

In connection with the report on Cuba and Mexico and on the other countries, you probably have more material. I do not know what estimates are made of the developments. But we discussed this matter with the Mexican comrades. There is a great reduction in the number of workers, much unemployment, a layoff of 15 to 20 per cent. The last time I was in Mexico there were many strikes breaking out everywhere, but we not only could not lead them, but we could not even catch up with registering them. But now, while conditions are much worse there are no strikes. The same situation is in Cuba, where we were in a position to do it we brought forth strikes, but small strikes. For instance, the metal workers in Havana declared a strike against piece work and they won the strike, only two or three small enterprises refused to sign the agreement. This is very characteristic, but taken all in all there are no strike movements.

We have a strike of fishermen — 900 workers. I believe I could speak for hours in discussing all the aspects of how this strike was transformed into a political strike, a strike against the government. The strike was carried out in a courageous, brave manner. In connection with this strike the comrades have discovered the Harbor. We held open meetings, and on the 4th of February we organized a solidarity strike. Naturally it is possible to find in this strike a whole series of negative features. It has not developed as we conceived it, but it is fact that about 3,000 workers have gone out on strike. In a nearby town to Havana the whole population was on strike, including the papers ~~papers~~, about 3,000 people were on strike. The whole bourgeois press was stopped, even Machado's press. The Herald of Cuba published a declaration that "our workers are not organized with the other workers, but since we do not want a split we have ~~we~~ decided to stop our paper also. It was hypocrisy but they knew that the comrades were prepared to break up the print shop, and therefore they decided to have the strike. All of the piers of the United Fruit Company are enclosed, and none of our speakers could get into them. You need a credential to get into their piers, and there no one struck. Nevertheless the strike still continues. Machado has improved upon Fish, and the marines are guarding the ships, so the workers cannot take them. Under these conditions the strike is developing. We have written to the United States that the comrades in the United States should internationalize the strike, and although I believe the comrades here are familiar with the resolution how to internationalize strikes, in this struggle they have given us no help at all. One letter from the IWW would have given a great impulse to the continuation of the struggle. (I believe this also must be considered a typographical error, as well as the decision to assume patronato). I sent a letter to the United States that we call upon the workers here to fight against the import of fish. There was great enthusiasm among the workers there, and the stools immediately went to the police telling them that it is against the law, and therefore the union should be declared illegal. Our enemies were more active than our friends. The grocers have stopped credit to the striking workers. The workers live on the other side of the canal, and the ferries which used to carry the workers across have stopped doing so. The government is sending its people to negotiate with them, but the fishermen declared like one man that they are fighting against capital and they do not want any interference from the government. Three strike committees have been arrested, and they will be deported because all of them are Spanish.

Another strike we had was a textile strike in an American enterprise. On the basis of these strikes we were developing solidarity meetings. As I said before the Cuban workers, and many of our members have a tradition of this united front from above, and think that you can do nothing unless the leaders of all of the organizations are in it. On the basis of concrete conditions we have broken this tradition.

In connection with the notices that have been sent out for wage cuts in the various industries, we organized a conference. We sent 25 comrades to the various factories and shops, — not from the telephone book this time, but to factories, inviting representatives from these shops for a conference for a common struggle against the declared wage cuts. We prepared a resolution which ~~was~~ was very clear, and free from too many Communist slogans, written in a popular manner. This was to be voted on in the various factories.