

Official Organ
of
Local 713
UPW-CIO

Non-political



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UNION PAPER

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FREE

BURNHAM'S STORY ON UNION FINANCES VICIOUS DISTORTION

"Expose" Base Admixture Of Fiction And Facts

No "Whitewash" Policy Contemplated.

Francisco Arauz, President of Local 713 UPW-CIO, denounced today the lying attack made on the Union by "The Nation" yesterday. Mr. Arauz stated it was calculated to spread erroneous reports among the members of Local 713 and the citizens of the Republic.

Mr. Arauz said "He was shocked at the irresponsible and slanderous character of the article. The story was shot through with vicious lies, distortions, exaggerations, and half-truths. It will take its place in newspaper history as an unexampled piece of "yellow" journalism."

"The officers and members of Local 713 resent this treacherous attack upon the integrity of the union. They will not sit idly by while a newspaper attempts apparently to use their organization as a convenient target to bolster its sagging circulation."

In answer to the charge of "whitewashing" the report, President Arauz stated that the Local Executive Board will not conceal and has never intended to conceal the facts of the audit from the membership. He said, "The Executive Board has turned over the audit to a special investigating committee so that the information contained in it might be studied in a responsible fashion. When the investigating committee has reported back to the Executive Board, the membership will be fully informed of the results. If any persons are found to have misappropriated funds of the Local they will be dealt with accordingly."

Mr. Arauz stated, "It is true that the auditor's report disclosed several irregularities in the handling of funds. However, the total of the discrepancies as specified by the auditor's report amounts to \$806.50. This figure is less than one-half of one per cent of the total funds handled by the Union from August 1946 to May 31, 1947. This is a far cry, indeed, from the lying streamer across the "The Nation" yesterday which proclaimed that thousands were missing. However, even if only \$5 were missing from the local's funds, the officers would view the matter with grave concern."

Mr. Arauz stated that the investigating committee has nearly concluded its inquiry and that an executive board meeting of the Local will be held next Sunday to hear its report and to take appropriate action.

He also said that he had discussed the matter thoroughly with Mr. Max Brodsky, the Regional Director. He

"They are trying to provoke you" . . .

Brodsky

Following is a statement to the members of Local 713 from Max Brodsky, Regional Director.

You have no doubt read or heard of by this time the newspaper article which appeared in "The Nation" on Monday, October 6th. Headlines on the article screamed that thousands of dollars were missing. It claimed that \$105,000 was sent to the International Union in Washington. It said that there were unsupported expenditures of union funds amounting to several thousand dollars, and it concluded by asserting that the Executive Board of the Local had attempted to conceal the results of the auditor's report from the membership.

These statements are all downright lies. These are the reckless statements of a newspaper that is out to wreck the proud union which the "silver

employees have built with their sweat and toil. These lies roll from the mouth of the same editor who a few short months ago stated that it was unreasonable for "silver" employees to demand an equal right to hold civil service positions in the U. S. Government. Could we have expected better from one who has dealt so shamelessly with the futures of the "silver" employees.

Of course, I desire that the membership of the Local be made fully aware of the results of the audit. It is true that there are some irregularities. However the total amount of the discrepancies is \$806.50. This is less than one-half of one percent of the total funds handled by the union during the period covered by the audit. Even though the amount is relatively small, compared to the total funds handled, it is viewed as a matter of grave concern. I would consider it grave if it were found that only \$5 of the many thousands handled by the union were missing.

I know that it is a bitter ordeal for you to endure the taunts and jibes of your bosses who have been hoping and praying for the downfall of the CIO every since it appeared on the Isthmus. Remember — they are trying to provoke you because they hate and fear the CIO. Were it not for the union, they would treat you as harshly as in the past. Rest secure in the thought that the amount of excitement and interest aroused in our organization is a measure of its strength and power.

Let us shout to our enemies that we have had enough of the past. Now, we have a new-found dignity and we walk with our heads high. Lies and rumors will not divide us and "The Nations", the Brodie Burnhams and all the other labor-hating enemies of mankind will crack their pens and bust their heads on our structure.

A STATEMENT

The fact-finding Committee is working strenuously in order to present a report of its findings to the Executive Board on Sunday, October 12, 1947.

The Committee is not allowing any disclosure to influence or to stampede its action.

The membership can depend on it to protect the Union's interests.

Sgd.: R. T. ELLIS,
Chairman.

was informed by Mr. Brodsky that the International Union in Washington was being closely advised on the matter and that, if the situation warranted, appropriate action would be taken by the International Union.

President Arauz stated, "We of the CIO regard this article as an attack to weaken and divide us. But we are made of finer stuff than this. We have a proud heritage of courageous and militant struggle to obtain a better of life for ourselves and our families. This union which we have put together with our toil and sweat will not so easily burst asunder."

He concluded by saying, "The thousands of CIO members on the Isthmus join with me in declaring that the CIO, the hope and promise of our lives is bigger and finer than the mud-slinging journal that seeks to sully our name. We know that the stronger we become and the more we accomplish for the "silver" employees of the Canal Zone the more vicious will the opposition grow. This scurrilous attack is a sign that we have come of age."

DON'T BE STAMPEDED! HOLD THE LINE!