

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Since the day, several months ago when Ralph De Toledano took upon himself to pen his scurrilous attack upon the defenceless head of the unfortunate so-called "Silver Employee" of the Canal Zone in his infamous article entitled "Stalin's Hand in the Panama Canal", "One of 17,000", who on that occasion took up the cudgels on behalf of the members of Local 713 UPW-CIO has maintained a rigid silence.

This writer feels that the time is now at hand to again voice his sentiments in relation to current events in the history of this interesting and significant organization. Harking back a spell, attention is being invited to two outstanding preachments of Len Goldsmith to the effect that

1. "You must show to the Governor of the Panama Canal that he is wrong in saying you will not last six months."

2. "Attempts will be made to destroy this unity. Regardless of what you are told or what happens, stick together at all costs and nothing can defeat you."

The above quotations are not verbatim, but contain the sum and substance of what he said.

With regard to No. 1. You have fully passed the test. Your demonstration of January 19th last on both sides of the isthmus amply testified as to this. You deserve credit of a high order for that brilliant piece of work. Let's call that Phase No. 1.

Phase No. 2 comes next. How do you stack-up on that? Not so good, brethren, not so good. This stage in the life of every corporate body is the most critical of all. There is nothing spectacular about it. Pageantry or show is absent. It is tedious and irksome. It tries the patience of most; it saps the courage and dampens the ardour of the keenest.

And why? Because it calls for pure unadulterated plugging and the ability to endure under heavy punishment.

There exists at this time within the Union a deep spirit of unrest, a factor that is easily contagious and therefore most likely to spread. It first reared its ugly head at about the time Bros. Robert Weinstein and J. L. Strobel arrived on the Isthmus. It lashed out its tongue at important meetings held at the Pacific side, and to prove to you how easily contagious this insidious disease could be, it quickly showed itself at a certain meeting held at the Atlantic sector. Many will recall the unpleasant re-action to its poison, but few no doubt connected it with item (2) of Bro. Goldsmith's warning.

This warning was interpreted as bearing reference only to the enemy on the outside. Is there an enemy on the outside? That one is easy to answer—for the answer to that if given at a Mass Meeting at Cristobal from the Isthmus right on to Balboa Heights—and we know it can

only consist of three words—"METAL TRADES COUNCIL." Would to God that enemy was the only one on the outside!

Now for the inside. Ever heard the story of the burglary in the big business establishment after the cops moved in? When they told the Boss—"Say mister, this is an inside job"! Can you imagine how he felt? Well, the members of Local 713 must see to it that they never come to feel that way. Remember the story of the Trojan horse? Enquire about it if you don't. It will be an eye-opener.

In other words my friends, this is the time for self-analysis. An honest turning of the eyes inward, and when I say honest I mean just that—HONEST.

Let the rank and file members ask themselves the question—Let the individual stewards do likewise—Let the Chapter Officers enquire within—Let the Executive Board, its officers, individual member - representatives indulge in sincere retrospection—and last but not last, Let the Organizers apply this search-light on to the man within. Then all answer this question:

"HAVE I BEEN CAUGHT NAPPING ON LEN GOLDSMITH'S WARNING?"  
One of 17,000.

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March 5, 1947.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned ships committee was instructed by the ships crew to extend fraternal greetings and an expression of solidarity to the officials and members of your union and to wish you every success in the building of a strong democratic, rank and file union.

We, like you, fight for the principle of freedom and equality regardless of creed, color, sex or nationality.

Faternally yours,  
Ships Committee.

S. R. Moore, W. Rowan, J. Oppedam, S. S. Denison  
Victory.—N.M.U.

## IRANIAN FACTORY WORKERS UNDER MILITARY RULES

TEHERAN—(ALN) — The Iranian army general staff has thought up a slick method to prevent workers from organizing at factories producing for the army.

When the workers started talking union, the supreme council of the army decided that from then on all workers at such factories would be bound by military regulations. The workers, although still technically civilians, are now subject to all the rules of military discipline.

The army heads also decided that all civilian engineers are to be sent to the nation's military academy and on completion of their training will hold military rank.

## Albanian Labor 100% Organized Strongest in Nationalized Fields

TIRANA—(ALN)—Albanian labor unions, free to organize for the first time in the country's history, now have 30,000 members, which is almost the entire Albanian labor force. New labor legislation guarantees union rights and protects workers by providing for paid vacations, social security and other benefits. Before the war the trade union movement was banned when it began to show some strength. Organization started in 1935 at the Italian-owned Koutchevo oil fields but was halted when all union members were fired. Now the Koutchevo fields, which have been nationalized, are a center of union strength.

## CIO AT WORK IN CANADA

TORONTO—(ALN)—A general strike of miners and smelters in Noranda, Quebec, will be called unless the government intervenes on behalf of 800 men who have been on the picketlines for two months demanding 16c. an hour and union security. The general strike warning was given by the Intl. Union of Mine Mill & Smelter Workers 'CIO' which covers 20,000 workers in the area. Pickets have been marching up and down daily before property of the Copper & Mines despite tear gas attacks by police and weather about 40 degrees below zero.

## Hindu And Moslem Workers, Religious Enemies For Centuries, Unite In Labor Unions.

BOMBAY—(ALN)—The Indian scene is rapidly shifting from one of Hindu - Moslem communal riots to one of united strikes, in which Hindu and Moslem workers are marching side on the picketlines. In every case the workers are coupling the demand for a living wage with a call for freedom from British exploitation.

In Calcutta, where five months ago communal riots resulted in one of the biggest manslaughters in Indian history, 20,000 Hindu and Moslem workers are now conducting joint strikes. Textile, engineering, tobacco and government workers are already involved and strike ballots have been taken by 7,000 transport workers, 40,000 port workers and 5,000 electrical workers.

Some of the strikers have been out for months and have stood the test of concerted employer attempts to divide them on communal issues.

The militancy of Calcutta workers was highlighted Jan. 10, when employees of 34 government offices in the city walked out in solidarity with the workers of one depart-

ment who had been striking since Dec. 20 against mass layoffs. Armed police turned out, beating and wounding pickets and arresting 200. The workers responded by shutting down every shop and private office in the city. The universities were also shut tight when students walked out in sympathy.

The entire jute belt around Calcutta — the biggest concentration of British capital in India — is also simmering. Joint Hindu-Moslem delegations are besieging owners' offices daily demanding higher pay and other improvements. A strike of the entire jute industry is anticipated.

In northern India, the industrial center of Cawnpore is the scene of a general strike involving 100,000 textile and tannery workers who walked out Jan. 6 when police killed eight workers and wounded 55 others.

Every section of the Cawnpore population is backing the strikers. Students, shopkeepers and middle class office employes have all participated in sympathy strikes.

## CHINESE GOVERNMENT STILL HOLDS U.S. UNION PROPERTY

SHANGHAI—(ALN) — The Chiang Kai-shek government is still holding on to the CIO and AFL-donated labor centers it seized from the Chinese Assn. of Labor last summer although it replied to protests from the American labor organizations by saying the union property had been re-

turned.

John J. Schuller, representative of the CIO Community Services Committee who went to China to investigate the situation, has now been told by a spokesman of the Ministry of Social Affairs that the centers "would be returned in the spring."

## Notice On Dues Cards

**ALL STEWARDS AND MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT THE DELIVERY OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED.**

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 15th CARDS SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF STEWARDS NOT LATER THAN 5 DAYS AFTER REMITTANCE IS MADE TO THE OFFICE.**