

## NEW DEAL HOUNDS WPA STRIKERS

### Attorney General Seeks Indictment Of Union Leaders

Attorney General Frank Murphy announced to the press on Wednesday—July 19—that he had ordered the United States District Attorney in Minneapolis to conduct a grand jury investigation there "into charges that W.P.A. strikers had interfered with persons wishing to work in Minneapolis and St. Paul."

Thus Murphy has already proceeded to carry out the threat he made in his July 13 statement that "There must be no strike against the government of the United States by any one, anywhere, at any time. . . . Those leaders who have moved to exploit the protests of W.P.A. workers in violation of the Federal statutes will be prosecuted."

Murphy then singled out Minneapolis, as a place where "evidence of labor racketeering or criminal conspiracy against the nation's relief program" may "result in indictments." And now, according to the press reports, he has moved to get those indictments.

Obedient to Murphy's commands, Victor E. Anderson, United States District Attorney in Minneapolis, announced the same day that the Federal government "undoubtedly will issue complaints and begin prosecution of strike pickets or demonstrators within a few days." (Minneapolis Tribune, July 19.)

He is only waiting, said Anderson, for the formal report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation G-men who converged on this city when the strike began. But he has already "surveyed the evidence" they gathered and is sure that it provides the basis for prosecuting strike pickets.

### Roosevelt Move Is Part Of His Anti-Labor Drive

This Minneapolis move is perhaps the most brazen anti-labor action yet taken by the Roosevelt Administration. If it gets away with this, it will go on to prosecute W.P.A. strikers everywhere, as part of the administration's general onslaught against the labor movement.

"The President is now definitely aligned against Labor."

### Every Union Must Act to Defend The Minneapolis Trade Unions!

Such was the accurate conclusion reached by the Minnesota Union Advocate, organ of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, in its editorial of July 13.

Ruthlessly the Roosevelt administration seeks to crush the militant labor movement. Roosevelt got from an obedient Congress a law destroying the union wage on W.P.A. projects, but this was only his opening gun in a long-range campaign to destroy the entire wage-structure of the building trades unions, as is revealed by Attorney General Murphy's announcement of an "anti-trust" prosecution of the building trades unions in September. When the W.P.A. construction workers struck against this union-destroying decree, the Roosevelt administration declared their strike illegal, punished the strikers by dismissing them from the W.P.A. on the fifth day of their strike, declared them ineligible for direct relief, and sent an army of G-men into the principal strike areas to act as strikebreakers and gather evidence for the prosecutions which are now being initiated in Minneapolis.

### Increasing Examples of His Anti-Labor Game

Roosevelt's appointees, the United States Maritime Commission, are openly engaged in an attempt to destroy the union hiring halls of the West Coast seamen's unions, and are training finks for a war against the unions on "training ships" which even the pro-Roosevelt National Maritime Union has finally been forced by its rank and file to boycott. Roosevelt's National Labor Relations Board now will order plant elections upon application by employers—the most vicious union-busting device conceivable.

Roosevelt himself, in his April 27 relief budget message, dictated to Congress the slashing of one-third of the W.P.A. rolls, down, down, down, from the November figure of 3,350,000 to his figure of 2,000,000—an absolute drop of 1,350,000 jobs.

"The President is now definitely aligned against Labor." That's the simple truth which every worker must henceforth take into account.

### Why He Picked Minneapolis For the Attempted Frame-Up

Murphy's choice of Minneapolis to initiate his prosecutions is not a haphazard choice. He has picked out Minneapolis for a number of reasons.

First and most immediate, Minneapolis labor has the honor of being the most united phalanx in the fight against the W.P.A. cuts. A.F.L. and C.I.O., employed and unemployed, skilled and unskilled, have joined together in Minneapolis in a Joint Action Committee which made the strike there 100% effective, closing down all projects. If that had only happened in all other important cities, the W.P.A. strike would have won its demands by now hands down. For this "crime," Minneapolis labor is to be prosecuted by the Roosevelt administration.

Second, Minneapolis is the best-organized city in the United States. Under the inspiration of the great truck-drivers' strikes of May and July-August, 1934, that city, once an open-shop town, has a higher percentage of union organization per working population than any other city in the country, according to the U. S. Department of Labor. Wages in the teaming crafts have more than doubled since 1933, and other wages have risen correspondingly. For this "crime," too, Minneapolis labor is to be prosecuted by the Roosevelt administration.

Third, Minneapolis labor has the honor of having initiated the movement which transformed the International Brotherhood of Teamsters from a craft union of 60,000 members to the biggest and most powerful union in the country, semi-industrial in form, numbering now at least 400,000 members. As late as 1935 the International was an aristocratic organization of driver-salesmen in the cities. Now it is primarily constituted by the over-the-road truckers, one of the two or three most strategic groups of proletarians in economy. This great movement came out of the North Central District Drivers Council initiated by General Drivers Union Local 544 of Minneapolis, which generously gave its most qualified forces to the creation of

### F.D.R. to Prosecute Unions for 'Crime' Of Being Progressive

this movement. The eleven state over-the-road agreement wrested from the great trucking corporations last year expires on August 31, and the unions are girding to secure renewal and betterment of this unprecedented contract. For this "crime," too, Minneapolis labor is to be prosecuted by the Roosevelt administration.

Yes, the Minneapolis trade union movement is today the most progressive section of the entire American labor movement. And for this "crime," it is to be prosecuted by the Roosevelt administration.

### Minneapolis Labor Leaders Foresaw Roosevelt Move

With their usual intelligence and ability, the Minneapolis trade union leadership foresaw this move of the government. The resolution adopted by a joint meeting of A.F.L.-C.I.O. trade union leaders on July 15 at the Central Labor Union, placing responsibility at the door of the Roosevelt administration for the murder of Emil Bergstrom and the shooting and injury of 24 other strike pickets, concluded:

"That this labor movement calls upon the people of the United States . . . to unitedly defeat any prosecution or frame-up attempt as a result of the murderous assaults of the Minneapolis police."

Now Murphy and his G-men are attempting the frame-up. Every worker and friend of labor, every sincere believer in democratic rights, has the elementary duty to solidarize himself with the Minneapolis labor movement against this attempted frame-up.

Every trade union and fraternal organization in the country should adopt resolutions protesting against this prosecution, send the resolutions adopted to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Murphy, with copies to the Central Labor Union, North 8th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Minneapolis is only the first intended victim. Stop Murphy in his tracks before he gets started!

### Thousands of Minnesota Workers Turn Out for Bergstrom Funeral

Speakers at Funeral Services of Martyr Who Fell on the W.P.A. Picket Line Vow that "He Shall Not Have Died in Vain"

By ARTHUR HOPKINS

MINNEAPOLIS, July 19—Minneapolis labor laid away to rest another martyr to its cause Tuesday when thousands of workers jammed the halls of the Central Labor Union to pay their last respects to Emil August Bergstrom, 60, slain by police brutality at the sewing project, 2nd Avenue North and 2nd Street last Friday.

Additional thousands thronged 8th Street North before the C. L. U., unable to get in there, but determined to express their solidarity with their slain brother worker.

Peter Murck, president of the Building Trades Council, acted as chairman and introduced the speakers who rendered solemn tribute to the sacrifice of Emil Bergstrom. Walter Frank, chairman of the joint union-W. P. A. committee in charge of the W.P.A. strike, was the first speaker. He bitterly assailed the brutality of the police and condemned the society which allows such brutality to go unpunished. "He shall not have died in vain," vowed Frank, expressing the innermost sentiments of his listeners.

Geldman Speaks  
Max Geldman, organization secretary of the Federal Workers Section, General Drivers Local 544, declared that Bergstrom will be the flaming symbol in the workers' struggle for a decent living standard. "He is our unknown soldier," said Geldman, and declared that Bergstrom will take his place alongside Henry Ness and John Belor, labor martyrs killed by the police in the 1934 truck strike.

"We must struggle not only to repeal the vicious Woodrum relief bill," said Geldman, "but we must also build for a"

### MONKEYS WELL FED WHILE JOBLESS STARVE

Relief for Humans Is Slashed — Monkeys' Conditions Improved

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ST. LOUIS, MO.—The jobless here envy the monkeys. Last week they read in the local press that: "The new \$70,000 monkey house at the St. Louis Zoo is nearing completion, and in a few weeks the chimpanzees, gorillas, and orang-utans will move into its spacious and well-ordered quarters."

The monkeys will be well-housed and well-fed but not so their civilized "descendants," the unemployed workers and their children. On top of wage cuts and discharges for W. P. A. workers, the same day's paper reported a drastic reduction in home relief allotments

### W.A.A. Strikebreakers Stand Self-Accused

Few Workers Answer Call to Attend Patriotic Assembly

NEW YORK, JULY 20—The

Stalinist-controlled Workers Alliance today ran a patriotic rally for the Roosevelt administration instead of planning any serious action to force Congress and Roosevelt to abolish the Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Law.

Having assured the President that they were agreed that nobody could strike against the government, and having spent the fifteen days since the strike broke out pouring cold water on the W. P. A. workers, the Alliance leaders were scarcely surprised to find less than 1,000 workers attending the "demon-

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Lasser Publicly Proclaims Scab Role of Stalinist Outfit

By RAY ROBBINS

David Lasser, president of the Workers Alliance, chose Minneapolis, storm center of the nation-wide W. P. A. strike hurricane, to go over openly and brazenly to a strike-breaking position against the W.P.A. strike.

The Workers Alliance, pushed into a tight spot by the militant strike movement which began July 5 against the Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Law, had then announced a one-day stoppage, setting the date for action far in the future—July 20—in the hope that the strike would fold up before that date.

Stalinist Camouflage  
Besides acting as a phony cover for their anti-strike, pro-Roosevelt stand, the one-day stoppage proposal served the Stalinist leaders of the Alliance as a license to scab on all the other days of the strike.

But the strike didn't collapse. And the date for the stoppage, July 20, grew nearer.

Alliance Gets Cold Feet  
Alliance leaders began to get a bad case of cold feet. Their master, Roosevelt, had spoken sharp words. "You can't strike against the government."

Through the agency of mouthpiece President Lasser, the Workers Alliance showed its true colors—a slimy, strike-breaking yellow.

### New Haven Cops Arrest Two At Anti-Coughlin Meeting

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

NEW HAVEN, Conn., July 19—Two members of the Socialist Workers Party were arrested last night for participating in the first of a series of Anti-Coughlin street meetings now in progress in this city. The trumped-up police charge is "peddling without a license" and the two anti-fascists, Al Harde and Ray Robbins, are under the exorbitant bail of \$300 each.

Despite this vicious attack on the democratic right of free speech by the cops, the plans for the second meeting in the series went through without a

hitch and hundreds of workers thronged to Asylum Street to listen to anti-fascist spokesmen.

The arrests were made Tuesday night at the first anti-Coughlin rally to be held by any organization on the streets of New Haven. The meeting had been going on for more than an hour when the cops stepped up and arrested the speaker on the platform, after buying the pamphlet, "Father Coughlin, Fascist Demagogue," as evidence.

At the police station, Ray Robbins and Albert Harde were treated like bank robbers by

### New York Strike to Continue Full Blast Says Union Leader

Murray Statement On WPA Strike

NEW YORK, July 18—Thomas A. Murray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council, issued the following statement this afternoon:

"We of organized labor hold the following truths to be self-evident:

"1. That no union man is now, or has been since the beginning of this stoppage, at work on any of the W.P.A.'s construction projects in the City of New York.

"2. That no union man will ever resume work unless he is paid at the prevailing rate of compensation.

"3. That no skilled craftsman in even one-fiftieth of the numbers needed can be obtained outside the ranks of organized labor.

"4. That the hangars at North Beach which are now mere steel skeletons and the other half-done projects throughout the city will remain standing for posterity, as they are, like the ruins of ancient Rome, unless the authorities change their minds about the principle of the prevailing wage.

"5. That the people, in the aggregate, will not permit the authorities, by their pig-headed attitude in refusing to restore the prevailing rate of pay, to have those projects, into which millions of dollars have already been poured, left standing exposed to the elements, unfinished, worthless, as a monument to the fact that the elected representatives of the people, in this year 1939, deliberately and brazenly refused to carry out the will of the overwhelming majority of their constituents."

Declaring Union Resolve to Push the W.P.A. Strike Until Victorious, Murray Exposes Somervell's Statements as Made of Lies

By TONY CHAPMAN

NEW YORK, July 20—The Executive Committee of the Building Trades Council unanimously resolved at its meeting yesterday "to continue, with all the vigor at its command, to protest on all W.P.A. projects by refusing to work for the sub-standard wage rate set up by Congress in the new W.P.A. Act."

Answering local W.P.A. administrator Brehon Somervell's assertions to the press that the "damned strike" is on the wane, President Murray of the New York Building Trades Council declared:

"It is obvious, from the reports received from our business representatives who are out in the field getting information at first hand, that the statements of Colonel Somervell, to the effect that he is getting along without union mechanics, are absolutely and unqualifiedly false."

Work at Standstill  
All work on the mammoth North Beach Airport remains at a complete standstill and other W.P.A. projects in the city are in a state of disorganization.

The Building Trades Council dispatched telegrams a week and a half ago to all Congressmen from New York City. Although eleven Congressmen have already replied favorably, still to be heard from is Congressman Vito Marcantonio, darling of the Stalinists and the President of the Stalinist-controlled International Labor Defense.

Returning from North Beach Airport Thursday afternoon, John J. Brennan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Building Trades Council, reported that of the 23,000 men normally employed on the project, picket captains had counted only 1,500

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### CHICAGO STRIKE OF SKILLED WPA LABOR GROWS

Union, However, Errs In Failing to Draw Unskilled into Strike

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

CHICAGO, July 17—The strike was slow in getting on the way here; but the Building Trades Council has now called out a total of 6,000 skilled workers. It refuses to take any steps to call out unskilled workers from the projects.

The sentiment of these unskilled is quite well demonstrated at the huge sewer projects on the South Side employing about 10,000 workers. The slowness of the unions, plumbers, steam fitters, electricians in calling out their members so larked the unskilled workers that they called them scabs, threw stones at them, cracked several heads and chased them

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