

CHICAGO WORKERS STRONG FOR MINERS

TALK OF STRIKE ACTION IN SYMPATHY SEE GOV'T. STRIKE BREAKING AS DANGER TO THEMSELVES

In spite of a very carefully built up case in the daily press against John. L. Lewis and the striking coal miners there has been no roar of "public condemnation" against them. Instead, the general mood of local union meetings and shop discussions reported to LABOR VIEWS is that Chicago workers are ready to support the miners with sympathy strike action if necessary.

"There wouldn't be any strike against the government if the companies would give the miners the wages and hours they deserve!" was the leading opinion heard in a workers' lunchroom on the West Side.

"How do the boys feel? If the government puts Lewis or any of the miners in jail it means that they can put any of us in jail for striking. We're ready to strike against that alone," said a steward from a South Side factory.

The truth is that even if all the monkeyshines of the various departments of the capitalist government and press were successful, the miners would remain on strike. Even if Lewis went through the motions of calling a halt to the strike the miners would remain out. Lewis has been forced into his present position because the miners have been staging a mounting number of "wild-cat" strikes months ago which he could no longer control.

Lewis has learned a few things since he faced a similar situation in 1919. At that time when faced with a government injunction he told the miners, "We can't fight the government" and ordered them back to work. **THE MINERS REFUSED TO RETURN TO THE PITS UNTIL THEY WERE GRANTED A WAGE RAISE BY A GOVERNMENT ARBITOR.**

During this period hundreds of miners formed workers' militias and engaged in pitched battles against government troops. Following this open betrayal of the



miners by the Lewis bureaucracy, thousands of them from 1920 to 1930 quit the union (UMW membership in West Virginia, for example, went from 50,000 to 500).

Lewis has now learned that he can better keep control of the mine workers by pushing himself onto the scene as the symbol of

their determination.

The fact that the Southern coal operators, who were the least willing to come to terms last spring, have been the first to offer the miners a truce - a willingness "to talk with them about a shorter work-week wages, hours..." indicates that these hard-sneak coal barons have the evidence from their coal fields that the rank-and-file miners mean business.

In a prolonged struggle against the coal operators the mine workers inevitably demonstrate the power of a mere 400,000 workers to tie up all of US capitalist economy. Should this develop into a broad political struggle it may be settled partially right here in Chicago by vigorous working class political action - mass demonstrations and strikes in support of the mine-workers. Resolutions of solidarity with the miners should be passed on the floor of every local union in the city.

TRIP TO MINE COUNTRY RECALLS: MINERS GET ONLY WHAT THEY FIGHT FOR... (by staff reporter)

On completion of a recent trip into the coal fields of Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois I find the conditions very little improved in the ten years since I was there last.

In Hopkins County, Kentucky, there are still the company stores and dwellings of the miners are still owned by the coal companies. The conditions of the miners is not very changed in this locality. Besides the ever-lurking dangers that are his companions down in the bowels of the earth, he has to return to the conditions on the surface which are little or no better.

The company stores still give credit as they always did in good times, to snarl the workers in debt

so that they cannot use their weapon (strike) as freely as otherwise. The militant worker does not trade at these company stores, owing to the fact that he will not get credit from them during a strike.

The company owned dwellings which are rented to the miner and his family are three and four room shacks and as a rule do not have electricity so old faithful, the kerosene or coal oil lamps are found in service. Often as a rule due to large families and cramped space, as many as six sleep in the same room on two beds. The drinking water must be carried from some neighbor who is fortunate enough to have a well. The wash water is carried from creeks, ponds or rivers. The washing is done in

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MINERS RECALL PITCHED BATTLES TO BEAT BOSS-CLASS

old fashion kettles of pioneer days by hand out in the open. The cooking is done on wood or coal stoves and one can imagine the discomfort of the person who prepares a meal under these conditions for a large family on a warm July or August day. The conditions of these workers in this "land of plenty" (for the boss class) is one of the worst.

But the picture of Hopkins County mining camps is not that of mining communities in Williamson County Illinois. Here around the town of Herrin the miners as a majority have their own homes and have electricity and other conveniences. The old company stores and dwellings have completely disappeared. These are not recent improvements; they came years ago.

Here's how the kept press in Chicago has piled up its propaganda campaign against the miners. Simply following the prominent headlines for the last week-and-a-half gives us a fair picture of boss class propoganda in action. Here they are day by day:

"Krug Says Miners Can't End Contract"

"Lewis Declares Contract Will End Nov. 20" (Designed to show miners responsible for strike.)

"Miners Average Wage \$75 per Week" (Implying that miners have no need to strike.)

"Government Offers Lewis Two Month Truce"

"Lewis Ignores Government Offer" (Miners are responsible!)

"Army Ready to Move into Coal Fields"

"Navy Offers Generators, Fuel to Essential Business"

"Lewis Cited for Contempt!"

"The Law Must be Upheld"

"Lack of Coal Closes Denver

Why?

Well, first, the southern Illinois miners have been the victors in direct, militant struggles against the mining companies. And they've continued this type of struggle until it has become their tradition.

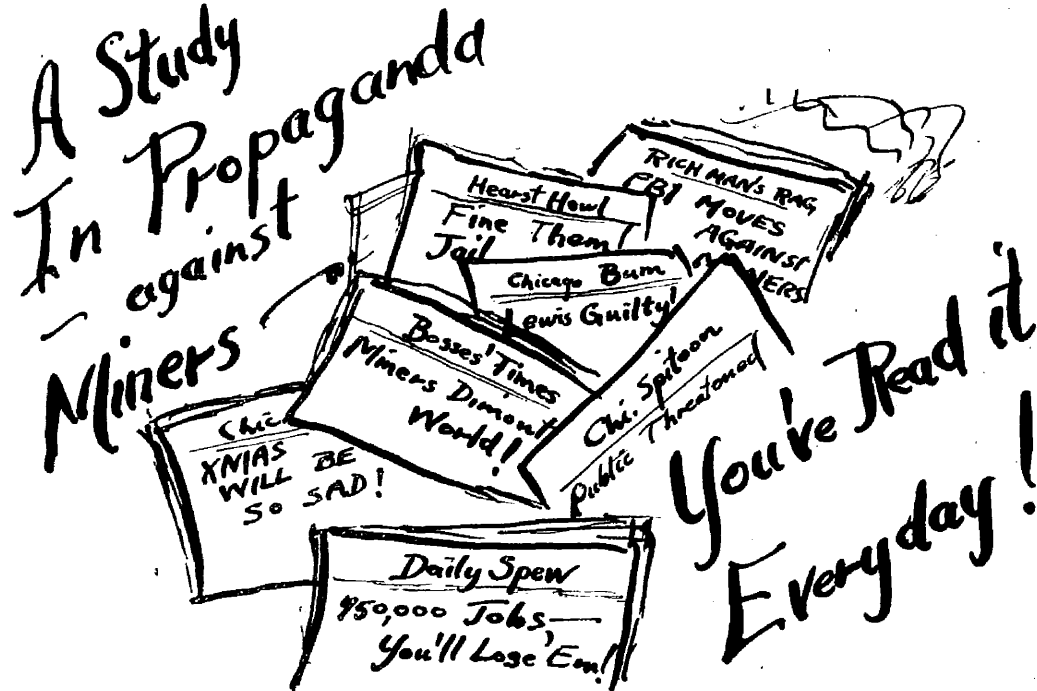
During their strike of 1924-25 this mining community became a battle ground in a flaming guerrilla warfare. The companies brought in paid gunmen (some of them known gangsters from Chicago) as mine guards to break up the picket lines. The miners gathered up rifle, pistols and shot guns, staged a pitched battle and drove them out. The Governor then sent the rich man's state army, the national guards, to establish "law and order".

The miners blew up the railroads

to keep the guards from getting in-to town too quickly. The militia finally came and the miners carried on their battle more quietly. When the soldiers left the miners again took over the area - executing company guards (who had been acquitted in court of the murders of several miners) on the spot.

The strikes of the west Kentucky miners have not been marked by such direct, successful militancy. Thus these two mine worker communities show the difference in the practical gains made by workers using two different methods of struggle. Direct uncompromising struggle is the only practical method by which militant workers can wring even the few concessions possible from the lords of wealth and property.

These workers never submit, nor do they stay on the defensive, but are always on the offensive when the opportunity presents itself.



Schools"

"Chicago Schools Have Enough Coal 'till Xmas"

"Coal Strike to Dim Christmas Lights"

"U.S. Freezes Coal"

"Dimout Again!"

"Miners' Chief Given Chance to End Strike"

"Coal Strike 'Savage Blow' to

Recovery" (Says Thomas Howard of U.S. Chamber of Commerce.)

"FBI Moving in on Miners!" (The hysterics are stepped up a notch.)

"Lewis Guilty!" (Implies judge)

"750,000 Jobs Periled Here! Weekly Wage Loss \$40,000,000" (says Employers Association of Chicago and Chicago Chamber of Commerce.)

LABOR VIEWS IS ISSUED by the Revolutionary Workers League to further the struggle of the working class against the constant attack of the industrialists and bankers.

We propose independent working class action beginning at the

shops, mines and mills against this ruling class and its government - its police forces, its courts and laws - operating as its "big stick".

LABOR VIEWS recognizes that although today the working class fights to defend its living stand-

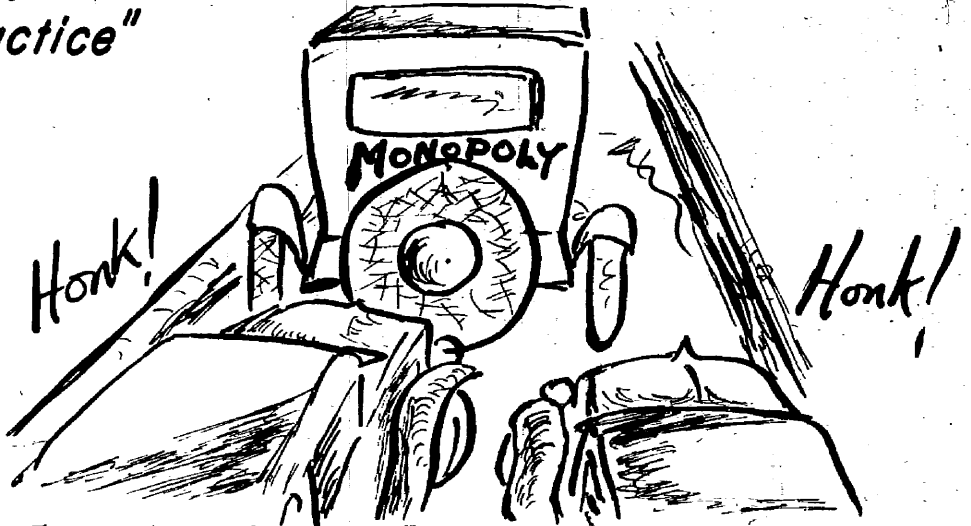
ards, tomorrow it will face the task of abolishing this rotting system of capitalist slavery, and creating a government which will organize society for the welfare of all who labor. The chief instrument needed for achieving this goal is a Revolutionary Workers Party.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HOG THE ROAD, Yellow-Checker Monopoly Called "Normal Business Practice" says Judge

LABOR VIEWS #15 revealed that the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice had finally scared up two cases in this City of Trusts. Collusion was discovered between the eye specialist and the eyeglass wholesalers wherein the specialists got a kickback, and the Yellow and Checker Cab Cos. were found to be a monopoly. But, alas, the cab monopoly has turned out to be not a monopoly.

On November 15th, Judge Walter J. Labuy of the U.S. District Court threw out the charges of the Department of Justice accusing the Checker and Yellow Cab Cos. of the monopolistic practices.

The Department of Justice pointed out that these companies control all but a few hundred of the 3,000 licenses issued by the city. The court answered that a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1904 held that taxicabs gave independent local service preliminary or subsequent to interstate transportation. These companies not being interstate traffic, they were consequently not subject to prosecution under the Sherman Anti-trust Law. Judge Labuy stated that it was not for him to determine how many companies should control Chicago's streets. In other words he was not even taking into consideration whether the Yellow and Checker Cab Cos. operated as a monopoly.



The Department of Justice exposed the fact that the Checker Cab Manufacturing Corp. of Kalamazoo, Michigan holds a contract to supply all the Yellow and Checker cabs for Chicago and is itself part of the cab combine. The court replied that for a manufacturing company to acquire such outlets was "normal business practice".

Another case pending before the Illinois Supreme Court cast an interesting light on the local taxi situation. When the pressure of the veterans became too great this summer the city council issued 495 more taxi licenses. The Yellow and Checker Cab Cos. were given first whack at these licenses but evidently they were more concerned with keeping fewer cabs on the street for they went into the Circuit Court and got a restraining order to prevent the city from issuing additional licenses. The city is now appealing

this decision to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Thus the Circuit Court acts to give the Yellow and Checker Cab Cos. virtual monopoly of Chicago and the District Court with the same breath declares it cannot find monopoly.

Two things are made clear by this situation. First, the government is so geared that if one section happens to act hostile to some capitalist enterprise, the other sections work double time to set things "right". We, therefore, see the courts overrule the charges of the Justice Department.

Second, monopolies are just what Judge Labuy said: a normal business practice. If the working class is tired of being fleeced by monopolies it must end this system of monopolies. This is one time we must throw out the baby with the bath.

paper towels and tries to clean up before the cars get filled in the morning. Breakfast she eats at a hamburger stand.

Mrs. Constance Moser and her children Philip, 3 and Gail, 5 have been living in their auto for the past three months. They came to Chicago last November and lived in a cottage out at Loon Lake. The owner sold the cottage and since then they have only their 1942 sedan. Philip and Gail are not asking Santa Claus for toys this year, they don't even ask for an apartment. They would just like a small room for they are tired and cramped from living in their auto.

Is additional evidence needed to prove that private enterprise must go? That this capitalist system reaches its full productive heights only in the manufacture of instruments of destruction but has no answer whatever for the most simple needs of the people?

HOUSING - A LA "FREE ENTERPRIZE"

Said Governor Green in September, "Private enterprise will give the American people homes".

Says Mayor Kelly in November, "Only large scale federal loans will make possible the building of enough housing units."

Says the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, "No soap."

And while these politicians play "button, button, whose got the button", the housing problem flounders in the hopeless bog of "private enterprise".

Two instances are enough to show the ugliness of the situation.

For two months now Chicago's

streetcars have been Anna Cox's home. Anna is an old lady who makes \$12 a week selling needles, threads, bobby pins, combs and other notions. Out of this income she would pay \$6 a week for a room. That would leave her only \$6 for food, clothing, entertainment, medical expenses and a retirement fund, but she would, nonetheless, pay \$6. But she can't find a room.

Anna gets on a streetcar and rides from 8 PM to 8 AM. It costs her 6 fares a night. "I could pay 50¢ for a flophouse room," she said, "but I wouldn't rest in one of those filthy, vermin-infested places."

She carries cold cream and

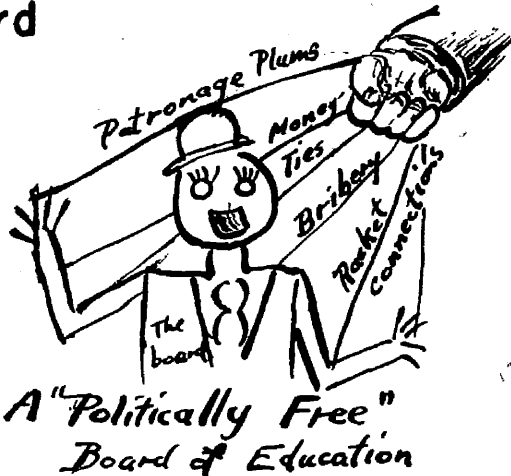
OUR "FREE" SCHOOLS

School Building Old, Falling Apart, say Parents; Many Chicago Schools Worse, Answers Board

Last Wednesday (Nov. 27) the North Center Community Organization presented a petition to the Board of Education asking for a new school building to replace the John C. Cunley School in their neighborhood. They claimed the building was no longer fit to be a school for the following reasons:

1. The building is 44 years old (built in 1902).
 2. The combination gym and assembly hall on the top floor is a fire trap - there is only one fire escape from the room.
 3. Lavatories are old and inadequate.
 4. The benches in the rooms are old and inadequate.
 5. The gym in the building is not large enough, thus robbing the children of their proper training.
 6. The stairs are so old that the boards occasionally break through - making them a grave danger for the children.
 7. The whole inside of the building, being of wood construction, is very vulnerable to fire.
- Last year in a room, luckily

Abandoned School in Vice-ridden Area "Good Enough" for Negro Children



unoccupied at the time, a piece of plaster 12 feet by 3 feet fell to the floor with such force that it drove a piano leg into the floor. Some of the people in the neighborhood have been sending their children to parochial schools because of the unsafeness of the building. To all this the architect of the Board of Education answered the parents: "Your school is really not old compared to other Chicago schools, many of which are 70 and 80 years old and still in full use. After all, this building is of slow burning construction."

The mothers of the Robert Brooks Build (residents of the Brooks Housing Project, Chicago's West Side) marched hopefully into the Board of Education public meeting last Wednesday (Nov. 28th) to ask the Board to ease the terrible overcrowding of the schools in their area and to protest the plan to reopen Garfield School for their children. Garfield School, abandoned years ago, is located square in the "red light" district, and these mothers pleaded that they did not want their children going "down into that sordid neighborhood".

Only Negro children are involved in this case. The Board listened to the mothers' pleadings and then voted unanimously to reopen the old Garfield School - a building which on occasion has served as a public flop-house. The only Negro member of the Board, Mr. Sydney Brown, who should have understood the issues involved had only this to say: "he and some other members of the Board had visited the area. It was full of taverns, gambling spots, places of prostitution, but Garfield School itself was a usable and fireproof building. Another member of the Board who had gone along on the inspection tour arose to state in sonorous tones that the Board should also realize that it has a moral obligation for the welfare of these children and that the Board should ask Mayor Kelly and other city authorities to see about cleaning up this neighborhood.

This was the Board's answer to the mothers.

These same mothers had organized a few weeks ago when they were confronted with a move to take 200 Negro children from the Riis School where there are 15 vacant seats per room and transfer them to the crowded, but all Negro, Smith and Medill Schools. These two schools are on the shift system. The mothers feel that their children should be allowed to go to the less crowded school. Also, because the entire area is in need of new schools, and because a school was torn down when the Housing Project was built, they want a new school in the area now.

The people of this community are likely to refuse to send their children into the old Garfield building in a district as corrupt as the city government which is asked to correct it.

KNOW YOUR POLICEMAN

Recently the Grand Crossing-Chatham of Commerce on the South Side devoted 7 days to "Know Your Policeman Week". Luncheon meetings, round-table discussions, lectures and inspections of police stations were part of the program. Police Commissioner Prendergast was guest of honor at a luncheon meeting and Captains Murphy of Grand crossing station and Healy of Burnside Station participated in a round table discussion of "The Organization and Function of the Police Department".

Far be it for LABOR VIEWS to call for roses but from the first day we hit the streets we have been on a "know your police" campaign.

We believe that it is vital for every worker to know thoroughly the "Organization and Function of the Police Department". In fact workers now fighting to take the point off the perpendicular climb in the cost of living just cannot avoid a passing acquaintance with those club-happy gentlemen in blue.

Despite the silly statements of Prendergast, Murphy and Healy the chief function of the department is not to lead children across streets but scabs through picket lines; not to protect the poor against the criminal but the criminal (and we include here those rich brigands that are covered by legality) from the poor; not to eradicate vice but to see that it works profitably.

The mainstay - no less! - of the Chicago bankers, industrialists and merchants is that special body of armed hirelings, notorious for its callously cruel storm trooper actions - the Chicago Police Department.

**Have a Beer and
TALK OVER
CURRENT EVENTS**

Classes Every Tues. Eve.
8:15 P.M.
LABOR VIEWS OFFICE
333 W. North Avenue