

# Appeal Readers Can Help Us Build the Party

By FELIX MORROW

Those readers of the Appeal who have no contact with our party branches, but who get the Appeal in the mails, at newsstands or from a street salesman—this article is addressed to you.

We want you in our party. Many of you are thinking of joining. Many others want to read our press a while longer before considering joining. Still others of you feel that, for one reason or other, you must remain for a time on the sidelines.

### WE MUST PROVIDE THESE ORGANIZERS

In the program of expansion adopted last month by our convention, we decided that we must "increase the staff by the assignment of twenty more full-time organizers for field work and in the center."

Give to the anti-war party. Give off the sidelines today. Give and give as generously as you possibly can. Send your contribution TODAY to the Anti-War Campaign Committee, 116 University Place, New York City.

## Coughlin Issues Call For Civil War Against American Labor Unions

Father Charles E. Coughlin issued a call for civil war against the American labor movement, in his radio address this Sunday, July 30.

### 'FRANCO'S WAY' NEED NOT BECOME AMERICA'S WAY!

"We will fight you Franco's way", declares fascist leader Coughlin. The same day Franco takes another step on his way: "BURGOS, July 30—Generalissimo Francisco Franco today decreed that all Spanish men between the ages of 18 and 50 must work fifteen days each year for the State without pay."

# Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International—Issued Twice Weekly

BUILD WORKERS' DEFENSE GUARDS

VOL. III, No. 56

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1939



3c a Copy

# Disguised Federal Agents Were 'Rioters' in Mpls. W.P.A. Strike

## Ohio Auto Strikers Beat Back Police Tear Gas and Bullet Barrage

**CLEVELAND, Ohio, July 31**—Five thousand infuriated C.I.O. auto workers and sympathizers this morning hurled themselves at an army of 500 armed police at the strike-bound Fisher Body plant and drove the cops to cover.

In a two-hour pitched battle, between 6 and 8 this morning, the aroused workers incensed by repeated police brutalities gave a blow for blow, amidst heavy clouds of tear gas and in defiance of bullets, clubs and horses' hooves, to send the largest aggregation of police ever assembled in this city reeling back behind the plant gates and crying "Truce! Truce!"

## HIT AT UNIONS IN GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION

**Try to Get Something On Local 544 Leaders At Mpls. Hearing**

**MINNEAPOLIS**—Confronted with a united front of the entire Minneapolis labor movement in defense of the WPA strike and its leadership, the federal grand jury began its hearing Monday, July 24, on the Minneapolis strike.

It is becoming quite clear that Murphy and Anderson with the encouragement of the employers are doing their damndest to try to get something on the leaders of the Minneapolis Central Drivers Union, Local 544.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press yesterday headlined the news that "Activity of 'higher-ups' in Minneapolis General Drivers Union 544 during the recent WPA strike in that city is being investigated by the Federal grand jury" and the Minneapolis Tribune relates that "Witnesses who told about union operations in connection with the strike spent more time in the jury room than did those who told of interference with workers."

**Inquiry Expanded**  
Now the press reveals that the jury will expand the field of inquiry next week to take in Mankato, Rochester, Albert Lea, Stewartville, Hopkins, Robbinsdale, and St. Paul.

The hearing opened Monday in a nice dirty atmosphere, with the St. Paul Pioneer Press screaming that scheduled witnesses had received "actual threats" warning them not to appear. The Press was the only Twin Cities paper that carried this lie, and of course presented no evidence to support its talk of "threats." So far about 40 witnesses have been heard, and 70 more are under subpoena for testimony.

## Agents-Provocateur—Ugly Word, Ugly Fact

We call to the attention of the Federal grand jury, now sitting in St. Paul investigating the Minneapolis WPA strike, the following paragraphs from a story in the daily Minneapolis Tribune of July 24, headed "F.B.I. agents who posed as WPA riot pickets to testify in inquiry":

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, about 25 of them, were in a good position to learn what took place around the sewing project in the series of riots July 14, it was disclosed Sunday.

"Wearing overalls and other articles of workmen's clothing, the agents, posing as pickets and onlookers, mingled with the crowd surging around the project building.

"When the shooting and tear gas bombing started, the agents scattered with the rest of the crowd."

**A Slip of the Tongue**  
The most extraordinary thing about this story is that it somehow slipped into the papers. That government agents, in this and other countries, do these things is a known fact, but is usually a little hard to prove.

One famous slip happened when New York police broke up a great unemployed demonstration on March 6, 1930; Police Commissioner Grover Whalen then boasted that his undercover men, shabbily dressed, had marched in the demonstration, shouting slogans and carrying placards.

Whalen's boast was made the subject of a notable article by the late William Bolitho in the New York World; in biting sentences Bolitho asked Whalen whether he had ever heard the term "agent-provocateur", the malodorous French word which has become part of all languages, to describe the government spy who disguises himself as a worker, participates in a strike, demonstration or other labor activity, and incites others or himself to do things which serve to justify governmental repression of workers.

**A Vicious Instrument**  
The Federal grand jury should be reminded that in the post-war years, under Attorneys General Palmer and Daugherty, the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were notorious for their role as agents-provocateurs.

## President of Minneapolis Central Labor Union Answers Attack on WPA Strike

**MINNEAPOLIS**—John Boscoe, president of the Central Labor Union, in a speech Friday night over stations WCCO and KSTP, sharply defended the WPA strike and its leadership against the assault made on them the previous Friday by Republican Governor Stassen.

## Strikers Await Decision On Wages

### Murray Asks Investigation of Situation At Airport Project

**NEW YORK, July 31**—With 30,000 skilled workers of the Building and Construction Trades Council still out on strike, strike leaders were "standing pat" today, awaiting news from Washington as to the disposition of the union proposal to have the prevailing wage restored on projects begun before July 1.

Meanwhile, Thomas A. Murray, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council, suggested, in identical telegrams to the Board of Education, the Board of Estimate and the City Council, that a "thorough and impartial investigation be launched for the purpose of bringing to the public attention the state of affairs which has obtained for the last three weeks at the North Beach Airport and other public works under WPA."

**WPA Officials Lying**  
"WPA officials," the statement continued, "like all employers since time immemorial, have striven to minimize the effectiveness of the stoppage. We consider it highly important that all the people of the city, the members of Congress and those specifically in charge of administering WPA, should learn that work on a \$40,000,000 airport, the two public schools and the other projects has been completely paralyzed and will continue so until such time as the Government authorities see fit to pay the prevailing rate of wages again."

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SHUT TIGHT IN CHI.**  
Needless to say, these three august bodies declined the invitation.

**Where Else Have They Been Used?**  
The jury might also demand that subpoenas be issued for Edgar Hoover, head of the F.B.I. and for his superior, Attorney General Murphy.

**More Walk Out**  
Perhaps the case is somewhat similar there to what is taking place in Chicago. This last week has witnessed additional walkouts by members of the building trades unions bringing their total number to above 300,000.