

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?

Auto Worker Comments on G.M. Articles

As a worker in one of the General Motors plants not even touched by the NLRB poll, I read your article, GM Bolder Under War Drive Impetus, (Appeal, May 25), and find that you over-emphasize certain aspects.

Primarily you overlook the fact that the Auto Workers Union still has to consolidate its gains in the 59 divisions in which it has bargaining rights.

Perhaps you do not know that there are many duplications of plants in the GM organization.

Has the group system with its base pay and bonuses and group leaders been abolished in the organized plants?

Many of us unorganized know why we are better paid than the average industrial worker.

I am heartily in favor of the 30-hour week at 40-hours pay, but can these conditions be won in 2/3 of the divisions or will a greater majority of organized divisions be necessary before demands be made for its initiation?

I also feel that although Martin has been ousted, his technique of organizing seems to remain in the union, i.e., secret conferences with F.D. executives and other high handed methods.

If the union officials think that the membership is going to stand by and watch them wreck the union while they squabble for leadership, they will be suddenly disillusioned.

(H.N., in everything he says, seems to us to be in substantial agreement with the program proposed in the May 25 and other, APPEAL articles from the auto centers.

Says "Colored Worker" Preferable to "Negro"

Editor: I am in very close contact with the colored workers. With them I work side by side on the job.

As to "The Negro Question," I agree with V.C. that the colored workers are no more of a "question" than the white workers.

The question is: How can we convince the majority of the white workers that they must combine their strength with that of the Black worker for a common cause?

As I am a native Southerner, I can easily see that progress has been made to bring Southern workers of all races closer together.

If we can agree, then, that there is no "question" of the Negro any more than there is of the white worker why not call the column "Black and White Solidarity"?

Reports Union Meeting Discussion on "Negro"

Editor: I was very much interested in the letter of V. C. in which he questions the correctness of your column-heading—"THE NEGRO QUESTION."

Workers Are Not Falling Readily For Propaganda Blitzkrieg, Clarke Reports

By GEORGE CLARKE ROCHESTER, N. Y.—I should add a few words of correction to my previous description of the anti-war sentiment among the workers.

The first reaction among workers whom you engage in a discussion on the war consists almost universally of the emotional outburst: "Hitler is going too far."

Yet one need only scratch a little deeper to discover that beneath this hysteria there is an understanding of the war and its causes which is based on far more substantial material.

The ten years of depression and misery have by no means been eradicated from the minds of the masses by the poison gas of Roosevelt's war barrage.

"The privileged princes of the new economic dynasties"—as Roosevelt once called them—will utilize this war against Hitler to establish a Hitlerite dictatorship in the United States.

Too many victims of World War I are still in circulation for the good of the multi-millionaire criminals who are dragging us into World War II.

"I served four years in the Canadian army on the western front. Most of this time we were up in the front lines. I'll never forget the battle of Vimy Ridge [as he was talking this battle was happening all over again for the second time—G. C.]."

"I have never been the same since the war. And that goes for most of us that were lucky to come back in one piece."

"And what did we get out of it? We went over there determined to get Kaiser Bill. But Kaiser Bill got a swell shack for member as chauvinistic for using the term 'NEGRO.'"

It was only one week ago that same question was raised at my local trade union meeting.

(The evidence of the two letters above, added to that, previously offered by V. C., are overwhelming evidence that the APPEAL column, "The Negro Question," is very badly titled.

himself in Holland after the war. Yes, and I see that's one place neither side shoots up in this war.

Workers Regain Party The public forum arranged that evening consisted with one or two exceptions of an audience entirely composed of workers.

BUFFALO—The war hysteria is making swift headway. But as frenzied as it may seem on the surface, there is one thing it can't do.

Youth Seek Escape I spoke to a group of young people here just out of high school and they all were devising special schemes to go A.W.O.L. when M-Day came along.

Akron Labor Council Denounces Pegler

We, the undersigned members of organized labor in Akron and Summit County, have observed the yellow journalism of Westbrook Pegler for some time and we believe that it is necessary to make a few definite statements concerning his allegations of corruption in the labor movement.

Is Pegler opposed to graft in principle? We do not recall his engaging in any extended and bitter campaigns against graft in business, about which the facts are well known to anyone who takes the trouble to read governmental reports and court decisions.

We do not recall the Pegler pillar of virtue ever criticizing business for its misleading, corrupt and illegal advertising and marketing practices which cheat millions of consumers annually.

LET THEM CLEAN THEIR OWN STABLES FIRST! If all these self-styled 'friends of labor' who fill the columns of the press with their pusillanimous ravings are so concerned about graft, corruption, and violence, let them clean up their own camp first.

We come to the very obvious conclusion that Pegler is not opposed to graft in principle, and he is especially silent about it in business. He knows on which side his bread is buttered. Pegler evidently is only opposed to graft in unions.

Is Pegler interested in the reasons for such alleged graft, and if so, why does he not state them? If any corruption exists in the Labor Movement it has been created by business in its attempts to buy out leaders. For generations, employers have sought to bribe, bully, smash and destroy workers' organizations.

had their eyes on some kind of special job that would keep them out of the army. They weren't entirely certain they could get away with it but they were hoping . . . After they listened to me explain how rigidly the M-Day plans were set up, they weren't confident of their little schemes any more.

The Workers' War It's time to start thinking—and doing—about the workers' real war, the war against Wall Street and its funder in the White House, the war for jobs, hope and opportunity for the young people who have skill, ambition and intelligence enough to rebuild this country ten times over.

Hundreds of copies of the special steel workers edition of the Socialist Appeal were distributed to the workers at the huge Lackawana Steel Works, affiliate of Bethlehem Steel, and in the company town of Lackawanna.

Workers Are Militant

On Tuesday morning, May 21, 200 workers of the Royal Wood Manufacturing Co., Inc., a subsidiary company of Air King Radio, walked out in a sympathy strike. These workers belong to the United Leather Workers Union (AFL) and the Furniture Workers Union (CIO).

Are we accusing Pegler of being in the pay of the employers? We know that he is paid handsomely for his column and other 'writings' by newspapers that are in the main notorious for their labor hating, that never miss an opportunity to smear labor, that have fought unions in the newspaper industry, that are owned or controlled by vested interests, and that are found on the reactionary side of every major question.

resist every effort made by employers to interfere. Pegler has shown his color and proven himself to be what we have charged, an employers' stooge.

U. S. Big Business spokesmen introduced in the Philippine Legislative Assembly on April 18 a bill calling for the registration of labor leaders. The bill provides that "only those who are qualified to assume the responsibilities of leadership of workers would be permitted to register as labor leaders."

RADIO WORKERS OUT ON STRIKE AT AIR KING

Local 430 of the CIO's United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers won an important victory last week, when it compelled the Transformer Corporation of America to sign a contract in order to settle a month's strike.

To strengthen a similar strike at Air King Radio, the union is picketing the Sears Roebuck stores, which insists on selling the Silvertone Radios manufactured by the struck company.

175 workers of the Air King Radio Co., on 63rd St. Brooklyn, N. Y., refused to go to work on Friday morning, May 17, after four workers in the plant had been locked out by the management for union activity.

The shop manager discharged the workers on what he called "orders from Beedie." The workers demand that a labor board election be held in the shop and that the four workers discharged be reinstated pending the outcome of the election.

Beedie called a meeting last week to explain to the "union membership" his action in the case. There were about 100 workers present. Twenty to thirty were imported from New Jersey, ten were shop supervisors sent there by the boss and the others apparently were either bosses' stooges or curious onlookers.

The spirit of the workers is strong and militant. They plan to resist any attempt to break the picket line such as has been tried in the Transformer Corporation of America strike here, where the workers struck for the same reasons as at Air King.

Fraternally yours, SUMMIT COUNTY TRADES AND LABOR ASSEMBLY Chalmers K. Stewart, Corresponding Secretary

Speed Appeal Drive!

A terrific drop in the amount collected for the twice-a-week fund in the last week endangers the whole drive. Only \$74.95 was collected, the smallest amount collected in any week since the drive began.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 4 columns: Branch, Pledged, Paid, % . Lists various cities like Upstate New York, Akron, Rockville, etc.

SELLING THE APPEAL

We have been soft-peddaling the need for Appeal sales and subs. This was because of the current National Office drive for a Twice-Weekly Fund, and also because of our intense desire to see the Fourth International sub-drive go over with a bang, as it is doing.

But we can no longer soft-pedal. The Appeal is badly in need of funds, and bundle payments and sub orders have reached an alarming low. A partial list of delinquents is appended at the end of the column, that all who read may hasten to redeem themselves.

We give you first, however, the complete list of all subs sent in during May. They total only 80 for the entire month, a record which the Fourth International bettered weekly during its subscription drive:

Table with 2 columns: City, Amount . Lists cities like Minneapolis, New York, Los Angeles, etc.

U. S. Bosses Seek Law To Blacklist Filipino Labor Leaders U. S. Big Business spokesmen introduced in the Philippine Legislative Assembly on April 18 a bill calling for the registration of labor leaders.

The opinion was expressed by the bill's sponsors that with its enactment, "labor leadership in the Philippines would become an instrument for peace, that there would be less occasion for violence and sabotage in the settle-