

# ACTION

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CHAPTER 713, UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS—CIO

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## EDITORIAL

### A WORD OF ADVICE

"Muddy water unwisely stirred gets muddier still", runs a wise old Chinese proverb, which is as true today as it was several hundred years ago. Bearing this in mind, let us allow the murmurings and whisperings against our cause to die a natural death. Let us continue to build an organization so strong that no power or combination of powers will be able to destroy it.

Amidst the impenetrable obscurity which now pervades and clouds the atmosphere goes up the hue and cry for vindication of social justice. From this beginning should come that deep seated conviction and inspiration for the task that lies before us coupled with the fact that in this momentous hour our leaders cannot afford to leave us groping blindly in the dark.

Our union has been born. It has received the official sanction of the Panama Canal Administration as well as the Panamanian Government. We have had our first test under fire and it is meet and right that we should make a recapitulation of our gains and shortcomings to serve us as an incentive for the present and a guide to the future. Our hope for survival, however, rests upon the constructive thinking by those determined groups whose faith and loyalty cannot be shaken and who refuse to be stampeded or turned aside from their standard of decency, honesty and justice.

Perhaps no body of workers understands more clearly the meaning of the words racial discrimination, prejudice and humiliation, than the so-called Silver workers of the Canal Zone who for many years have suffered under the relentless guidance of supervisors and workers whose only interests have been to live at ease and a luxury at the same time reducing others to economic slavery.

It is said that democracy recognizes the dignity and individuality of man whether he be black, red, or white; that dignity and individuality are ours because we are all children of one common Father. In the light of these pronouncements and their consequent implications our hopes have not sunk to the lowest depths of despair.

There is no finer ideal or purpose than that which draws a man in close contact with his fellowmen. It brings a new luster to his thoughts of that beauty and character which enriches and ennobles mankind. Combined with this should be the desire and determination to put into tangible action that guiding principle "Love thy neighbor as thyself" as an antiseptic to preserve society from further deterioration.

If there is any doubt in one's mind whether we should organize or that our demands are not reasonable and just, we should pause, retrospect, and retrace our footsteps. If there is still doubt that we should not endeavor to remove the threats to our security and to protect ourselves from exploitation through unity, then we must forever live in economic bondage and serfdom. We have had enough of untold misery

## LOOKING THRU THE PAD

A terrible reduction wave is passing thru this Area and strange things are happening. One is left to wonder how the selection is made. The basis appears to be; Service and Efficiency.

Service and Efficiency, what do these mean to the Post Engineers Department? Must one believe that Mr. Northrup's weekly instructions to foremen went through the window? Or must I refer to Job Instruction Training Card No. 14 which states: "If the workers and foremen haven't learned, the Instructor hasn't taught." I still fail to believe either.

I've been terminated, I haven't the service, but men with several years of service (8-15 years), very good and reliable men in their line of duty, have been terminated, and others with less service and efficiency are retained.

I say very good and reliable because the efficiency rating has five grades: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair and Poor. Since points are given only to Excellent, where do the others come in? Is Very Good as good as poor? How many can acquire Excellent in any department? Must the conclusion be that the Supervisor or Foreman can do without efficient workers for maintenance work? He probably took a few of Mr. Northrup's Instruction cards and tried to train the amateurs, but I wager it will not bring them to the standard of those terminated.

Let the Selectors remember, whether they be Foremen, Supervisors or U.S. experts, what Lincoln said: "In as much as most things are produced by Labor it follows that all such things of Right belong to those whose labor has produced them."

I hope Mr. Northrup at his next meeting will stress and from efficient and reliable employees, and to give credit where credit is due.

So long Pal,  
"THE ROVER"

## A C T I O N

### THE BEST TO READ

and sufferings and unending struggles and we want deliverance as we cannot endure the struggle individually any longer. We have not asked too much. We are only attempting to rectify an injustice which has too long been condoned. We are also attempting to remove a blot from the great American creed of fairplay and justice and reminding ourselves of that fine democratic ideal that all men are created equal and free to follow the pursuit of happiness.

The light of the United Public Workers of America (CIO) will direct us; it will never be extinguished and its spirit will forever remain unhurt and untouched. It is alive, strong and buoyant with hope and courage. The CIO has never been known to let anybody down. We will not let the CIO down.

## "LET'S FACE IT!"

By "Scient"

By Scient.

"The white man cannot keep the Negro in a ditch without staying there with him."

Booker T. Washington.

In September 1939 a nation-wide survey was conducted in the U. S. in which the question was asked, "Do you think Negroes now generally have higher intelligence than white people, lower, or about the same?" From 60 to 77% of the people polled in various parts of the country believed that Negroes are inferior. About 50% of these believed that this inferiority was inborn. IS THERE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR THIS BELIEF? THIS CAN BE ANSWERED WITHOUT QUALIFICATION WITH A LARGE NO!!

### WHAT IS INTELLIGENCE?

In order that there can be no misunderstanding we must first know what is meant by intelligence. Intelligence is the capacity of the individual to think with reason and to deal effectively with his surroundings. It concerns the individual's behaviour as a whole and includes his ability to express himself verbally; the practical application of his knowledge and the facility to use his hands; his ability to deal with other people.

### INTELLIGENCE TESTS

There are a variety of tests used by psychologists to measure various aspects of intelligence. There is no known combination of tests which give the absolute measure of intelligence as a whole. Analyses of the army tests used by the U. S. in the first world war have failed to reveal any difference which could be accounted for on a racial basis. What differences there were, were individual ones. In general the test scores for both White and Negro in some Southern States were lower than the scores for those in some Northern States. In fact Negroes from Ohio and Indiana were superior to whites from Kentucky and Mississippi. This has been interpreted to mean that in the U. S. those people, both Negro and white living in more favorable surroundings, show this in their higher intelligence ratings. A noted anthropologist said: "that in short there is every reason to believe that the Negro when given facility and opportunity will be perfectly able to fulfill the duties of citizenship as well as his White neighbor."

### WHAT IS THE LOCAL EVIDENCE?

Let us use the above definition of intelligence (which we believe is acceptable from the scientific point of view) to examine the Negro worker of the Canal Zone. Has he ability to express himself verbally? Yes, and the majority of the Negro workers can in two languages, which is more than can be said for most white people in the C. Z.

Does he display practical application and facility to use his hands? How better could he show this than by managing to keep alive, fed and clothed on the inadequate income and in his miserable living conditions. Such adaptability shows a very high order of intelligence BUT is not to be interpreted as a liking nor an acceptance of these conditions.

That even here where he is denied almost every opportunity to increase his knowledge you find that he has some how acquired necessary technical skills and, where permitted to, works at skilled occupations with as much ability and judgment as the white worker alongside him.

His ability to deal with people is clearly shown by the important part he has played in the organization of the union; by the leaders of the union who have come from his ranks; by lending his efforts in the struggle for the common interests of all the workers towards a common goal.

Remember Our Watchword:

"WE AIM TO PLEASE"

We recommend "Godfrey's French Hair Dye.

An up-to-date prescription department is always at

your disposal.

**CROWN DRUG**

**STORE**

Corner of Tenth and Central

Avenue.

(Colon Theater Building)

**NORMAN C. BROWN,**  
Pharmacist.