

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Three good union men were killed in Harlan, Kentucky, during the last week. Two of them were shot by National Guardsmen. One of them was killed by a scab over the week end.

Three union men dead. What was their crime? They were only defending their inalienable right to organize, to obtain collective bargaining.

In its strike-breaking activities the National Guard was not satisfied, however, with merely trying to terrorize the Harlan miners by threat of armed force. The Guardsmen used force.

Resentment among the miners, already plenty high because of the presence of the National Guard, reached a breaking point after the shootings.

So what did the Guard do? It rounded up 246 active strikers and their wives and packed them into an over-crowded jail.

Guilty of What?

What was the charge? "Banding and confederating." Phoney from the first letter to the last. A family eating dinner is "banding and confederating" to eat food. A Sunday school is "banding and confederating" to observe religious exercises.

In so many words, the "Crime" of the Harlan miners, according to the National Guard mentality, was getting together and striking.

The charges against the 246 miners and their wives are pure and simple frame-ups. A desperate move to use "Legal" terror against the solid ranks of the strikers. Bail was put at \$257,000 in an effort to keep the strikers in jail and try to break their morale.

It's the same dirty stunt the National Guard always uses to break strikes. They tried it on the auto workers in Anderson, Ind., when we were there during the General Motors strike.

It served to expose the National Guard to many wavering elements. It forged an iron ring of solidarity among the workers. In Harlan, the result will be the same.

A national campaign of the C.I.O. to free the Harlan miners must begin immediately. The three martyrs among the Harlan strikers can be avenged in only one way. The open shop must be smashed. The United Mine Workers should continue its drive until a closed shop and good union conditions prevail in Harlan, Kentucky.

Perhaps John L. Lewis spoke of the Harlan miners in his Chicago speech Sunday and the press failed to mention it. He should have made it such a big point that omission was impossible.

The Harlan victims should be honored by the C.I.O. with the same reverence as the murdered workers of the Chicago Little Steel massacre.

Honor them by fighting against the oppressors who caused their death. And John L. Lewis hardly looked like a fighter or union leader when his only action after the Harlan killings was to write a letter to Frank Murphy, Attorney General demanding protection . . . at a time when Murphy was doing his best to break the W.P.A. workers' strike against starvation wages.

Green Fails

After all these years of the A.F.L.-C.I.O. dispute, William Green, president of the A.F.L., couldn't split the Salem, Mass. labor movement despite the strenuous efforts on his part.

The current issue of the North Shore Organizer, newspaper of the Lynn, Peabody, and Salem, Mass. C.I.O. movement tells the story of how Green's orders to expel C.I.O. unions from the Central labor movement failed completely in the past.

His personal agent, Aaron Veilman appeared at the last meeting and demanded expulsion of the C.I.O. unions or else the charter would be lifted. The body fought unanimously against this tactic but in the end the purge was carried out, although in a different fashion than Green would have liked.

The C.I.O. unions called a recess and met by themselves. They returned shortly and announced that to avoid the A.F.L. unions losing their charter by disobeying Green, the C.I.O. unions would withdraw,

W. A. A. Publicly Joins Strikebreakers

Labor-Skate Lasser Crawls on His Belly To Assure Roosevelt of Fidelity

Finally, after a week of sneaky underhanded sabotage of the W.P.A. strike, the Workers Alliance has openly joined the strike-breakers.

Dave Lasser, president of the Stalinist-controlled unemployed organization, issued his infamous strike-breaking statement on Monday, July 17 in the form of a message to President Roosevelt, informing him that members of his organization's executive council were being polled on a proposal to halt all W.P.A. stoppages and devote all their strength to "orderly"

pressure on Congress.

Strike-breaker Lasser's action was foreshadowed last Saturday when Herbert Benjamin, general secretary of the Alliance, made the following whining comment on Roosevelt's "You can't strike against the government" pronouncement: "The Workers Alliance has a fixed policy with regard to strikes and has not departed from this policy in this instance. We have not called any strikes and are not calling any strikes of W.P.A. workers." (New York Times, July 16.)

Stalinist Outfit Wrecks Alameda W.P.A. Strike

OAKLAND, Cal., July 13 —

Five thousand W.P.A. workers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties returned to work here today after a two-day strike which was deliberately wrecked by the Stalinist Workers Alliance. Urging the workers to "organize on the job" the corrupt "leaders" of the Alliance last night at a meeting held in the Civic Auditorium in Oakland, refused to allow any discussion of the motion to return to work and refused to take a nay vote on the question.

Turning the strike and the strike meetings into a pro-Roosevelt movement, the Stalinists betrayed the workers who had left the projects by the thousands. Deliberately spreading confusion and outright lies and by complete failure to organize picket lines the Stalinists revealed the Alliance as a scab-herding company union.

"You Can't Strike" When the workers responded to the nation-wide spontaneous strike against the Woodrum Bill, the Alliance called a demonstration at which the workers were told "You can't strike against the government". When the Alliance leadership saw that the workers were determined to fight against the coolie wages and the 30-day vacations without pay, they announced a "strike meeting" for the following Monday — two days after the nation-wide strike had begun!

At this meeting the Stalinist bureaucrats of the Alliance tried to head off the movement by pretending it was not a strike but a "protest demonstration". They then called for another meeting to discuss ways and means of picketing the projects which were already closed. In the meantime workers were continuing to walk off the projects and waiting for the Alliance to organize flying squads to bring out the remaining projects.

Intimidate Rank and File At every meeting in Jefferson Park in Oakland the Alliance fakers made long-winded speeches about nothing in particular and attempted to wear out the patience of the workers who saw the strike being sabotaged. At every meeting the Stalinists announced "big plans" for the next day but each day was the same. When the leadership saw that militant rank and file W.P.A. workers were organizing to pull out the remaining projects and were issuing leaflets in support of the strike and urging the leadership to call on the trade union, to organize picket lines and to set up a militant movement to make the strike a success, Alliance leaders became panicky and tried lies and intimidation to prevent the workers from reading the rank and file leaflets.

At the mass meeting held last night in Oakland the Stalinists headed off all discussion by dragging out Lieutenant-Governor Patterson, big-wig in Roosevelt's Democratic Party, who immediately made a campaign speech for himself by urging the people to be calm, to be patient, to continue to vote for Roosevelt's policies, etc. It was a farce and members of the Alliance and Communist Party were overheard trying to figure out what had happened. After a few opportunistic remarks about the "Ham and Eggs" movement, the meeting

but that unity would not be broken.

"We'll find organizational means of working together," the spokesman of the C.I.O. declared.

The Way to Victory!



W.P.A. workers, who struck for union wages and against Roosevelt's relief-cutting, as they held a mass meeting at the North Beach Airport project in New York which is completely paralyzed by the strike.

Boston Appeal Salesmen Hold Ground Against Coughlinites

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

BOSTON, July 8—Excitement reached a high pitch here today, as a gang of Coughlinites hoodlums selling their Social Justice rag, and ably assisted by a Mr. Murphy who claimed his official position is Supervisor of Minors' Licences for the School Committee, attempted to chase Appeal salesmen from the crowded shopping district, and to create a lynch spirit against Johnny Taber, energetic Appeal agent.

Murphy, assisted by a cop pulled Taber aside, although Taber was the only Appeal salesman on the corner, and there were eleven Coughlinites. When other Appeal salesmen went to Taber's side, Murphy tried to get the cop to arrest

all of them. This so angered several citizens that they intervened. Murphy then told the cop to "pull them in, too, for resisting an officer in performance of his duty".

The Appeal men protested so strongly that the cop finally accepted Taber's proposal of one salesman on each corner, and Murphy, evidently a Coughlin supporter, slunk away muttering "I'll get an ordinance passed in the City Council against you guys." People standing around, including a Communist Party member, congratulated them on their stand, and they returned to the sale of the Appeal, where they did better than the Coughlinites.

Watch the Anti-Coughlin Campaign in New York!

By ABE MILLER

N. Y. Literature Agent The sale of the anti-Coughlin pamphlet by the New York local of the Socialist Workers Party indicates that in New York we are taking the first step towards becoming a campaign party. In less than three weeks 8,500 copies of the pamphlet, "Father Coughlin—Fascist Demagogue," have been sold to workers in the main thoroughfares of New York.

Never before have we in New York encountered such widespread enthusiasm as was demonstrated in the streets towards our salesmen. Encouraging words are reported by all salesmen. Small donations for the free distribution of the pamphlet are made quite frequently by anti-fascists. In some cases, workers have voluntarily appointed themselves guards in order to protect our comrades from the Coughlin goon squads. Practically all salesmen are unanimous in reporting that rank and file Stalinists throughout the city purchase the anti-Coughlin pamphlet.

Non-Party Salesmen One of the novel features of this campaign has been the recruitment of salesmen both from party and non-party people. One non-party salesman sold 550 anti-Coughlin pamphlets in three days in the heart of the Needle Trades center.

The branches have instituted regular mass sales in practically every neighborhood where the Coughlinites function. We single out for praise three pamphlets sold by means of their regular sales at Fordham Rd. and elsewhere, the Upper West Side for its sale of 175 pamphlets in one night in Washington Heights, and the small Boro Park branch for its sale of 160 pamphlets sold in the face of many obstacles. All branches have cooperated in assigning comrades to sell at Times Sq. every Saturday, day and night. The Downtown and Lower East Side branches have just insti-

On the W.P.A. Picket Line In Minnesota

By CARL O'SHEA

Squads of youth and women took to the streets Friday selling the Special W.P.A. Strike Bulletin issued by the Northwest Organizer, organ of the Teamsters Joint Council. Twenty-five thousand copies of the Bulletin are being distributed throughout the Northwest.

Here's one for the books. The St. Paul Pioneer Press revealed Friday that Mrs. Chester Watson, employed as a supervisor on a W.P.A. handicraft project in the auditorium, hasn't struck yet.

And who is MR. CHESTER WATSON? He is the president of the Minnesota Workers Alliance, my friends.

The Silver Shirts have organized a rather large group among W.P.A. workers on the University of Minnesota campus, and are opposing the present walkout. Wednesday, July 12, when a group of 544 Federal Workers Section pickets went over to the "U" to picket, one of the fascists pulled a 13-inch hunting knife and stabbed two pickets, Myron Phillips and Lester Wichter. The fink was later jailed, and it was lucky for him the cops took this rat away.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press, traditional reactionary sheet, today for the first time finds itself praising the President for "his firm stand" against the W.P.A. strike.

Thursday morning around 8:30 a group of F.W.S. pickets surrounded Everett school, where some finks were trying to scab. A copper came up, pulled a gun and started waving it at the pickets, yelling: "I'm going to kill a couple of you. I hate W.P.A. workers anyway. And I haven't forgotten what you did in 1934."

He was referring to the '34 truck strike, when the drivers mopped the streets with the entire Minneapolis police force. The cop's number is 470, and the F.W.S. is registering a complaint with city officials.

Incidentally, this is the fourth cop to threaten W.P.A. strikers with death. Other cops, whose numbers are known to 544, have threatened to "kill two of you—s for what you did to Gearty."

Gearty is the cop who died Monday after a scuffle at the Sewing Project. All the boss papers immediately tried to drum up lynch law against the strike by claiming that Gearty was killed by strikers. However, the press quickly choked itself off when Deputy Coroner Callstrom said an autopsy showed death was caused by coronary sclerosis, a heart condition with which Gearty had been afflicted. The minor injuries sustained by Gearty several hours earlier were not a factor in his death, the coroner said.

None of the boss papers told WHY the pickets were so enraged at the fink Frank Fischer and followed him all the way from the Sewing Project to the city hall, where 500 pickets took over the courthouse for an hour.

Fischer had tried to stab a picket with a sharp heavy screw-driver. The pickets were unarmed, and naturally they resented this murderous attempt. Several cops were knocked down while the crowd taught Fischer a little lesson. He was kept in jail for his own protection.

Believe it or not, there's a Stalinist W.P.A. striker in St. Paul who says, "I don't believe those stories in the paper that President Roosevelt is against our strike." A small crowd around him almost laughed themselves sick at the man's credulity.

The Wednesday, July 12 morning papers quoted Richard Adams, secretary of the Duluth Workers Alliance, as calling for a return to work after stating the walkout "here and throughout the nation has received the attention of the people. I feel confident that our elected representatives, being aware of our attitude, will reconsider."

John Janasco, Dan Bell, and the North Central District Council of Federal Workers Sections have got all of western Wisconsin tied up tighter than a bull's-eye in flytime.



MASS DISTRIBUTION OF APPEAL IN W.P.A. STRIKE!

Since the beginning of the present W.P.A. strike the staff of the Socialist Appeal has been working all hours, not only turning out the paper containing the latest news, but also mailing out the orders for extra papers that have come in.

New York City alone has taken 3,000 extra papers. St. Louis and East St. Louis have taken 500 extras. Minneapolis has received 600

extra Appeals. Newark took 200 extra, Detroit 300 extra, Toledo 100 extra, Philadelphia 25 additional, Cleveland 500 total, etc., etc.

The Socialist Appeal is in the front line trenches, supporting the W.P.A. strikers!

The last two issues of the Appeal have already been sold and distributed to the tune of more than 5,000 extra copies!

Send in your extra bundle orders immediately for distribution among the militant W.P.A. strikers! Don't lose a minute!

WORKERS' FORUM

THE GOOD LIFE ON A W.P.A. WAGE

Editor: I am working on W.P.A. about 20 miles from Petersburg in the National Park district called Swift Creek Recreational Area. 12 hours for 8 hours' pay. We leave here at 6 and "time" starts at 8. We get 28 cents an hour, 140 hours a month, \$39.20 total pay a month on which to support my wife and baby. It's killing me. For those who stay in the city on city projects the pay is 26 cents an hour.

A rather difficult place to crack the shell—but I'm going to do my damndest. Would appreciate if you have any old Appeals or any beginner's literature which you could send me. You can get pretty blue around here. I'll appreciate hearing from you.

Comradely yours, Jimmie L. Petersburg, Va.

"CHARITY" BEGINS WITH HOUNDING OF SICK

Dear Editor: Do you know about the "charity" and benevolence of our local Los Angeles County Charities officials? If not may I inform you that tuberculars, many of whom are near skin and bones are having their meagre and insufficient "relief" checks reduced from the former eleven dollars to only nine dollars a month. Thirty-six cents a day is evidently too much money for these poor un-

CONGRESS 'LIBERALS' BACK DOWN

Desert WPA Strikers As They Follow Their White House Leader

Declaring that strikes of W.P.A. workers throughout the nation had "embarrassed" the members of Congress, Senator James E. Murray and Representative Adolph Sabath, leaders of the "left wing" New Dealers, announced Saturday, July 15, that they had withdrawn their bills calling for the restoration of the prevailing wage on W.P.A.

Senator Murray said that the strike situation made it "inopportune to immediately press for the restoration of the prevailing wage."

"I never try to do the impossible," said Representative Sabath, who only a few days ago had given his oath to organized labor to push the restoration in the House.

Reports from Washington point to the fact that the "friends of labor" in Congress had asked A.F.L. officials to call off the strike, as the price for their support of the prevailing wage amendments.

What is left now of the carefully concocted fairy tale—invented by the Stalinists—that a staunch band of New Dealers were ready to fight to the death against the new relief-smashing measure?

The Daily Worker, lying in this as in all other things, reports in its Monday, July 17 issue, that Congressmen Murray and Sabath had "refused to concede that the (prevailing wage) issue was dead."

"Sabath however declared that the possibility of his prevailing wage resolution being reported favorably by the House Appropriations Committee did not look bright." (Daily Worker, July 17).

fortunates, according to our supervisors or similar parasitic politicians in charge of the "relief".

On top of this, most of these poor people are constantly humiliated by visits from fake "social workers" who are nothing but detectives paid excellent salaries to watch these poor people, how they spend their money or if they are home all the time. Besides this they are constantly made to sign papers, dozens of them which invariably repeat that they are paupers or words to that effect and have no money. In the case of those who own a miserable home, many liens are filled out and their homes mortgaged to the county. Even police are resorted to and come running in at night to see if the patients are home sleeping and not out attending a movie, for you must know that to attend a movie and forget your troubles is a crime.

Hounding the Aged

The aged recipients of state old age "security" are likewise ill-treated. If the so called "social worker" finds that the aged man or woman receives free rent, ten dollars will be deducted from the thirty-five dollars which he is supposed to receive, leaving him twenty-five dollars a month on which to exist. He too is constantly watched and dogged by women detectives as if he were a criminal and asked the same questions over and over again. Such is the "charity" and benevolence of our public paid "servants" who receive enormous salaries to cut down the most meagre and inadequate relief to the sick and aged.

A thorough investigation can readily prove the above statements. It is about time that we rid ourselves of these political parasites and imbeciles who receive fat pay for making people miserable.

J. L., Los Angeles, Cal. June 28, 1939.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF STALINIST SABOTAGE

On Monday, July 10, a few of us on the newspaper indexing project, members of the American Workers Alliance, issued a petition to our fellow workers, asking them to sign if they were willing to participate in a one-day protest strike and picket line in front of the Stevens Hotel where Col. Harrington and other W.P.A. administrators were in session.

Our protest was to be against the Woodrum Bill and against the coming lay-offs. Since many of us would be affected and laid off because of the 18 month employment clause, we wanted to let the administrators know how we felt about it. Also, we were opposed to the cuts in the prevailing wage scale.

Placing Guilt The workers on the project were ready to strike. They had responded very favorably to a leaflet which attacked the Woodrum Bill, Roosevelt and the New Deal, and which explained the need for strike action. However, sabotaged the preparations so effectively that only 23 signatures were gotten on the petition and on this basis they called off the strike at the last moment.

They later explained that it would have been wrong to picket Col. Harrington and his aides, since it was not his fault that the layoffs and cuts had to be made, but the fault of the "Tories" who were pushing in that direction. The Stalinists said that Roosevelt was not to blame either. But we on the project who will be laid off in the coming weeks are not interested in finding alibis for Roosevelt and the New Deal. We place the guilt on those who are responsible and who carry through the cuts—the man in the White House and the government he heads.

Project Worker. Chicago, Ill.

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