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IN OUR "FAIR CITY":

CROWD OF 1,000 MOBS NEGRO VET FAMILIES

2 former soldiers assaulted while moving
into Airport housing; 500 police meet attack

Dec. 5 - The pyre of Jim-crowism burned high and hot in Chicago today. A crowd of over 1000 white men, women and youths, goaded on by vicious Kelly politicians acting in the interests of the real estate men, raised their anti-Negro sentiments to a searing heat. So forceful was the assault against two Negro veterans and their families who attempted to move into the Airport Homes Housing Project, 61st and Keeler Ave. that 500 policemen were required to patrol the streets in the neighborhood.

At 11:AM a truck containing the furniture of the families of John R. Fort and Letholian Waddles, two Negro veterans drove up to the project. A crowd of 200, tipped off that these veterans were to move in, had already collected around the project and were milling about angrily. As the truck approached, shouts went up, "There they are! There they are!" A storm of rocks quickly followed these cries but the determined Negro workers continued into the muddy driveway.

32 policemen positioned around the areaway attempted to block the attackers and were compelled to drive them across the street with clubs. But the frenzy of the mob could not be stemmed. More rocks were thrown, this time at the police, then sticks and other missiles. The crowd became encouraged, pushed closer to the police, where at close quarters women began to claw them. By this time the seriousness of the situation was conveyed to the city officials and police reinforcements were rushed to the project.

The crowd having broken thru the cordon of police surrounded the truck. Rev. Erwin Gaeda pleaded for calm and understanding but to no avail. In desperation he jumped into the cab of the truck

and drove another 100 yards into the project. There the truck bogged down in the mire and the incensed attackers had once more surrounded it, a pack of hungry wolves tearing up a wounded moose. The windows were smashed, the tires slashed. The simple possessions of the two veterans were in jeopardy when 4 other ministers seized hold of the furniture and helped move it into the apartments. Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrant and Rabbi Jacob Weinstein stood at the entrance trying to speak to the booing crowd.

While this terror was taking place Kenneth C. Kennedy, national commander of the United Negro Allied Veterans of America had parked his car on 60th and Keeler Ave. before

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Chicago, Friday, Dec. 6 - Who is to blame for the monstrous demonstration of racial hatred at the Airport government housing project yesterday?

The most dramatic answer to this question came at the City Council Housing Committee meeting Tuesday (December 3rd), when Michael Mann, secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union Council, speaking in favor of granting houses to veterans according to their need "regardless of race, creed or color", was booed off the speakers rostrum.

This boisterous crowd composed mostly of women led by Alderman Hogan, had been specially transported from their neighborhood

seeing how Fort and Waddles were faring. Being a Negro, he was soon engulfed by the growing mob which was spreading thruout the neighborhood and his car was overturned. It was the intervention of the police which saved him serious injury.

After their possessions were
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A Blot "Free
Enterprise" Will
Never Dry

the one surrounding the project at 60th St. and Keeler Ave. Just before the City Hall meeting they had been "hopped up" against having Negroes move into their neighborhood. Hogan introduced speaker after speaker who demanded "the right to choose our own neighbors" and insisted that veterans from their vicinity be given preference to move into the housing project.

Behind this unblushing blaze of race hatred are the very real estate interests who were in the first place opposed to the building of the vet project in this vicinity. The crude wooden buildings, being patterned after army barracks, would lower the land values, they contended. And now, if on top of this, Negro workers move into the area how can they realize their plans to build only high cost houses in the next few years? they ask themselves. Housing is just business to the callous real estate monarchs.

From a reliable source LABOR VIEWS learned that there are two powerful organizations behind this
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WHO IS TO BLAME?

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activity, but this source was not authorized to release their names.

On Nov. 5th, a group of 54 veterans from this community tried to solve their own housing shortage by simply moving into the government houses which had been vacant for six weeks. LABOR VIEWS, mistaking this for a genuine workers squatter action, gave the squatter vets a sympathetic report. But the facts now show that the squatter veterans in their desperate desire to get a house allowed themselves to be shamefully used by the local real estate and political interests to prevent Negro families from moving into the neighborhood. All but the most needy squatters have since moved out.

The leaders of the vet squatters had been brought down to a secret meeting in the City Hall by the local politicians of the 13th Ward where, in the office of County Clerk Michael Flynn, they were assured that if they just moved in no action would be taken against them. Thus encouraged, the vets moved in; and both the police and Mayor Kelly refused to act against them. This is a new and growing neighborhood and Kelly's Democratic machine is out to get and hold its votes.

The Chicago Housing Authority refused to go along with this little plot and took the case to court. In court and in the daily press

the CHA lawyers shouted that the vet "squatters threatened all the laws of property rights". The CHA admits that it will only have 3,400 housing units for 25,000 applications yet it threw up its hands in horror at a squatters movement that might end up in the movement of thousands of worker families into the mansions, estates and luxury apartments of the rich - thousands of which now stand vacant or near vacant.

Only when it saw that its petty authority was threatened did the CHA expose the real issue involved in this affair. On Nov. 16th, eleven days after the squatters had moved in, Theodore Turner, a Negro vet was given a lease by the CHA; and he attempted to move into one of the few remaining project flats. An unruly, threatening mob of over a hundred people gathered and Turner decided it would not be safe to leave his wife and baby alone while he went to work. They did not stay. Since the CHA must have already known what kind of reception the Turner family would get, it merely precipitated this little drama for its own purposes.

Alderman Hogan last Tuesday offered a resolution to bring the CHA under the direct control of the Mayor's office, and this agency is now using the Jim-crow issue to whip up support to retain its authority.

But Thursday's mob attack on the new Negro residents of Airport project has also accomplished something else. It has aroused a score of veteran, church, interracial, and labor organizations, representing many layers of Chicago's population against the raw greed of the real estate bandits and their stooge politicians who have deliberately set the torch to this heinous fire - a fire that in the long run engulfs all workers, black to every shade of white.

MOB ATTACKS NEGRO VETS AT GOV'T HOMES

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finally inside their apartments, Fort and Waddles were escorted into Kennedy's car which had been uprighted and started to drive off. For over a block the mob pursued, flinging rocks until the car was out of range.

By 4 PM 200 police were on duty. As the husbands of many of the women in the assault returned from work they joined their wives. By evening 400 police were wrestling with a crowd that had swelled to 1000. The hate of the attackers impelled them to the project in wave after wave but they were continuously rebuffed by the police. It was only after 9 PM that the attack began to show signs of waning and the attackers to dwindle.

200 police remained on guard up 'till midnight but the neighborhood was so steeped in an anti-Negro frenzy that over 100 police kept to their posts during the night.

When the fighting had subsided 6 policemen and 2 newspaper photographers were known to be injured. Kennedy's car had been overturned and also that of Homer Jack, executive secretary of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination who had aided in moving in the furniture.

Three other Negro families who were to move in also were urged by Miss Elizabeth Wood, head of the Chicago Housing Authority, to wait until the strife ended. Twenty-one white families, however, entered the project uneventfully. It was moving day for them.

Fort was a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, Waddles of the Pacific Campaign. They had risked their lives thousands of miles away in what was claimed to be a fight for democracy. They know the danger that awaits them here, in Chicago, but they are determined to fight now for the simple right to have a home.

TEACHERS LEARN A LESSON

There are three organizations which represent the 12,500 Chicago teachers. The majority of the teachers are organized into the Teachers Union, AFL, the Association of Chicago Teachers has 1000 members and the Men Teachers Club 800. If these organizations should consolidate their ranks and strike against the Kelly administration for wage increases they would be adding to the growing stream of teacher strikes thruout the nation.

Already this year there have been teacher strikes in Paterson, N.J. - Norwalk, Conn. - Warren County and Shelbyville, Tenn. - St. Paul, Minn. - Coal Township, Penn. - Muscoda, Wis. and other localities.

The strike of 1000 St. Paul

teachers, the largest so far, began on November 25 and is still in progress. Their current salary runs from \$1300 for teachers with a bachelor of arts degree and one year's experience, to a top of \$2800 for those with a masters degree. The strikers are demanding a \$200 bonus for the fall months and salaries from \$2400 to \$5000 to begin in January.

A strike of Minneapolis teachers was warded off on December 2 when William E. Goslin, superintendent of schools, offered the teachers increases which would ultimately total \$1200 annually. Instead of the present \$1600 - \$3000 range the settlement calls for \$150 bonus payable this month and a flat raise

of \$600 in 1947. However, the city council is offering resistance to Goslin's settlement and the threat of strike has been advanced again.

So great has been the pressure of teachers squeezed between their pre-war level income and the rising cost of living that the international body of the Teachers Union, AFL in Washington D.C. has been forced to consider a proposal to remove the constitutional ban against strikes.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ?

"...and this housing should be available to veterans regardless of race, creed or color..." announced Mike Mann, executive secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union Council (CIO) at the Tuesday meeting of the City Council's housing committee. He went on to say that Chicago's workers could not tolerate the building of fences around their communities.

Now, Mann in his position has the authority to speak for the CIO in the Chicago area. Some of the same mob which booted him off the speaker's rostrum ruthlessly attacked the Negro families who moved into the Airport government project two days later. These people were deliberately whipped into this frenzy of race hatred by real estate and political interests who are the arch enemies of labor.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING THIS CHALLENGE RESTS SQUARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF CHICAGO'S ORGANIZED WORKERS.

The police have in this instance done an effective job of protecting the Negro families from this first attack because the limelight of publicity has been beamed with full power on the scene. But what shall happen when the police move off? The enemies of labor who are now stirring up this community against Negroes will not stop their agitation to burn, stone and drive a few Negro workers out of their homes. 62 "bombings" of Negro homes in the last two years - in which the police have failed to apprehend even one offender - prove this. Race hatred is part of their routine drive against all workers and they won't rest.

Here we are met with a definite, particular problem...to protect the Negro workers of the Airport Housing Project. This is a job completely within the capacities of the cultural, religious and labor organizations aroused against these recent outrages.

The measures to be taken must stem from the situation. First, the people are aroused to a pitch that will not quickly subside. At last Thursday's riot they completely

ignored the pleas of the pastors of all church denominations. Obviously, an interminable police duty around the project is not the answer. Chicago police have already proven that they will not sustain a defense of persecuted Negro families. The actual physical defense of the Negro vets in the Airport Project

guards - impressive numbers of people of all races who demonstrate their personal interest in defending the Negro vet families in the Airport Project - will have an educational effect. In the workers defense guards the neighborhood will see with its own eyes the seriousness of our defense of these Negro fam-

RESOLVE NOW — TO MEET
THE CHALLENGE
OF LABOR'S
ARCH ENEMIES



NEGRO
FAMILIES

AT THE AIRPORT PROJECT
AGAINST TERROR!

must ^{be} assumed ^{by} primarily the organizations which have the mass strength to maintain it - Chicago's labor unions. Other organizations should, of course, join in the formation of these defense guards.

Coupled with this measure all interested organizations should literally move into this community with a determined, coordinated educational program designed to ease the present racial tension. The very presence of workers defense

ilies.

With the aid of church leaders, schools and other community organizations every tactic from a doorbell ringing campaign to a community rally can be promoted.

The constant presence of defense guards so long as they are needed will be the back-bone of this program. Rank-and-file workers should demand the organization of this defense today.

**Educating Chicago:
A THOUSAND NEW COPS — YES!
MORE PAY FOR SCHOOL
TEACHERS — NO!**

A majority of the 1400 man teachers in Chicago public schools threatened to leave their posts if a 30% raise was not forthcoming. Said Herschel Scott, president of the Men Teachers Club with 800 members, to the Board of Education committee studying teachers' salaries, "We insist on a pay raise of 30%. The difference between our request and other requests is that if the pay raise we ask is not granted we will feel obligated to leave our posts in the schools."

When asked whether this meant a strike or an exodus from the profession, Scott did not reply clearly.

Scott also stated that his group was not opposed to salary increases

for women - there are about 10,500 women teachers in the system - but they would be satisfied if the men alone received the increase. The present practice does not provide for wage differentials between the sexes.

The action of the Men Teachers Club followed the budget proposals of John Howatt, business manager of the Board of Education. On November 29 he submitted his annual budget for the Board's coming fiscal year. Only a \$2,420,000 increase was recommended. \$500,000 of this will be needed for additional operational expenses and the remaining \$2,000,000 will be added to the income of the Board's 22,000 employees. This will mean an increase of less than
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EAT DIRT OR GET OUT!

FTA-CIO-#194 bows under Stalinist

"coöperation plan"; 4 militant stewards fired.

"Four stewards have been fired!" This was the indignant cry raised at the stewards council meeting of the Food and Tobacco Workers of America (FTA-CIO) Local 194, over a week ago. Yet in spite of the workers aroused feeling, none of the fired men have since gotten their jobs back.

How is this possible in a union which has signed up ninety percent of 4000 workers? The four stewards (and several other workers) who were fired one at a time had committed the "crime" of being militant, and the leadership of this outfit does not like direct worker militancy against the company. For, in the first place, such militancy disrupts what the union leadership calls its "co-operation plan" with the company.

The company in question is the huge Campbell Soup works on 35th St. Local 194 also covers some smaller units - Chase and Sandborn, King Cole and College Inn. The FTA being dominated nationally by the Communist (Stalinist) Party, the leadership of Local 194 is in the hands of the international representative - a "party" man named Gardiner. He also draws a second pay check

CITY'S TEACHERS WANT MORE PAY

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4% for Chicago teachers.

Early in November the Chicago Teachers Union, AFL, representing a majority of the teachers here, had asked for a 40% wage increase. In doing so the union pointed out that there were no changes in the fixed schedule of teachers' pay in Chicago between 1922 and 1944 and that there were "two small adjustments made in 1944 and 1946". Arthur W. Waltz, president of the local estimated that such an increase would cost \$11,000,000 and suggested that the funds come from an increase in the real estate tax of 23¢ on \$100 valuation. The union also strongly reaffirmed its traditional position of "equal pay for equal work" for men and women.

Chicago teachers have a right to be dissatisfied considering their position nationally. Twenty cities of less than 600,000 population in the US give their grade school teachers a higher maximum and five cities in the same population group do the same for their high school teachers.

from the local union as its "business agent". His "man Friday" in the local is its president, John Gallagher.

A few weeks ago a militant move in the stewards council forced this leadership to explain formally for the first time this "co-operation plan" which had been in operation for quite some time. The "plan" included such choice points as

(1) The fostering of better understanding between foremen and the men.

(2) Settlement of grievances in the "first stage".

(3) The assurance by the union that there will be no partial work stoppages and

(4) That the union will do all it can to keep production at the highest level.

What makes these agreements more remarkable is the fact that Campbell is a sweat shop under the "premium" incentive plan and has a swarm of time-study men, supervisors and guards who pace the plant like a lot of nervous animals in a cage.

According to the union president the purpose of this "plan" was to "get the company on our side" so that it will be favorable to the idea of a closed shop in the next

Among the 10 largest cities Chicago ranks eighth for grade schools and fifth for high schools.

Top pay of Chicago grade teachers is \$285 a month. Among the 10 largest cities St. Louis, Pittsburgh, New York, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Detroit and Philadelphia pay more. Top pay for Chicago high school teachers is \$395 a month. St. Louis pays \$435, New York \$432, Philadelphia \$415 and Los Angeles \$406.

It was suggested to Mayor Kelly that the 1000 policemen added to the department this spring be dropped to provide for a larger increase for teachers. This action would increase the 4% raise to 10% but Kelly replied, "I've no such intention."

Chicago's total budget will run over \$200,000,000 this coming fiscal year. \$64,371,000 is earmarked for the educational fund and \$25,538,665 for the Police Department. Considering the educational needs of Chicago's 3,750,000 inhabitants the proportion of police to education appears way out of line. It seems that Kelly machine figures guns and clubs can serve Chicago's industrialists and merchants better than books.

contract. Now, since one sore spot in the union is that the members pay \$2.00 a month dues on a company check-off and the leadership refuses even to reveal in what bank it keeps the money the closed shop means only one thing to this leadership: A guaranteed dues income from every worker.

\$2.00 times 4000 workers plus per month is a lot of money not to have to account for.

Up spoke a militant steward in the council (one of the fired stewards, by the way):

"Since when did this sweat shop company give us anything? If we want a closed shop we'll have to

BARE YOUR BACK!



"COÖPERATION" PLAN!

fight for it.

"And I ask you: How can a union be strong by co-operating with big business? Why did workers have to lay down their lives for a shorter working day?"

"Why does the company hold classes for the foremen on how to bully us around? Why does it organize against our winning a wage increase?"

"We think this 'co-operation plan' should be cooked and canned like the rest of Campbell's Soup".

Although more than one third of the council then voted to throw out "co-operation" the Gardiner-Gallagher machine did get around this corner.

One basic reason this depraved leadership can yet maintain itself in power is that the overwhelming majority of these workers are new to unionism. Being forced by federal order to hire Negroes during the war, Campbell's now has a 90% Negro labor force - many of them women. A great number of them are unskilled workers from the South, and to them shop problems are new. Thus even on the stewards council when the workers get militant ideas the few more experienced Stalinist leaders and stooges can maneuver a decision into some committee, or postpone it until it dies.

(A description of this local's last "membership" meeting at which officers were nominated rounds out the story of this local in the next issue of LABOR VIEWS.)