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A C C I O N

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EDITORIAL

It is somewhat annoying to be constantly confronted with internal problems of infinitesimal magnitudes, especially when they can be settled by any steward or officer in the field. It is only natural that the myriad problems should be presented as they appear in any organization of this size. And it is obvious that members be encouraged to present their suggestions and difficulties to any branch of the union. It is the business of every steward and officer to give quick and satisfactory service. But some place, somewhere, a slight strain of dangerous and myopic insincerity has been detected. There is where the danger line is reached and where a firm stand must be adopted if the greatest good for the greatest number is to be achieved.

In other places bona fide labor unions oftening in the interest of honest people are often bothered by what is commonly known as UNION-BUSTING ACTIVITIES. Such activities are conducted by different people in various forms. The most common types appear in the form of a member or a supervisor. These members come in with strange and sarcastic questions about union activity and are insufferably possessed of gripes. These you can know easily; they are almost always loud and persistent in their gripes and are seldom known to contribute constructive suggestions. Then there are the "bosses" who are incessant in their new-found interest in the welfare of the worker and are in possession of unlimited arguments on the inadvisability of joining unions.

Here we are wide open to the attacks of union-busters. It is no secret that a heavy majority of supervisors, controlled by an anti-democratic company union (for that is just what the Metal Trades Council allows itself to be when it encourages the Government in the perpetuation of discrimination against other workers and engages in labor ribaldry), are not appreciative of the new CIO organization and have been known, in several instances, to make attempts at discouraging members. And it is becoming evident that within the ranks there is the trace, just the slightest trace of what could easily be termed anti-UPW activity.

With the supervisors wielding such a heavy influence, as they always have, we of Local 713 must consider ourselves unusually (and probably unreasonably) lucky in that our short existence has not suffered appreciably from the bitterness of the members of the rival anti-labor union. The same goes for our good fortune in the absence of serious disruptions within the ranks. But the possibility of increased efforts from either side is still with us. Our officers and organizers in every nook and corner are vigilant against the fruition of subversive action from any side and will take quick action against it for the preservation of our union, our rights, our all.

It is desired that our membership take warning now and always, that their safety lies, not

CRIES OF A DOCK WORKER

The hiring of labourers and other men employed by the various Steamship Lines, is becoming more and more intolerable and dissatisfactory to the workers owing to the discriminating and partial terms meted out to some men by their immediate supervisor.

You will notice that in units of some Steamship Lines that certain men are given preference to work, thru the existing friendship between an individual, or some family of those individuals. Their system of hiring men is "take who he feels should have the use of money, immaterial of their kind or length of service." There is no seniority or a rotating list which would permit everybody a square deal.

As a matter of fact, the irregularity has reached the point where even men who inconvenience themselves doing certain jobs to aid war efforts, and who surely make their rounds to look for work, are left standing, only to watch others with recent entry into service, going in to work day after day and likewise nightly. The only time consideration is given to these non-favored employees, is when those chosen are satisfied or if there is an extraordinary surplus of work available and there is no other alternative.

We would appreciate very much if some official of these companies would organize a proper method of hiring so as facilitate each and everyone without priority to none. By so doing a proper rotating list would be instituted, and thereby eliminate this "FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION" that is formed by these so-called

GODS which may at some future date make the goodwill of men who have been always earnestly toiling with co-operation, cease towards the preservation of unity.

This is not an isolated case, by the complaints being made from time to time seems to have fallen on deaf ears. However, by this, it is hoped that all measures will be taken whereby a proper system will be instituted to the satisfaction of all concerned.

With the Commissaries

With amusement and surprise the employees of the Balboa Commissary reported having received over-time pay for over-time work spent in taking inventory. This is an agreeable change from the ancient system where any amount of extra hours worked was lost by the workers.

But these workers had more to report on the agreeable side. They are of the opinion that this year they were fairly treated in the purchase of toys. Each was allowed purchases up to \$3.00 and each worker that made the required P.R.D. received his.

Eggs assumed a "gold" character effective December 9th. The order was issued in the commissaries that effective that date no eggs will be distributed to the "silver" stores. Women in the "silver" towns have since been caught in a frantic search for the hens that have been laying these golden eggs. Somehow they managed to agree that no harm must come to these hens when caught. After all, who wants to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs

There is said to be an old tradition in the commissaries; it is so old that no one dares to trace its origin. "Gold" workers in these stores receive a free calendar as a Xmas gift a few days before Christmas. "Silver" workers in the "gold" stores receive one some time in the following months of March or April or May or June or July if they have twenty years or more in the service. Ha! Ha! Ha!

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with those who have kept them in the mire, not with their friends who bubble over with the inconsistent ardor of beefers, but rather with their own initiative and courage, their own perseverance and steadfast faith in the ultimate solution of their problems through vigorous and intelligent action both in the improvement of their work wherever possible and in the constant demands for their just reward.

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GRATEFUL FOR CIO HELP

In October of 1945 Mrs. Alice Murrell found herself in an alarming condition. Her husband, George, was placed on the retirement list. This meant any number of things, from George's inability to continue working up to the possible starvation of them both.

George's disability grant indicated that he has served the Panama Canal from 25 to 40 years. With him out of work and out of health, it was now left for his wife, who had certainly not grown younger during the years, to take up the economic struggle.

But one year later, October, 1946, things grew worst for Alice George became ill. After being confined in the Gorgas Hospital for 3 weeks, he was transferred to the Gorgas Hospital where the mentally ill and infirm are kept.

Exactly what was the nature of his illness and what could be the cause? Was he feeble
 (Continued Page 3)

What! Still There?

An organizer from the Gamboa Chapter reports that the inconspicuous removal of 'gold' and 'silver' signs has been progressing nicely. However, he notes that, while the "silver" sign has been removed from the colored school, the "gold" sign has not been hauled off the white school.

The possible answer for the delay is that while colored children are ill-fed and poor, they somehow manage to have better sight. The white ones must use some form of guides to find their school.

TYPEWRITERS SOON AVAILABLE

Several persons will be interested in knowing that typewriters will be available soon. Circular dated June 15, 1942, authorizing the existence and operation of the Typewriter Control Board for the purpose of restricting the use and sale of these machines on the Canal Zone has been revoked, according to Circular G-345 issued by the Executive Secretary. This action indicates that the emergency is over as regards the availability of these machines. It is expected that some of them will appear on the market within a short time.

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