

WAR PRESSURE HITS SHIPYARD STRIKERS; NEXT STEP IS CRACKDOWN IN AUTO PLANTS

Unions Resist Boss Drive Toward War

Workers in St. Paul and Ohio Vote Anti-War Resolutions

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Warehouse Employees Union, Local 503, adopted an anti-war resolution, warning the workers against the M-Day dictatorship plans of the government, at the last membership meeting of the union.

Following is the text of the resolution:

"Whereas, The war now raging in Europe is a commercial and economic one, and

"Whereas, War brings with it the establishment of a dictatorship as is outlined in the M-Day plans of government leaders, and

"Whereas, These plans are devised to tie the hands of the Labor movement and would result in an attempt to smash all workers' organizations, and

"Whereas, War can be stopped only by the overwhelming percentage of the population which is the laboring classes,

Therefore, Be It Resolved,

That we, the Warehouse Employees Union, Local No. 503, reaffirm our stand in opposition to war and call upon workers everywhere to fight against it."

OHIO STATE AFL MEAT CUTTERS IN ANTI-WAR STAND

COLUMBUS, Ohio—A strong resolution against American involvement in the war, and calling for submitting the question of war to a referendum of the people, was adopted by the Third Annual Convention of the Ohio State Branch of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen, (AFL) representing 7,000 members in this state, meeting here May 12.

Another resolution, on civil rights, condemned Roosevelt for his statement that employees of the government have no right to strike, and denounced Thurman Arnold's "anti-trust" assault on the trade unions.

The anti-war resolution follows in full:

WHEREAS, there is now in progress a war in Europe which threatens to engulf the whole world, and

WHEREAS the present war being fought is an imperialist one, and

WHEREAS as workers we can have no common interests with the aims of those countries involved in the slaughter of the workers fighting their wars for the profits of the few,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio State Branch go on record as being unalterably opposed to the United States being involved in any such war, and that we shall oppose any attempts to stampede or involve us in this catastrophe, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that we support the Ludlow Amendment for a referendum vote on war.

ST. PAUL LABOR WARNS AGAINST GOVERNMENT ACTS

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The St. Paul Trades & Labor Assembly, AFL central body, at its meeting last Friday night called upon the labor movement to organize in opposition to the "war hysteria sweeping the nation," which "has

(Continued on Page 3)

Anti-Alien Drive Is Strike-Breaking Move

Why the War Deal wants the aliens to be put under the control of the FBI, why Congress is adopting anti-alien legislation, is revealed by the government's own statistics.

The latest figures available (*Statistical Abstract of the 1930 Census*) show that the foreign-born are predominantly INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. Although they constitute but 10% of the general population, they make up 23% of all industrial workers! Nearly one out of every four industrial workers is foreign-born.

And since about 25% of the foreign-born are not citizens, the government's anti-alien bills would place a considerable section of the working class at the complete mercy of the G-men and other anti-labor agencies.

A few figures will show what a blow against organized labor is hidden under the smokescreen of "alien" legislation:

Industry	Total No. of Workers	Foreign Born	% of Foreign Born
Coal Mining	621,661	175,898	28.3
Copper Mining	30,939	9,550	30.9
Iron Mining	24,248	11,932	49.2
Machinists	761,095	195,173	26.
Molders, Founders	105,158	38,565	37.
Automobile	161,957	43,099	26.
Blast Furnaces	106,664	33,471	31.

These are well-organized industries. We all know from experience that these "aliens" are usually good union men, in many cases the backbone of the union. If the anti-alien legislation becomes law, that means the government will join the bosses in terrorizing these "aliens," trying to turn them into scabs and stool-pigeons.

The anti-alien legislation is a gigantic conspiracy to divide the workers against each other, to weaken the solidarity of organized labor, to turn the unions into housebroken lap-dogs. And then the bosses will do as they please, wiping out every hard-won gain of the workers.

Government Attacks Drivers

MINNEAPOLIS, June 4—The Bakery Drivers Union, Local 289, and its seven officers, were notified last week that the Federal Trade Commission charges them with having "conspired" to "prevent peddlers and so-called independent bread men from obtaining bread pastries, cakes and other bakery products, to sell either at wholesale or retail in said trade area."

Almost identical charges were recently made by the government commission against the Des Moines and Sioux City Bakery Drivers.

This latest government move against the mid-West bakery drivers supplements the action taken by the FBI, which framed seven drivers' union officials in Sioux City, Omaha and Des Moines, for the alleged destruction of a bakery truck during the Sioux City bakery strike in 1938.

"Aliens" Bill Aimed at this Picket Line



One out of every three men on this picket line of the Sailors Union of the Pacific would be ordered off the docks and the ships, if a new anti-alien bill proposed this week in the House Committee on the Merchant Marine were adopted. Thirty percent of seafarers are non-citizens, but very good union men. The ship they're picketing is a U.S. Maritime Commission boat—which may have something to do with the bill!

Admiral Wiley Admits Gov't Fink Scheme

Admiral Wiley, head of the training ship program of the U. S. Maritime Commission, speaking at the ceremonies organized by the shipowners on National Maritime Day, admitted the anti-labor function of the training program, when he said:

"... it was doubtful that men given pay and subsistence, while they are in training, will want to follow the guidance of union leaders." (JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, May 23)

That's just what the Sailors Union of the Pacific charged the government was trying to do, and that's why the union opposed the training program. Ostensibly started to give seamen additional training, Wiley's department recruited outsiders, preparing them for future strikebreaking moves.

SAILORS FIGHT DRIVE AGAINST ALIENS ON SHIPS

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 4—Harry Lundberg, secretary of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and acting president of the Seafarers International Union, is scheduled to register the emphatic opposition of the seafarers to the latest anti-alien bill, at a hearing this week before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Introduced by the committee's chairman, Congressman Bland, this bill would forbid the employment of any non-citizen on American ships.

The havoc this bill would wreak on the seamen's unions, if enacted into law, is indicated by the fact that about 30% of the membership of the Sailors Union of the Pacific are non-citizen, and about the same percentage holds for the Marine Firemen. To drive these men off the ships is a move deliberately designed to break the backbone of the seamen's unions.

UAW Leaders Make Futile Plea to FDR

But Knudsen, Speaks for Roosevelt in Industry Now

DETROIT, Mich.—The General Motors Council of the UAW rejected this Sunday the proposed agreement of GM and further recommended its rejection to the 135,000 GM workers in the union. The Council recommended instead that the local unions give it authority "together with the officers and Executive Board of the International Union, to take whatever action they may deem necessary to bring about an immediate and satisfactory agreement."

This veiled strike threat was, however, accompanied by a telegram to President Roosevelt requesting his intercession in the negotiations. The Council went out of its way in this telegram to impress the President with its loyalty and patriotic feelings concerning Roosevelt's defense program.

The new proposed agreement is practically identical with the old Homer Martin GM contract—no recognition of the shop steward system, six months wait before seniority becomes operative, "D" list of "exceptional" employees destroying the normal seniority procedure, disciplinary measures permitted against workers, etc., etc.—except that the new contract provides an improved grievance procedure. This improved grievance procedure is completely offset by the establishment of an impartial arbitrator for the industry, whose decisions shall be final and binding on both parties. This impartial arbitrator scheme is nothing but a streamlined, sugar-coated form of compulsory arbitration.

Refuses Wage Raise

The union's request for a wage increase was turned down in spite of \$183,000,000 profits in 1939. It offered instead the highly generous proposal of a vacation with pay amounting to 2% percent of the annual earnings of the workers. The vacation with pay thus adds up to about \$30 per employee, or equal to a wage increase of about 60¢ per week!

This contract, almost identical with the "sell-out" agreement of Homer Martin in 1938, so insulting the whole membership of the UAW, is the first fruit of the phony statesmanship and the cowardly strategy of Sidney Hillman and Phil Murray. It is the logical outcome of the policy of cooperation and "national unity" with all of the open shop manufacturers and anti-union employers and servile boss politicians in the name of "national defense."

Hillman Joins Knudsen

But a short month ago, Sidney Hillman walked into the GM offices and told Knudsen, President of GM, that the corporation was negotiating not only with the UAW, but with the whole CIO, and that he, Hillman, wanted Knudsen to give the auto workers a square deal. Today Hillman is sitting side by side on the same board of National Defense with the agent of the DuPonts and the Wall Street bankers, Knudsen. No wonder GM feels free to insult the auto workers!

The union's International Executive Board is meeting this Monday in Washington, D.C., with John L. Lewis and other high CIO officials to map out strategy for the next steps in the GM situation.

Leadership Bankrupt

The whole policy pursued by (Continued on Page 3)

War Scare Used to End Strike at Kearny Yards

More than 5,000 workers of the Federal Shipbuilding Company met on Thursday, May 30, and by overwhelming majority voted to strike.

They had grievances aplenty, the bosses were stalling, the old contract had expired the day before and a new one was nowhere in sight, and these good union men were tired of being kicked around.

When they voted to strike, they were well aware of the "defense program" ballyhoo. If they hadn't been, their own leaders had made them listen to it all over again, arguing vainly for a further delay to continue the negotiations.

But the men were tired of the endless stalling of the company. The union was asking for 10 cents an hour increase in pay—the men were getting from 62½ cents to \$1 an hour, about the lowest scales in any shipyard in the country—and a week's vacation with pay after a year's employment.

The company was "offering" nothing except an increase of 2½ to 4 cents an hour.

And it was offering this increase only to the skilled men, deliberately trying to divide the skilled and unskilled against each other. This was also an attempt to divide the white workers from the black workers, for the several hundred unskilled are mostly colored workers.

When Roosevelt, last week, appointed his Defense Council, that was an additional reason for the company to stay put. For the company is a subsidiary of U.S. Steel, and Stettinius, "resigned" head of the steel corporation, was now in charge of the government's "defense" program, together with pals of his like Knudsen of General Motors and Budd, the railroad magnate.

If the company negotiators had begun to lose their nerve, and might have begun thinking of giving in to the union, the action of Congress would have made them feel better. For last week the House drove a hole as big as a battleship right through the Walsh-Healey Act and the Wages and Hours Act, giving the Secretary of the Navy and the president authority to push these labor safeguards aside.

There was only one way to get the company to yield. That was STRIKE.

Yet by Sunday afternoon, less than three days later, those same men had been beaten down to the point where they voted to go back to work with nothing gained except that same company offer—that petty increase deliberately designed to divide skilled and unskilled, white and black—which they had refused three days before.

Who beat those men down?

As soon as the strike began, a hue and cry was raised in Congress against the strikers. "Treason," the strike was called—and NONE of the "New Dealers" got up to defend the strikers. The heat was on.

The FBI poured G-men into Kearny by the scores. Secretary of the Navy Edison warned the strikers that "we cannot afford to have trouble of this kind."

None of this, however, had any effect at all on the strikers—UNTIL their own CIO leaders joined in the pressure against the strike.

The union's officials got in touch with John L. Lewis. He helped—by sending Allan Haywood, national organization director of the CIO.

With the prestige and power of the national leadership of the CIO in his fist, Haywood managed to do what the union's own leadership hadn't been able to. With threats, scaring talk and cajolery all skillfully mixed together, he pounded them into voting to go back empty-handed.

Even so, a thousand men voted against going back. There's the BACKBONE OF THE UNION!

Even so, Haywood and the other speakers had to do as much as swear that if forthcoming negotiations don't get the men their demands, a strike will follow. And the men are DETERMINED to get their demands.

Defense program or no defense program, the workers have a right to a decent living. If the bosses won't grant it, THE WORKERS MUST SECURE IT BY STRIKE ACTION. That interferes with the defense program? Then let the government force the bosses to grant the union's demands, after which the workers will end the strike.

Never mind what the government and the bosses are saying! Fight—in peacetime or wartime, regardless of its effect on the "defense" of the country as the bosses see it—the unions MUST fight for the workers' rights.

That's the lesson of the shipyard strike; the first major strike since Roosevelt's armament drive began in earnest.

Walsh-Healey Act Spiked By Congress

WASHINGTON, June 4—The Roosevelt administration came out openly for the suspension of the Walsh-Healey Act on Monday, when an authorized spokesman of the government appeared before the Senate Naval Affairs Committee to make that request.

He was Captain G. W. Fisher of the Navy's legal staff, and he told the Senate committee that the Navy's construction program could be assisted greatly by suspension of the Walsh-Healey Act.

That was plain enough, and later in the day the Senate, by a voice vote with no dissent, passed in three minutes the bill already passed by the House, authorizing a further outlay of \$654,000,000 for the navy. The bill includes provisions enabling the Navy, with the authorization of the president, to arrange building of ships without observance of the Walsh-Healey Act requirement of the prevailing wage.

CIO Protest Ignored

In recommending the bill for passage, the Senate's Naval Affairs Committee did not even trouble to justify the provisions sidetracking the Walsh-Healey Act, which have been protested by the CIO. In a letter to the committee, John L. Lewis had particularly objected to provisions which exempted contracts negotiated by the Secretary of the Navy from the Walsh-Healey Act and which omitted large categories of workers engaged in naval construction from the protection of the Wage-Hour Act.

What worried the committee, and all the rest of official Washington, over the week-end, was the strike of 7,000 workers at the Federal Shipbuilding Co. yards in Kearney, New Jersey, members of a CIO union.

When John L. Lewis and his lieutenants drove the strikers back to work on Sunday, that action of the CIO leaders was taken as the real index to their present temper. In other words—if they wouldn't fight for what they wanted, the committee need not take the CIO letter of protest seriously. And that's the way it worked out.

Anti-Alien Law Passed!

The other outstanding Congressional blow against organized labor during the week was concurrence by the Senate last Friday with the resolution already passed by the House, to put into effect in a few days the transfer of the Bureau of Immigration to the Department of Justice.

Farmer-Labor Senators Lundeen and Shipstead of Minnesota, and Senators Norris, Wheeler and Murray, were the only ones who stood out against this proposal of Roosevelt to put the four million non-citizens in this country into the keeping of J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men.

Supreme Court Joins In

Not to be outdone by the other branches of the government in the war drive, the Supreme Court contributed a decision, by an 8-1 vote, which the sole dissenter, Justice Stone, characterized as "the surrender of the constitutional protection of the liberty of small minorities."

The court held that school boards can compel a salute by children to the American flag. (Continued on Page 3)