

# 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.

## Dairy, Auto Strikes Succeed in St. Louis

Editor: Eighty drivers, and thirty inside workers pulled a very neat strike on the Quality Dairy Co. They loaded the trucks and wagons but instead of going out on their routes, they parked their vehicles on the surrounding streets. The strike began at 5:30 today and the workers were all back at work by 12:30 P.M. when a temporary settlement was affected, pending further negotiations. Terms of the temporary settlement were not announced. The strike had halted deliveries to 30,000 customers served by the workers in St. Louis and St. Louis County. The vehicles had been packed with ice but the ice began to melt and ran down the gutters in rivulets. The union allowed deliveries to hospitals, schools and orphanages. The strike was called to stop the Company's violations of the contract, which it had been indulging in for years. They did not employ enough inside workers to handle the checking in of the drivers after they had completed their routes. The drivers would have to wait in line for hours before they could check in. The company had consistently refused to pay overtime for this. Also, today, a stoppage was staged at the St. Louis Spring Co. For months the bosses were giving the negotiations committee the go-around. Today the boys in the plant got "Spring fever" and went out into the yard to play ball. The boss called the union office. So the union negotiations committee went in again, and this time the boss was all business. He granted more pay, and a week's vacation with pay. The boys are going back to work tomorrow. These workers are in the Auto Workers' Local 282 CIO.

The organizing committee of the Auto Workers, has been attempting to organize Lincoln Engineering Co. for six months, calling on the workers at their homes, etc. Many obstructive things were in their way. They were able to get a small group into the union. Last night the workers of this company voted to strike. The members paid more dues in one night than they had in all the time they had been in the union. They also signed up eight new members today. Which only proves that workers want action.

The strikers at Ford's are still beating the picket line. They have been on strike since Nov. 1937. These workers are in local 325 of the UAWA. St. Louis, Mo. H. V. Romer May 8

## New York Cab Strike Going Strong 19th Day

Editor: Today is the 19th day of the Taxi drivers' strike against the Parmelee and Terminal Cab Companies. As a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the union, I appeal to you very strongly to help us out. You can cooperate with us in many ways. I will give you an idea of how in relating to you some of the actions that have occurred and the possible outcome of some of them.

The new play in New York city about the invasion of the so-called democracies is written by Robert Sherwood and has the name of "There Shall Be No Night." The playwright is very indignant at the horrible plight of the world at the present time and is all wrought up. Did it ever occur to him that the workers have been just as wrought up about their working conditions and wages as he is now about the war? This is very late in the day to come crashing in the picture full of indignation. Where has Mr. Sherwood been during the last ten years of deprivation and misery in America? Since we heard nothing from him then, it is of little concern now that he should be so furious about a foreign acari. Chicago, Ill. Ed. Berliner

## 14 JAILED IN N.Y. FOLLOWING RELIEF DEMAND

Sixteen locals of the Unemployed and Project Unions carried on an all-day city-wide picket line at New York City's Relief Bureaus on May 9. Police countered by arresting 14 of the demonstrators. This demonstration was called to protest the introduction of the Stamp Plan; the new procedure of the Relief Administration, which is a greater intensification of red tape in the Bureaus; and to protest the vicious attacks of the Roosevelt and LaGuardia Administration against the already low living standards of the Unemployed. All the locals had worked diligently for weeks in preparation for this city-wide demonstration. Street and indoor meetings in the neighborhood, local demonstrations in and outside the Relief Bureaus, leaflet distributions publicizing the action, also house to house and trade union contacting, and 15-20,000 leaflets, prepared for the May 9th action. This demonstration marks a new stage in the building of a militant unemployed union in New York. The demonstration's slogans and leaflets exposed the Roosevelt regime for its slashing of relief while appropriating billions for the War machine. Some of the anti-war slogans at the demonstration were: "All War Funds to the Unemployed!" "We Demand Jobs Not Battleships!" "Relief Starts at Home Not Abroad!" "We cannot wear battleships and our children cannot eat guns!" "Democracy begins in the Relief Bureaus. Down with Red Tape!" "Frankie Duty Speaks"

The Harlem demonstration was led jointly by John O'Brien, organizer of the Harlem Unemployed League, and the Afro-American League, an independent militant Negro Unemployed Union led by the well-known Negro leader, Frankie Duty. The highlight of the day came when Frankie Duty spoke. During her speech she exposed the miserable conditions existing in Harlem and stressed the need for a militant unemployed organization to fight for the needs of Harlem. On the lower East Side there was a joint picket line of Local 22 and Local 1 at the East Side Relief Bureau. Local 1 is the Italian-speaking local that was led out of the Workers Alliance by Coroni, leader of the local. The two locals demonstrated in the Bureau and refused to leave unless cases were satisfactorily settled. Police arrested ten unemployed workers here. In the Bronx, Local 5 and 7 demonstrated jointly at D.O. 48 at 178th St. and Webster Ave. To dramatize and expose the miserable condition of the Bronx unemployed, a horse and wagon was toured through the neighborhood with a sign on it saying, "I LIVE BETTER THAN PEOPLE ON RELIEF."

## Where was War-Monger while Workers Starved?

Late in the afternoon, when the pregnant Mrs. Miller of Local 7 demanded to know when she would get her relief, one of the husky bureau guards shoved and attempted to intimidate her. Several of the Union members intervened in an attempt to defend her. The police arrested the pregnant woman and those who defended her, not the guard who attacked her. The three arrested besides Mrs. Miller were Harry Franklin, organizer of Local 7; Sam Winters and Harold Meyers. Meeting Protests Arrests The American Labor Aid laid out the necessary bail, which was \$15 for each, and the four were released in the custody of the lawyer. Locals 5 and 7, jointly with the American Labor Aid, held a mass protest meeting against brutality in the Relief Bureaus and the arrest of the 4 unemployed. The meeting was held Wednesday night at the Local 5 Headquarters at 1581 Washington Ave., Bronx. The Local 7 Headquarters is situated at 1780 Washington Ave. The complete numbers of the old Militant, first organ of the Trotskyists in this country: from Nov. 15, 1928 to July, 1930; bound, in perfect condition. For sale—\$20. P. B., c/o Socialist Appeal.

Advertisement! FOR SALE—SET OF N. I. from Vol. I, No. 1 to entry into S. P. A. Sostak, c/o Socialist Appeal. Subscribe to the "Fourth International"

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On Feb. 4, 1933, the whole Far East was electrified by news of a mutiny by native sailors aboard the Dutch battleship, De Zeven Provinciën. The mutineers sailed the warship toward Sourabaya and fought off attackers by sea and air for six days before they were forced finally to surrender. The Dutch rulers seized the opportunity to stage a ruthless drive against nationalist organizations and during the whole subsequent year carried out wholesale raids and arrests. As in all the other subject lands, this movement smolders not far from the surface. When it bursts into blaze, the old masters shall go and all the calculations of those who aspire to their place will be upset.

## Sailors' Victory Exposes Phoney Bridges 'Peace' Plan

### He Continues Seeking Boss Collaboration in Maritime Unions

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11—Victory of the Sailors Union of the Pacific in winning from the shipowners a flat \$10 wage increase to all ratings and a 10 cents an hour increase on overtime pay thoroughly exposed the Stalinists' phony "peace plan" put forward in waterfront unions here by the Bridges machine. Nevertheless, Bridges is continuing to push the campaign for his program of collaboration with the bosses. Today's issue of the Voice of the Federation reported that at a mass meeting held at the Civic Auditorium here May 3, 8,000 members of Bridges' longshoremen's union "roared approval" of the program.

A resolution was introduced from Local 1-6 Warehousemen, the Voice reported, pointing out the "necessity of furthering our organizational efforts to include those workers in the rural areas where as yet organization has not been effected in order to strengthen and maintain the conditions which we have been able to establish here and in the metropolitan areas." This is just a dodge to avoid the real fight on the waterfront. Calling for approval of a 15-cent increase in per capita tax, this resolution evidently was one of the main reasons for the meeting. Harry Bridges, "reported at length on the problems confronted by the Maritime workers and the possibilities of encountering difficulties with the shipowners for a long-term agreement," the Voice said. The Voice failed to go into details of the difficulties Bridges anticipates in getting the shipowners to sign up on terms which Frank P. Foisie, president of the Waterfront Employers Association, recently declared the employers themselves have been advocating for the past nine months!

Among these latter have been such outfits as the Northwest Alaska Cannery Workers, Plywood and Veneer Workers Union 9-102, and even the Ladies Auxiliary of Textile Workers, 128. The main argument put forward on the waterfront for the "peace plan," that the organizational struggle must be carried inland to meet the shipowners where their real interests lie, has produced to date no really aggressive organizational measures but only a stumping tour by Bridges in support of the Patterson delegation to the Democratic national convention.

## Breitman is S.W.P. Standard-Bearer in New Jersey Elections

NEWARK, N. J.—The District Committee of the Socialist Workers Party of New Jersey announced this week the selection of George Breitman as its candidate for U.S. Senator in the November 5th elections, and the collection over an 11-day period of almost 1200 signatures to petitions to place Breitman on the ballot (800 signatures are required). Breitman will run for office on a fighting anti-war program which will contrast strangely with the program of the war-mongering millionaire Minister to Canada, James H. R. Cromwell, the candidate of Boss Hague and Roosevelt, and the isolationist, relief-cutting, navy-building program of the G. O. P. incumbent, Warren Barbour.

Plans laid for the campaign this year indicate that for the first time the Party is in a position to strike out into the fertile central and south Jersey working class cities to present our program, instead of being limited to just the northern part of the state. A statement of the District Committee pointed out that the speedy, last-minute response to the call of the Party for signatures to the petitions indicated on the one hand the growing interest of the workers in the Party program, and on the other, the increased efficiency of Party activity.

## Jim Crow Issue in Marine Cooks is Evaded

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11—Faced with a major Jim Crow issue in the Marine Cooks and Stewards Association of the Pacific, the union's Stalinist leadership at a meeting here Thursday backed away from the problem, stifling discussion of a resolution introduced by Negro members of the union. The colored worker's resolution demanded that the negotiating committee force the Matson Navigation Co. to recognize the right of the union to ship any qualified member to jobs in any of the firm's four big luxury liners, the Monterey, Mariposa, Lurline and Matsonia. They found themselves without a chance to speak on the motion. The union's Stalinist leaders in any such situation are tied hand and foot by their weak-kneed policy toward the shipowners. And the Negro workers are faced with a Jim Crow battle in which, outnumbered, they cannot win without assistance. Such a policy in the union can be overcome by the Negro members only by showing themselves the strongest, most militant of the unionists. By working consistently for a progressive program in the union which would include equal rights for all members, they can rally support of the most advanced and militant workers. Such a program in the Marine Cooks and Stewards would include these main points: 1. Aggressive policy against the shipowners for a 8-hour day in a spread of 12 hours, and a flat increase in wages for all ratings commensurate with increases won by the Sailors and Firemen. This precludes any talk about 5-year "peace plans." 2. Uniform expiration dates for agreements of all marine crafts, especially the seagoing crafts. 3. Joint negotiating committee representing unlicensed seagoing personnel. This committee would handle negotiations for Cooks, Sailors and firemen. 4. "What is the right of one member is the right of all members alike." This is a vital issue in the internal conduct of any union. Such pressure from employers as has been applied in the past few years by the Matson Line cannot be tolerated by any union worthy of the name. 5. Reconstitution of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific along its original lines. This would include the seven basic unions and would exclude "front" organizations having no connection with Maritime work. Must Oust Stalinists Only by working for such a program can the Negro members of the Marine Cooks and Stewards hope to gain support for their struggle against Jim Crow in the union. Not only will such a program rally support of the most advanced and militant members of the Cooks and Stewards; it will gain the support of the Sailors and Firemen and broad sections of the Longshoremen who already have raised the cry for reconstitution of the Maritime Federation. If successfully carried out, this program would result in the ousting of the Stalinist leadership of the Cooks and the creation of an aggressive union capable of representing the real interests of its members.

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## Radio Workers Local Joins CIO In Body

Local B-1010, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, gave a final and unequivocal answer to the traitorous conduct of their International Representative, William Beedie, by joining the CIO in a body on May 6. Support of Beedie by the IBEW International office left the local no alternative. Beedie's recent conduct in suspending the local's leadership in order to make a deal with the bosses was the last straw. The dispute between Beedie and the membership of the local started about a year ago when he was defeated for the post of Business Agent by Emil Katz, and Frank Sullivan was elected President. He retained his appointed post of International Representative however, and has since used it in every way to discredit and harass the progressive leadership of Katz and Sullivan. In the Transformer Corporation of America strike last fall—the strike issue was a 10c per hour increase and the membership responded 100%—Beedie sent the employers a copy of the reactionary constitution of the IBEW which showed them the way to fight the strike. The constitution provided that all strikes must have the approval of the International office. This he conveniently refused to give to the membership and he labeled it an outlaw strike. This scab trick forced the workers back to work, but in spite of the treachery of Beedie, the local leadership of Katz and Sullivan were able to gain a 2 cent an hour increase. Beedie Helped Bosses The most recent trouble has been over the signing of new contracts between the union and the radio set manufacturers of New York City. On March 4 the local asked Beedie to submit any of his proposals to the union before he took them to the bosses, but he refused and worked hand in glove with the bosses. The March 7 conference showed the bosses in a mood to smash the union. In an already bad contract they proposed to put a new clause allowing a 60 day apprentice period at 10 cents an hour under the union scale. Since there are plenty of experienced workers in the union and the work season only lasts two to three months in small shops, this proposal amounted to a 25% pay cut for most of the membership. Beedie favored this clause and was willing to sign a contract on this basis to run for a period of three years. The contract called for a shop chairman and strict seniority but another clause said that if this interfered with production then the boss need pay no attention to it. The union membership rejected this contract and demanded a 20c per hour increase in wages. Beedie gave his answer to the membership by suspending Katz and Sullivan from membership and office in the local. He called them to a conference in the Hotel Pennsylvania and while they were out of the office he raided it and took the funds and records. In the meantime Beedie got together with the bosses and on April 29, signed a contract in the name of the union which contains, beside the reactionary clauses before mentioned, another clause which binds the union to perpetual arbitration. Vote Almost Unanimous The membership gave their answer to these tactics. They met on May 6 with almost a 100% attendance and listened to Katz, Sullivan, and representatives of the CIO's United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers Union. The vote on CIO affiliation found over 800 for the proposal with 2 against and 3 walking out of the meeting. The new CIO local will be called Local 430 and will have the same officers, Katz and Sullivan. They plan to obtain new contracts and then in a joint drive with Local 1206, the radio parts workers, to get the last remaining scab shop in the city, Emerson Radio Co. After the organization of Emerson the both locals then plan to unite into one industrial local. Then all radio and radio parts workers in the city will be organized into one union.

## IBEW FIGHTING 'ANTI-TRUST' PERSECUTION

### Union Conducts Broad Educational Drive Against Arnold

In the forefront of the unions which do not intend to take lying down Thurman Arnold's "anti-trust" persecutions is powerful, militant Local 3, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, New York. Conducting at present a widespread educational campaign to acquaint the labor public with the facts about the government's anti-labor drive, this local union of more than 6,000 men plan a ceaseless struggle against government persecution. Eleven of its officers have been indicted, as has the union itself. Vast fines have been imposed, long prison terms dealt out for alleged criminal activity—although no traces of corruption exist, and no such charge was even leveled! Pamphlet Now Available An excellent pamphlet, by H. H. Broach, union educational director, has been issued in a first press run of 10,000 copies, presenting labor's case against these vicious persecutions. Throughout the city the union is holding meetings, and sending speakers to meetings, to educate workers on the facts of the struggle. At a recent union meeting of Local 3 at Manhattan Center, the 6,000 members present voted to take upon themselves a tax of 10 cents for every hour worked, to raise a fund large enough to carry the fight forward on every possible front. The members even volunteered to pay more if necessary. A national conference in New York, the latter part of May, was decided upon, to draw IBEW local unions throughout the country into the fight against Thurman Arnold's union-busting crusade. March on Washington A fighting resolution was passed unanimously, and with rising acclamation by the 6,000 men, to march upon Washington in a motorized Protest Army, the moment their officers give the word. The entire union is geared for action, setting an example which all unions—whether under indictment or not—must follow if labor is to ward off this potential death blow. Way Is Pointed The national union conference and the march on Washington are the way Local 3 of the IBEW has pointed—and they are the right way—to carry on the militant union fight. It is now the work of all unions willing and anxious to fight, to join in action with Local 3, particularly for the March on Washington. Let the enemies of labor see that the union strength displayed in May Day parades throughout the country is fighting strength—that labor can and will mobilize to settle this vital issue.

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**"FOURTH INTERNATIONAL" SUBS REACH RECORD HIGH**  
Results in the Fourth International subscription drive again hit a record-breaking high, as the second week of the drive brought in an additional 82 subscriptions. The two-week total now stands at 181 paid subscriptions for the new 32-page monthly magazine of the Socialist Workers Party. With two weeks to go to obtain the number necessary to gain second-class mailing rights, the outlook is bright for a successful wind-up to the national campaign. Here is the record, by cities, of the past week's subs:  
New York City.....18  
Los Angeles.....12  
Chicago.....10  
Newark.....7  
Boston.....6  
San Francisco.....6  
St. Louis.....6  
Minneapolis.....4  
St. Paul.....3  
Fresno.....2  
Lynn.....2  
Massachusetts.....2  
Pittsburgh.....1  
Paterson.....1  
Cleveland.....1  
Rochester.....1

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