

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.

L.A. Workers Alliance In Job Agency Move

The Workers Alliance in Los Angeles has started an employment service to place its members on jobs in private industry. The main reason for this move seems to be to convince a few relief bureaucrats and white collar critics that the unemployed are not lazy and unwilling to work!

But regardless of what these enemies of the unemployed think, it would be much better for the WAA to stick to its knitting and try to establish decent standards of living for all unemployed. The objective of the WAA avowedly is to put organized pressure on government bodies for adequate public works jobs and direct relief for all unemployed. Let us not get away from this important objective.

The proposal of the local WAA leaders to start an employment service sounds very good until we study it a bit. Unions of every trade are in this community. Many of them have supported the WAA in many different ways and it is easy to see that as soon as the WAA starts an employment service, we will be backing those unions who have their own unemployed members. This employment service would mean that we would be competing with these other unions who have long unemployed lists. These unions had years of fighting and sacrifice to establish and maintain union wage scales in their industry.

We can't afford to antagonize the organized trade union movement for the simple reason that they have supported us in the past and we need their backing in the future. We would have to work for less than the union scale in order to get the jobs and would be scabbing on union men who have struggled for years—for more pay, better working conditions, etc.

If we want to fight for a united strong labor movement in the United States, we can't start anything that will cause conflict between the organized unemployed and organized employed workers, between the trade unions and unemployed organizations. If the bosses and their political stooges can get the unemployed to break down the wages and working conditions of the union men, it will be bad for all of us.

Workers Alliance Member Los Angeles
Wants Name of Appeal Changed—to Sell More

I am glad to see that a campaign has been launched to restore the twice-a-week Appeal. It is my belief that only in this way can the paper bring its readers the authentic labor news hot off the gridle.

In view of this and with an eye to increasing the sale of the paper, I have two suggestions to make.

1. In line with the convention decisions to build a working-class mass party bound up with the trade unions and, also, to carry our paper to the greatest number of readers before a war censorship cracks down, I'd like to suggest the name "Socialist Appeal" be changed to one that will be accepted to all workers and not restricted solely to Marxists and sympathizers. Since the form of the articles will be in popular style, let's give it a suitable name. My choice would be "Worker's World" or some other good punchy name. I'll be looking forward to the pros and cons on this suggestion, especially from those comrades who are selling the paper regularly house-to-house and at union meetings.

2. I recently had the pleasure of enjoying Comrade Antoinette Konikow's educational and interesting letter. I hope we can look forward to more of these as we women are pretty much out in the cold as far as the columns of our paper are concerned. I'm sure more women would be numbered among our readers if a short column were devoted regularly to "The Women's Brigade" and their problems and interests. How about it, Brigadierettes?

Los Angeles Jo Keller

Judge Forbids Strike To Enforce Contract!

The fight of Local 770 Retail Food Clerks Union (AFL) to enforce contracts with members of the Retail Market Operators Association has been temporarily interfered with by a decree issued by Judge Willis of the Superior Court enjoining picketing by union members of a number of food markets on the ground that such picketing was in violation of the arbitration clause of the contract.

As a result of this decree, 900 food workers are deprived, for the time being at least, of the benefits of contracts already signed by the super-market owners providing for a 48 hour week at a minimum wage of \$22.50. At present the men are being forced to work 54 hours and longer in some cases for \$20.00 weekly.

The contracts which were to become effective January 1, 1940, have never been respected by the super-market owners, allegedly because the union failed to secure similar contracts with the Safeway Stores, a nationwide chain, and other large chain units. The union has insisted that these contracts were binding whether or not it succeeded in securing similar contracts with Safeway or the other chains.

Upon the refusal of the super-market operators to live up to the terms of the contracts signed by them, the union called a strike at a number of the super markets and set up militant picket lines. The court held that this was in violation of the arbitration clause in the contracts, stating: "Such a provision for arbitration of controversies in a collective bargaining contract contains an implied promise not to strike and use economic pressure to force agreement with labor's demands. Hence a repudiation of a voluntary arbitration agreement followed by a strike and picketing is an unjustifiable breach of contract even though such arbitration proceedings cannot be compelled or enforced by court process under state law."

Just one week ago the U.S. Supreme Court held anti-picketing ordinances in California and Alabama unconstitutional as violating the right of free speech. The present decision easily avoids this ruling by holding that picketing to accomplish an unlawful purpose, i.e. in breach of a contract, is not protected by the constitution.

The union is completing plans for continuing the fight by taking all proper legal and economic measures to enforce the rights of its members.

Los Angeles A. M.

Please accept my belated thanks for the article, published in the Appeal two months ago, dealing with the problems of the women-folk of the workers.

A complete new phase of our great struggle opened before my eyes after reading this article. I then first realized that my husband was, in reality, selling to his boss, not only his time and labor, but mine also, for only thru my efforts, was it possible for us to live on the wages paid my husband.

So, in reality, we, the wives of the workers, are as much a part of this mad struggle against boss rule as are our men-folk. If our husbands are poorly paid, then so are we, and in exploiting one, bosses exploit the other.

Let us have more of this type of article.

Earnestly, Grace Elliott

DELLA M. DUNNE
Mrs. Della M. Dunne died on May 17, at the age of 83, at the home of her son, Vincent, in Minneapolis.

Los Angeles Jo Keller

Workers Asking: Who Are We Going to Fight and--- What For?

by GEORGE CLARKE

BOSTON—Big black headlines scream at you in every railroad station, every crowded square, every street corner. They all tell the same tale: the "horror" of the invasion; the atrocities of the Nazis; the outraged feelings of decent civilization.

But the big scoop of the week is the news about the shrinking of the Atlantic Ocean which brings the Heinkel bombers within hearing distance. "Preparedness!" "Preparedness!" they all shout in chorus. "Track down the Fifth column,"—"keep the beacons trained overhead for Nazis popping out of the skies in parachutes." "Wipe the Germans out," shouts the Boston Herald. "If Allied planes should lay waste scores of German cities and use the technique of the Germans, our people would rejoice."

But the American worker is not rejoicing at the slaughterhouse that is Europe. He passionately hates the Nazis. Yet he wants no part of the war. Few and far between are the expressions favoring a new A.E.F. The nightmare of Morgan's last war is still too vivid in the popular consciousness and it serves temporarily to block the road of the war-made jingoes in the White House.

The anti-war feeling is strong enough to find expression even on the tongues of some public mouthpieces of big war-boom corporations. Boston's Mayor Tobin, of American Tel. & Tel., Du Pont affiliate, said to 5,000 people gathered on the Boston Common for a "Mother's Day" celebration: "The day on which America mobilizes for war, that is the day which means the end of representative government." Other speakers—all of the hypocritical tribe of "isolationists" who will soon become virulent "interventionists"—drew cheers from the audience when they urged America be kept out of the "war for imperialism."

The crowd on the Common did not at all signify some special occasion. Large numbers of people are congregating on this public square since the war broke out in the Low Countries. They are heatedly discussing the war, America's chances of entry, listening to radical speakers, reading periodicals and literature of all types on the war.

Soldiers Listen Too
Abnormally large numbers of uniformed sailors, soldiers and marines are in evidence these days, especially around the Common. Some of them, cocky with the new thrill of wearing a uniform attempt to heckle and disrupt Socialist Workers Party anti-war meetings. But, many others

are more thoughtful, they know at least part of the score and they listen quietly, ask pertinent questions and remain after the meeting to argue and discuss. Where will they fight? Why? and for whom? These questions are becoming more wide-spread even among the unemployed young workers and farmers in uniform.

The anti-war message of the S.W.P. is penetrating slowly but deeply into the ranks of the industrial proletariat. A small but enthusiastic group of workers came to the party meeting where I spoke and applauded vigorously when it was proved that American workers have been the victims of a devastating "blitzkrieg" for over a decade by their real enemies, the Sixty Ruling Families, the billion-dollar corporate interests—that the only war for American workers is against "the enemy within our gates" and not overseas for World Empire for Morgan-DuPont & Co.

ISSUES FACING OUT-OF-TOWN DEP'T. OF ILGWU

The pressing problem of the out-of-town department of the ILGWU is unemployment. Reports from the Eastern section of the out-of-town department, which comprises the middle Atlantic states, and from Los Angeles, verify this fact. There is very little work most of the year and this work is generally at scales below the New York prices.

Because of these two factors—little work and at wages below those of New York workers, who themselves don't make too much live on the wages paid my husband.

These out of town workers are for the most part, relatively speaking, recently organized. Militant and not yet beaten, they are putting tremendous pressure on the union officials to do something about their conditions. Because of this fact the ILGWU out-of-towa department maintains a firm grip on these locals in order to keep them from fighting the bosses too militantly.

Locals Without Autonomy
This is done by not granting them any real powers in their locals. The right to strike is always subject to a veto from the center. The local has no control of its funds. This fact alone is enough in most cases to paralyze local activity. Business agents and managers are appointed from above, not elected by the workers. This fact is also a contributing factor to the bitterness of the workers toward their officialdom.

Must Establish Zones
These intermediate steps would be to divide the country into zones, based upon geographical factors, etc., and to provide proper differential rates for each zone. Each succeeding agreement could cut down still further the gap between rates in the zones and those in New York.

Militant Policy Needed
These basic tasks of the International—organizing the industry nationally, standardizing wages and working conditions, establishing a standard expiration date for agreements, and integrating the unemployed back into the industry—require a militant, fighting outlook.

Local 22 Resolution
The giant dressmakers local of New York, Local 22, which claims a membership of 30,000, is presenting a resolution for the 30 hour week to the convention. But the Zimmerman leadership in adopting the resolution rendered little more than lip-service to the popularity among the workers of this demand. For this resolution merely proposes a campaign for legislation for the 30 hour week, and leaves out entirely the method of direct economic action by the unions to secure this demand.

What is urgently needed is a convention instruction to the GEE to take the initiative in convening a labor conference of CIO, AFL and independent unions which shall launch a campaign to achieve by both legislative action and union pressure the establishment of the universal thirty-hour week with no reduction in pay. In steel, in auto, in the electrical industry, powerful locals are already struggling for this demand. The ILGWU, once in the vanguard on labor issues, should certainly join with them in forwarding this next great step for organized labor.

Los Angeles

Clarke Speaks in Chicago, May 26-28

George Clarke, member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, now on a coast-to-coast speaking tour, speaks Sunday, May 26, 3 p.m., at University Room, Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams Street, Chicago. "Which War for the Workers" is the title of his talk.

On Tuesday he again speaks in Chicago, at the Viking Hall, 2741 West North Avenue. The subject of this meeting will be "The Government Persecution of the Trade Union Movement."

The first of Comrade Clarke's comments on the way in which American workers are reacting to the war drive appears in an adjoining column. His reports of conditions in other cities will appear each week during his tour.

His tour so far has covered New Haven, Boston, Lynn, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Akron, Cleveland, Toledo, Flint, Detroit and South Bend.

Comrade Clarke will be in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Wednesday-Friday, May 29-31, in Omaha, Sunday, June 2, and in Denver, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4-5. He arrives on Friday, June 7 in Salt Lake City, and will spend the week of June 10-16 in San Francisco. On Monday, June 17 he will be in Fresno, and in Los Angeles the next day.

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LYNN—Living in what was once the "world's biggest ladies shoe center" but is now rapidly becoming a "ghost town," Lynn workers have too keen an appreciation of so-called American democracy to be eager to sell that shoddy commodity overseas at the point of bayonets.

Interest at my meeting here was sustained and the question period unusually lively. One worker was troubled by the question, "What if Hitler comes here?" There were many nods of approval when I exposed this old, old shell game:

"In World War I, we were threatened with Kaiser Bill coming over here. Instead, we went 'over there' after him. The German workers bounced Kaiser Bill off his throne. But American and British politicians found him a

nothing did the Lynn workers establish a tradition of militancy. Teamsters, shoe workers, leather workers, textile workers are well-organized. Outstanding among these is the powerful CIO union in General Electric with a membership of 7,000 strong; next are the teamsters, a husky and vigorous organization.

An Industrial Union Council with 14 affiliated unions in Lynn, Salem, Peabody and Beverly counts 25,000 members. A successful News Guild strike against the Daily Evening Item helped to strengthen its forces.

A resolution calling for the establishment of the 30-hour week at 40-hour pay was adopted unanimously at the Leather Workers convention held in Boston, April 26-28.

Stalinists Losing Ground
Comrades canvassing house-to-house in workers' neighborhoods report enthusiastic response for the Peoples' Referendum Against War. A resolution along these lines was put to pieces at the Leather Workers convention, dominated by the Stalinists. Thus, the C.P. "struggles against war."

Stalinist influence in Lynn is steadily losing ground. In recent months they have abandoned their hall and removed the party organizer who had been employed by them for 3 years. No one replaced him.

On the other hand, rank and file C.P. workers have become more friendly with our worker comrades. The lies of the Stalinist misleaders are making less of an impression on the rank and file than heretofore.

FBI in Lynn
The FBI is allowing little to get by its hawishaw eyes these days. The American "Gestapo" is everywhere.

The SWP discovered this in Lynn when it found out why it had been banned from holding meetings on a city square, traditional public open air forum for 15 years.

An ex-marine, now retired, had constantly been heckling SWP speakers and attempting to provoke a riot. He then went to the Mayor and demanded speakers be barred from the Square. The Mayor said he had no authority to take such action. So the ex-marine wrote to Washington which went into action at once. The U.S. Marshall was contacted in Boston with orders to instruct the police chief in Lynn to stop all meetings in the Square. The police chief didn't have to be "blitzkrieged" into action. Now meetings must be held in back alleys, or not at all.

Another grand victory in the "war for democracy."

Workers Stick To Union
The bosses and their political stooges shouted: "It is the unions fault." But the workers knew better, and they have held tight to their unions and organized the unorganized. Not for

dependence upon and support of the government. It is perfectly true that the union was able to utilize the N.R.A. in rebuilding the International after its virtual collapse in 1929-32, and similarly to utilize the Wagner Labor Relations Act. It is one thing to take advantage of concessions made by the government. However, it is a very different thing—and a crime against the workers—in exchange for concessions to surrender the workers to the tender mercies of the government. And this is what the Dubinsky leadership is doing.

Particularly is this criminal today, when the New Deal, whatever petty concessions it once made, has been transformed into the War Deal. The "anti-trust" union-busting campaign of the Department of Justice, the wiping out of PWA, the slashes of WPA funds—these are the acts which characterize the government today, and not concessions to labor.

The garment workers can march forward now only by the same class-struggle methods by which the International was originally built. It must never be forgotten that the International was founded and developed by men and women who were not afraid to call themselves Marxists. The International then did not hesitate to support the militant Socialist Party of those days. That's what the workers called political action—not support of boss political parties.

Militant, class action on the economic field, genuinely independent labor action on the political field—that is the ONLY road for progress for the ILGWU.

The Appeal Drive Must Not Lag Now! Speed It Up!

\$140.50 was received in the last week from various branches and individual comrades on the pledges for the two-a-week Appeal, a considerable sum, but not enough.

At this rate we shall surely not fulfill our quota by July 1st, the date set for the beginning of the publication of the two-a-week Appeal.

The total collected thus far is \$1076.85. The amount pledged is \$3885.00. To fulfill the quota we need close to three thousand dollars between now and July 1st, a period of three weeks. We must, therefore, average much better than \$140.50.

Comrades, put your shoulders to the wheel. Go out and get the money. The war situation brooks no delay. We must get out the two-a-week Appeal. It is up to you.

SCOREBOARD

| Branch | Pledged | Paid | % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------|
| Upstate New York | \$ 50.00 | \$ 50.00 | 100 |
| St. Paul | 200.00 | 160.00 | 80 |
| Minneapolis | 300.00 | 200.00 | 67 |
| Boston | 170.00 | 112.50 | 66 |
| Lynn | 50.00 | 29.00 | 58 |
| Chicago | 100.00 | 50.00 | 50 |
| Flint | 105.00 | 55.00 | 50 |
| East Chicago | 25.00 | 10.00 | 40 |
| New York City | 950.00 | 347.00 | 36 |
| Buffalo | 5.00 | 1.00 | 20 |
| Detroit | 75.00 | 11.35 | 15 |
| New Haven | 55.00 | 5.00 | 9 |
| National Office | 550.00 | 41.00 | 7 |
| Maritime Workers | 780.00 | 5.00 | 6 |
| San Francisco | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Newark | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Los Angeles | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Toledo | 40.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Philadelphia | 25.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Omaha | 25.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Baltimore | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Seattle | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Indianapolis | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Oakland | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Portland | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Akron | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Lorain | 5.00 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Total | \$3880.00 | \$1076.85 | 28.0 |

CIO BUILDING UNION STRIKES QUEENS JOBS

The CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee reached a new stage in its challenge to the AFL building trades unions, when the CIO union threw mass picket lines around two large projects in Flushing, Long

Island, tying them up completely last week.

The projects, on Main Street in Flushing, comprise several scores of small homes, the building of which is financed by F.H.A. loans. Local 68 of the United Construction Workers, the Queens local, whose territory the strike is in, points out that this New York City borough has already had approved some \$100,000,000 worth of F.H.A. loans for small home building, with further millions of dollars in loans still pending—a sum which makes Queens a key place in building activity during the coming year.

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