

LABOR VIEWS

NO. 6.

JUNE 19, 1946

"NO STRIKE" UNION LEADERS VETO MASS ACTION Against Anti-Labor Legislation

TRUMAN VETOS CASE BILL

LIKES HIS OWN BILL MUCH BETTER

Harry S. (Strikebreaker) Truman has vetoed the infamous Case bill only to insist upon his own type of anti-labor legislation. He tells Congress to go back and study this problem more thoroughly. Meanwhile, he stands pat for his "temporary" (for the "duration of the emergency") legislation.

From the ruling-class point of view Truman is right. By enacting temporary anti-labor bills the way is left open to change them to meet future situa-

To meet the threat of most vicious anti-labor legislation pending in Congress the leading lights of Chicago CIO, AFL and the Independent Railway Brotherhoods held their first joint meeting in Chicago's history (May 29). What did these leaders decide?

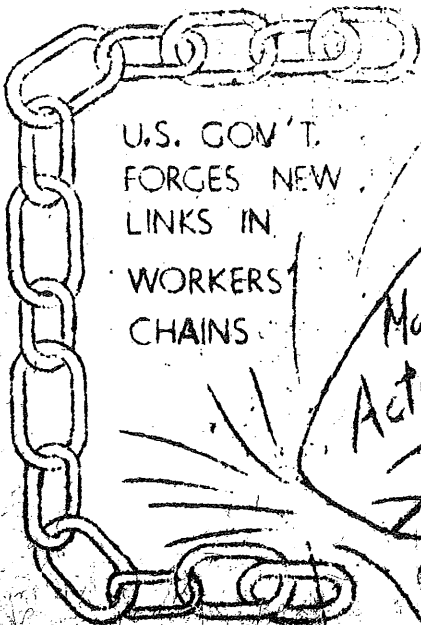
They decided that we should all write to our congressmen.

These are the very same union officials who administered the "no - Strike" pledge during the war. Once again they are leading Chicago labor down a blind alley. In response to the recent imperialist war these "leaders" told workers, "Don't strike," and the big industrialists soaked in untold millions in profit.

Now the ruling-class government wants to pass laws making this no-strike pledge legal and permanent. And again these "leaders" have come together and told Chicago's workers "Don't strike! Don't take any mass action! Send a letter to your congressman!"

tions. When the struggle between the workers and the ruling-class is sharpening -- as it is now -- then they can "pour on the coals" against the workers. Thus, Truman's present "temporary" measures are more brutal than the Case or other bills from the floors of Congress.

Truman's measure includes not only such provisions as federal seizure of the struck industry and federal injunctions "against violence" (meaning against picketing) but the (1) drafting of strikers, (2) rescinding of their seniority and re-employment rights, (3) jailing of strike (to page 2)



U.S. GOV'T FORGES NEW LINKS IN WORKERS CHAINS.



ONLY MASS ACTION CAN SMASH ALL ANTI-LABOR BILLS

organize protest strike!

ANTI-LABOR BILLS

(FROM PAGE ONE)

leaders.

These are the most direct and ruthless of the anti-labor measures pending. The drafting of strikers is so ruthless that the Senate refused to consider it practical. But the same Senate passed the Case Bill providing-- among other things:

- (1) Compulsory cooling off period, 30-60 day
- (2) Prohibition of unions for supervisory employees.

And Senator Lucas, elected with support of the so-called Communist Party, has a measure on the Senate floor asking:

- (1) Penalties against strikers and
- (2) Criminal penalties against strike leaders in government seized industry.

The Byrd-Robertson Bill merely adds a provision against union - controlled royalties, and the Hobbs Bill makes it a "racket" for striking workers to halt the movement of interstate goods.

Thus, the only argument between the "pro-" and "anti-" labor forces in government is on how best to chain us down.

Sending letters and telegrams to Congress may help to stop the passage of one bill while another is being written. There

is only one language that the ruling-class and its government really recognizes--unified mass action. We urge CIO, AFL, independent and unorganized workers to elect representatives to inter-union, inter-industry councils. These councils should immediately organize a

NATION-WIDE ONE DAY
PROTEST STRIKE AGAINST
THE PENDING ANTI-LABOR
LEGISLATION.

We further urge that these unified nation-wide workers councils be set up permanently--for the attacks against workers have just begun.

LESSON OF THE DAY

Dr. Johnson, superintendent of Chicago schools, has resigned; and there is great rejoicing by the kept procs and civic groups. "Hurray, Chicag's school system is at last being cleaned up!" they are saying.

But when we cut through this cloud of joyful propaganda we see that nothing could be farther from the truth. Johnson who was sacrificed to assuage the public anger is not "top officer in the school system at all. He is appointed by the Board of Education whose president, McCahoy, is the head man.

Of course, they tell us a "new" school board is to be formed. How? The mayor, Mayor Kelly, is to create a new commission whose job will be to supply him with names of people eligible for board appointment. Members of the present board will be eligible for these nominations. And Mayor Kelly will then appoint the new board just as he appointed the old.

Such clumsy quackery! What worker in Chicago doesn't know that the school system will remain part of whatever political machine is in power? What, then, is the real change in the school system called for by the Chicago Sun and other organs of the rich?

SCHOOL REFORM A FRAUD

They simply call for a more efficient head-fixing school system. Where "spying, intimidation of teachers, nepotism, political interference with teaching ethics, and questionable textbook practices" is rampant in the schools, efficiency is bound to drop. The number of children in school has been rapidly declining but the total cost of operation has increased with an emphasis on "administration"--not teaching - costs. Graft and corruption have eaten their way in too far.

The supposed critics of our school system want no basic changes. They praised Chicago schools in their scrap and war bond drives which helped send the childrens' older brothers and fathers to death on the battlefield of the recent war for capitalist profit.

Teacher and teaching standards will remain at their present low ebb as long as the teacher is an under-paid tool preparing workers' children "to go out into the world" and work to enrich the 300 capitalist families who own 95% of American property.

The barons of industry need Kelly and his labor police to force the working-class into line and they need the head-fixing schools to teach young workers that this set-up is right.

WHAT IS \$5 WORTH NOW?

THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS of June 4, in an article featured on the front page, has caused many a head to be scratched in perplexity. Quoting the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics this hunk of capitalist journalism informs us that the cost of living has soared only 26% in the last five years, or since before the war.

Many a worker who has stepped into a grocery store with a \$5 bill and has ended up at home with no change will now wonder if he had lost it on the way, for food was supposed to have gone up only 41%. It does not take any statistics or a research board to refute this nonsense. Any woman who does the family shopping has only to count the money she starts with and count the food she ends up with to know that the NEWS is peddling the most shallow lies.

It appears that the NEWS was somewhat conscious of the stupidity of the figures it printed. In mentioning that round steak "has gone up only 3¢ a pound and pork chops have risen 4½¢ a pound" this rag is compelled to admit that meat is unobtainable at legitimate prices and that workers are obliged to buy on the black market. About the prices there little need be said.

Even the meat sold at ceiling prices is robbery. The butcher grinds his meat at night throwing in every scrap, tendon and piece of fat found in his shop. Chops and steaks are handed across the counter surrounded by fat.

As for the prices of fruits and vegetables we need to consult the planetarium.

In addition to its reservation about the black market the NEWS states that these figures "do not take into account possible changes in quality".

Also - which is most important for the working class - "low priced items have disappeared". In other words the NEWS itself proves that its headline of 26% is a fake.

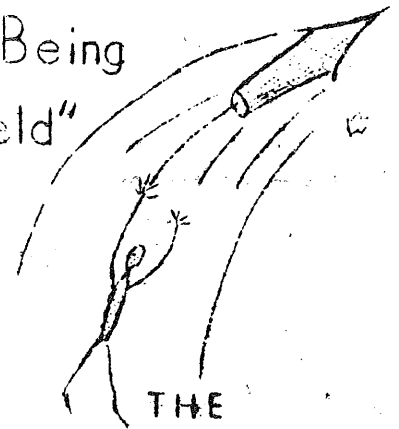
All in all when we take into consideration the rise in prices under the OPA, the decline in quality, the need to buy on the black market and the disappearance of low priced goods from the market, the working class has been shoved against the wall and banged over the head by the greedy capitalists who are so stuffed with profits that they cannot see their own shoes.

The lying DAILY NEWS and fraudulent government bureaus have come out with this 26% joke to hide the wholesale robbery of the workers so that they would be content with the 18½% raise - when they get even that - which has been cast to them as scraps from the over-filled capitalist table.

Price increases are assured the boss class through its government bureaus. The OPA regulates price increases - it cannot stop them. The workers' only weapon to fight these price increases is - strike for real wage raises.

"But higher wages will mean higher prices", chirps the capitalist press. Yes, there is only one long term answer to this problem. Instead of piling profits onto the capitalist table and taking scrapings in return, workers will have to take over the whole country and the ruling class will have to go to work - or starve.

"The Price Line
Is Being
Held"



THE
WORKER



WHO'S TO TELL ILL. MALLEABLE MEN WHAT TO READ?

On May 1st the RWL sent a worker with leaflets to announce a workers holiday meeting (May Day) to Illinois Malleable men. Stanley Solak, president of Local 788, told some of the men that the leaflet were "against the International Union" and insisted that the RWL distributor "get away from the plant gate and distribute on Diversey Parkway" - a nearby street.

The leaflet did not even mention the International Union - had nothing to do with it. But we complied with the request.

Last Friday the RWL Labor Views was being distributed to 788 men on Diversey Parkway. Once again Solak declared those papers were "against the International" and again these papers had made no mention of the International Union. But on this pretext he led a gang-up against the two distributing the papers. He tore the papers up. In doing so he attacked every worker in his own union. He attacked their basic right to read whatever they please.

Illinois Malleable workers have read nearly a thousand copies of Labor Views in the last month and a half and they have been reading other RWL publications for years.

Shouldn't they have the right to read and judge for themselves?

Do they need a dictator, a censor who says to workers, "You mustn't read these I'll tear them up so you can't!"

This is exactly what Solak has been doing. Is that democracy?

Labor Views and the organization it speaks for has members in the UAW - the same section of the CIO that the workers of Illinois Malleable belong to.

Who is to tell union members what they must write and what they must read?

Labor Views speaks for a political

organization. We are not trying to form a new union. We are not "against the union" as Solak has accused. We joined with the men of 788 in defense squads in defense of the Jones Foundry workers on the picket line. We have supported your every fight for pay raises - saying only that they should be higher.

But we are against any union leadership which sets itself up as Lord High Dictator over the workers. And any union member has the right to say it, print and read it - in the streets or in the factory. We shall continue to do this.

We shall be persistent and stubborn. Because it doesn't take much courage for five men to attack one worker but he does show guts when he keeps coming back.

We shall be persistent and stubborn. Because we speak in the interest of all workers - CIO, AFL, Independent and the unorganized.

Because we defend their interests against the capitalist onslaught of price rises, low wages, brutal working conditions long hours, goon squads and the police.

We shall be persistent and stubborn. Because this system which works the sweat off our backs so as to give the ruling class huge profits can be ended only by determined, independent worker action.

We bring these facts to the Malleable workers because one of their most basic rights is threatened here - the right to read worker literature and judge it for themselves.

DEFEND THE DISTRIBUTORS OF LABOR VIEWS

LABOR VIEWS is issued by the Revolutionary Workers League, a group of workers dedicated to the defence of labor against the constant attack by the ruling class. We stand for independent worker action - not legislative, labor party action - but direct mass action against the anti-labor laws, courts, goon-squads and police. We work toward the building of this defence into a real Marxian Party capable of ending this capitalist slave system in the USA.
Address: 708 N. Clark St. Chicago, Ill.