farrell Dobbs

THE BOSSES ARE GETTING BOLDER

Each issue of the daily press brings new evidence of the increasing boldness of the drive against the organized workers. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States at its recent annual convention in Washington, D. C. spoke quite plainly on the subject.

The Chamber demanded government action "to prevent transportation stoppages resulting from violations of maritime labor agreements." Not a word about preventing the ship owners from violating the agreements, just a demand that the workers be prevented from doing anything effective about it.

Branding the National Labor Relations Act as a "serious deterrent to recovery," this august body demanded "fundamental and much needed amendments" to the Act. Passing on to the question of the Wage-Hour Act, the Chamber declares that "its humanitarian aspects in dealing with oppressively low wages belongs to the states, each of which can give consideration to the actual conditions that are to be met."

In other words, the bosses want the National Labor Relations Act emasculated so that it will contain none of the features which are in any way helpful to labor and, in addition, they want the regulation of minimum wages and maximum hours reverted back to the sole jurisdiction of the individual states where even the present minimum wage provisions, although they are now at starvation levels, can be further reduced.

HE SAT IN CONGRESS AS "FRIEND OF LABOR"

Former Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, testifying before the committee investigating the NLRB, inadvertently gave the workers a clear picture of the sham and hypocrisy which surrounds the myth of democratic representation of the workers in the present apparatus of state. Reed for many years past presumed to speak as a "friend of labor" in the United States Congress. His real motivations in voting on various legislative acts are quite sharply clarified in his testimony before the Smith Committee.

His wife owns the Nelly-Donnelly Garment Company of Kansas City Missouri. There has been a long controversy between this Company and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Reed called forth all the venom at his command when he began to describe his feelings towards the ILGWU.

He referred to the NLRB as a body "sitting to decide the greatest questions that come before a court, except questions of life and liberty." In other words, so far as Reed is concerned, the most important consideration in his mind, short of "questions of life and liberty," is that the Nelly-Donnelly Garment Company in which he has a personal interest be permitted to operate on a non-union basis and at sweat-shop wages.

The case of James A. Reed is only typical of the run of the mill so-called "friends of labor" who are elected to the apparatus of government.

BOSSES DON'T LIKE EDUCATED WORKERS

Fearful lest the young people might be kept in school too long for their own good, Henry I. Har-

rison, a past president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, in a recent address to the annual meeting of the American Council on Education, urged the importance of herding the young workers into the industrial plants at a tender age. Said Mr. Harriman: "If youth are left to feel that they have a right to support without work, there is a strong probability that they will become a permanent charges upon society."

This declaration is the pre-amble to the universal employers' policy of depriving the workers' children of anything more than a sketchy education. Whether or not there are jobs available for them it is "un-American" for them to become "charges upon society." The children of the Harrimans the Morgans and the Fords receive a full education, but that is different, they say.

A preview of what to expect when Roosevelt, acting for Wall Street, has succeeded in herding the American workers into the Second World War is now taking place in Australia. Striking coal miners in New South Wales have carried out an effective tie-up. The government is preparing to "compel" coal mine owners to open their mines immediately. In other words, the government is preparing to utilize the military to smash the strike.

CIO BORROWS BOSS METHODS TO USE AGAINST AFL

Under the heading "Keeping up with the AFL" the May 6 issue of the CIO News seeks to utilize in a most reactionary manner the court actions against George Scallie of the Building Service Employees, Joe Ozanic of the AFL Progressive Miners Union, and Willie Bloff of the Hollywood Stage Hands Union.

There is nothing misrepresented; the reactionary character of the item lies in that which is not said. Scallie is reported to be indicted for "graft, extortion and corruption." Not a word about the methods followed by Prosecutor Dewey in this case and the real implications of this drive to the labor movement. Ozanic is reported facing government action for collection of \$550 in fines levied for "crimes in Illinois several years ago." Bloff is reported serving a 6 months term in the Cook County jail in Illinois, for an "old sentence of pandering." Not a word appears about the meaning of the actions of the bourgeoisie state in going way back into the record to dig up these issues for criminal prosecution against labor officials. This should be called sharply to the attention of the leaders by the rank and file of the CIO unions. The attacks on the AFL today is nothing more or less than a forerunner to similar attacks on the CIO tomorrow.

The CIO Council at Quakertown, Pennsylvania, has voted to establish a committee to look after its unemployed members. The Committee is to provide ways and means for the CIO unions to continue to represent the interests of their members even when they are unemployed. It will attempt to find a basis for general cooperation by the CIO with all of the unemployed workers in Quakertown. This progressive action should and must eventually be emulated by all trade unions.



We're back again. We haven't been on vacation but we were crowded out of our usual corner by the mountain of convention material that had to be published. Let's begin where we left off last time—subs. The scoreboard below looks pretty imposing, but don't get too cocky because its over a longer period than usual.

Most branches are just beginning to get down to business after the long convention rest. A few, like Los Angeles and Minneapolis, are really making things hum again. The gold medal—if we had one—would go to Los Angeles.

More specifically, we should say the Los Angeles auto comrades. To date they have gathered up at least twenty-five subs from auto workers. And that's just the kind of subs we want, the kind of subs that count. One sub in a workers home is worth ten among the middle class (don't pass them up, of course). Los Angeles is blazing a trail. Now go you and do likewise. Subs received follow:

- Washington, D. C. 1 Foreign 2 Minneapolis 14 Fargo 1 Chicago 5 Minnesota 3 New York City 9 Los Angeles 10 St. Paul 3 California 3 Kansas City 1 Philadelphia 1 Massachusetts 3 San Francisco 1 South Carolina 1 Iowa 1 Montana 1 New Jersey 1 Texas 1 E. Chicago 1 Missouri 1 Michigan 1 Cleveland 1 Boston 1 Conn. 1 Flint 2 Total 70

SPECIAL EDITIONS

The Detroit comrades write that the workers who attended the big Lewis rally ate up our special on auto. When the meeting got dull, the workers whipped out copies of the paper and read them. One worker drew up a resolution on the basis of the Appeal slogan and got it adopted unanimously in the local union. The Toledo comrades did themselves proud in distributing the issue. This week, the Appeal, is devoted to the steel workers convention. Reports of sales and distribution will appear in this column next week.

WHERE TO BUY APPEAL IN PITTSBURGH Hirsch's Book Store, 1623 Center Avenue Rose Book Shop, 1332-5th Avenue You can read the Appeal at: Barber Shop 426 E. Ohio St., North Side International Labor Lyceum 805 James St., North Side

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