

Workers Oppose WMC Draft Plan In New Bedford

By C. Thomas

The textile community of New Bedford, Mass., has been up in arms against the attempt of the War Manpower Commission to apply the forced-labor "Allentown Plan" to the workers of that city.

Under the "Allentown Plan" employment ceilings on certain "non-essential" industries are reduced. The workers discharged are directed to the U. S. Employment Service for assignment to other jobs.

With one or two exceptions, the workers discharged from the New Bedford textile mills have refused to accept jobs in the tire fabric plants.

"The W. M. C.," comments a Scripps-Howard reporter, "as well as the Army (which is behind the scenes), doesn't look at it that way."

These political and military agents of the employers never hesitate to call for additional sacrifices from the workers.

SWP CANDIDATE SPEAKS AT ENTHUSIASTIC RALLY

(Special to THE MILITANT)

LOS ANGELES, March 5—

Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, tonight spoke before an enthusiastic audience of San Pedro workers at the YWCA Hall, 437 Ninth St.



MYRA TANNER WEISS

Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, well-known in the California labor movement for her militant activity in the waitresses' and cannery workers' unions, called upon the voters to make Los Angeles a union town.

In her inspiring speech our candidate for mayor explained the Trotskyist answer to the capitalist crimes of economic crises, wars and fascism.

"If the means of production remain in the hands of the capi-

talists and continue to be an instrument of profit for the few instead of a means for satisfying the needs of the many," said Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, "plant shutdowns and mass unemployment are inevitable."

Numerous workers of Los Angeles have contributed generously to the campaign at meetings and at leaflet distributions outside union-halls in token of their agreement with the Trotskyist program of socialist action.

Detroit CIO Auto Workers Strike Against Anti-Union Provocations

Negro Seabees Protest Jim-Crow By Hunger Strike

By Henry Jordan

In a dramatic protest against racial discrimination in the granting of advance ratings, over 1,000 Negro Seabees at the Port Hueneme base, near Oxnard, California, went on a hunger strike on Friday, March 2.

The protesting Negro Seabees are members of the 34th Construction Battalion who were returned to this country last November after serving 21 months at Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific.

PROMOTIONS REFUSED

This action of the Negro veterans was taken after they had been denied for three years the opportunity to advance in ratings. Their spokesmen, according to Norman O. Houston, a representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, charged that their Southern white commanding officer, Comdr. P. J. McDean, of Meridian, Miss., refused to grant promotions to Negroes but brought in white men to fill higher posts.

Naval officials acknowledged the fact of the hunger-strike demonstration when they issued a statement claiming that the demonstrators had appeared for all meals last Sunday after a two-day fast. Houston, the NAACP investigator, declared, however, that the strike was continuing, according to information of men from other battalions leaving the base.

KEPT IN BRIG

Several of the alleged leaders of the hunger strike were reported held in the brig on a "safe-keeping" charge, although public relations officials of the Navy stated that no disciplinary action was contemplated and that the incident was "closed."

CONDITIONS NOTORIOUS

It is a notorious fact that Negroes are discriminated against and segregated as a matter of official policy throughout the armed forces. This protest of 1,000 veteran Seabees, in the face of possible severe retaliation, was a desperate measure. It was undoubtedly undertaken as the result of discriminatory acts which they viewed as intolerable.

The Negro people are extremely sceptical about this "war for democracy" in which Negro boys who are asked to fight and die are Jim-Crowed in the military forces.

Election Platform of Trotskyist Candidate for Los Angeles Mayor

- 1. Fight for post-war job security. 2. End the robber taxes which cut into workers' pay-checks. 3. Fight the National Service Act and all other anti-labor legislation. 4. Make Los Angeles a union town. 5. Back Consumers' Committees to control the cost of living. 6. Fight for a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. 7. Scrap the Little Steel formula! Rescind the no-strike pledge! Withdraw the labor members from the War Labor Board! 8. End Race Discrimination! 9. Fight for slum clearance and adequate housing and hospitalization. 10. Hands off the European revolution! 11. Build the Independent Labor Party!



Vinson Tightens Wage Freeze In Ruling On 'Fringe' Demands

Having established the Little Steel formula ceiling on wage increases, the Roosevelt administration has taken another turn in the wage-freezing line by tightening the restrictions on the granting of union "fringe" demands.

In a letter to the board governing the procedure to be followed in cases involving "fringe" demands, Vinson declared:

"If any directive order is issued in this connection and price ceilings or production costs may be affected, I request you to make certain that the order state in unequivocal language that such proposed wage adjustments are not effective under the standards of the wage stabilization program if the wage adjustments either affect appreciably the costs to the United States or are used as a basis to increase prices or to resist price reductions."

Vinson's edict tightens the wage-freezing noose by choking off any fringe concessions. Roosevelt's rejection of the demand for an upward revision of the Little Steel formula has led the union heads to rely more and more on gaining a few such crumbs to appease their members.

The AFL heads also advised their affiliates to submit demands for wage adjustments based on the "fringe" concessions granted the United Steel Workers Union. Even John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers has taken a hand in this game.

The present skirmishes over the side issue of the "fringe" demands have sidetracked the main battle against the wage-freezing Little Steel formula. The action of Vinson has served notice that the Roosevelt administration is determined to block any further concessions to the unions. The union heads are giving vent to their frustration by clamoring for a restoration of the "independence" of the War Labor Board. Nothing could be more fruitless.

Experience has shown again and again that what is necessary is the restoration of the independence of the unions. Every union, regardless of affiliation, is today in the same boat. The capitalist government has made it virtually impossible to avoid a showdown on the wage-freeze. The unions can meet this challenge by organizing a nation-wide conference to formulate a joint program of ACTION to smash the Little Steel formula.

WLB Denies UAW CIO Wage Raise

News Item — August 15, 1943: "The National General Motors Council of the UAW-CIO, representing more than 300,000 workers in 100 plants of the corporation, has drawn up demands on the corporation for a general wage increase or a roll-back in prices which would restore the real wages to the point where they existed in April 28, 1942, when the current agreement was signed." (United Automobile Worker, Aug. 15, 1943.)

News Item—March 4, 1945: "The War Labor Board refused today to grant a blanket wage increase at 100 General Motors plants having 300,000 employees." (N. Y. Times, March 4, 1945.)

"It took the War Labor Board 'only' 19 months to say NO! No wage increase — no price roll-back."

Mine Union Opens Negotiation For Substantial Pay Increases

The United Mine Workers of America, representing some 600,000 workers in America's most dangerous industry, on March 1 opened contract negotiations with the soft coal operators for increased wages that would partially offset the enormous cost-of-living rise in the company mining towns.

To the surprise of the government-operators coalition, howling in advance in anticipation of a direct miners' assault against the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula, John L. Lewis, UMW president and spokesman for the miners' policy committee, proposed no change in the present basic hourly rate.

Seeking to avoid a frontal attack on the formula and elude government intervention in the negotiations, the UMW has issued demands "in conformity with the government's stabilization policy," but which would nevertheless bring increases estimated at from \$1.60 to "somewhere over \$2" per day for the hard-toiling miners.

MINERS' DEMANDS

Among the principal demands are full portal-to-portal pay, instead of the present two-thirds for underground travel time; premium pay of 10 cents an hour for workers on the second shift and 15 cents for the third shift; free explosives, fuses and other equipment, as well as hats, goggles, safety shoes, rubber boots and similar protective clothing now bought by the miners themselves.

Chrysler, Briggs Militants Resist Corporation Attacks

35,000 Give Fighting Answer to Conspiracy Of Auto Barons to Destroy UAW-CIO Locals

BULLETIN

DETROIT, March 5—Striking members of Dodge Local 3, UAW-CIO, voted last night to end their ten-day walkout on the agreement of WLB and the company to arbitrate the cases of the discharged union militants and to employ no discrimination against strikers. A meeting of Briggs workers voted to continue their strike until 15 fired Local 212 members are reinstated.

By John Saunders

DETROIT, March 4—Over 35,000 embattled Dodge and Briggs workers, members of Locals 3 and 212, CIO United Automobile Workers, are fighting here on the picket lines against the well-organized campaign of the auto barons to smash their unions.

Their huge picket lines, which in the past week have shut down two Chrysler and seven Briggs plants, are an answer to the brazen provocations of the multimillionaire bosses. Grown arrogant on juicy war contracts and emboldened by the no-strike pledge and crawling attitude of the top UAW officialdom, the corporations threw all caution to the winds. In their all-out union busting drive, Chrysler, Briggs and Ford have been firing militant committeemen, stewards and union members in wholesale lots, reintroducing the speed-up, and attempting to force the giant auto union to its knees.

No strike since Pearl Harbor has so deeply stirred the Detroit workers, whose patience has been exhausted by the intensified corporation provocations. Sensing the imminent danger to their organization in the combined anti-labor onslaught of the companies, WLB, military brass hats and their own international officers, the militant auto ranks are not only fighting back on the picket lines but are beginning to rally to their aid all UAW local officers, committeemen and stewards in this area.

MOUNTING GRIEVANCES

This is no isolated, episodic struggle. It reflects the general bitterness of the men and women at the machines everywhere, who have become incensed over the frings, inhuman speedup and the mounting grievances which the arrogant bosses simply toss into the wastepaper basket. The workers are burning with anger at the hypocrisy of the money-crazed plutocrats fattening on

the blood of the soldier dead in whose name the bosses seek to destroy the unions and living standards of the workers before the war contracts taper off.

So indefensible have the anti-union actions of the corporations become that even the UAW international officers were finally compelled to publicly condemn them. For the first time a deep fissure has appeared in the leading ranks of the UAW officialdom. Barney Hopkins, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan CIO, and former president of Local 3 is openly supporting the strike and urging the workers to remain out until the fired workers are reinstated. Both Mike Novak, Dodge Local 3 president, and Jess Ferrazza, president of Briggs Local 212, took positions at the head of the striking ranks in defiance of the UAW top officials. The entire Briggs executive board is solidly behind the strike.

The strike movement began at the Dodge Main Plant. Following a three-day suspension of several workers for failing to speed up production the week previously, the Dodge management on Friday, February 23, fired seven workers because they could not meet an impossible output of 184 pieces per day and discharged another worker for "insubordination." The original production schedule until recently was only 108 per day. This was stepped up first to 120 and then 150. Then the company insisted on the fantastic rate of 184 pieces. When the men, one

(Continued on page 5)







The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded." —KARL MARX

Another Minority Attacked

Several incidents have recently been reported on the West Coast which indicate an impending campaign of intimidation, terrorization and violence against a different — but similarly persecuted — racial minority, the Japanese-Americans.

Soon after the shooting stage of the war with Japan had begun, these citizens, in flagrant violation of their civil rights, were yanked from their farms and homes and were herded into virtual concentration camps, known officially by the polite name of relocation centers.

The real motivators, however, were a big business outfit called the Ass'd Farmers and other reactionary interests which stand to profit — war or no war — by the elimination of competitors and by the persecution of a minority within the working class.

Now that these citizens are beginning to trickle back to their homes these same profit-hungry exploiters have declared another open season on Japanese-Americans and have signified that they intend to employ every weapon at their command.

The American Legion is circulating inflammatory, fascist-type leaflets and the District Attorney of Los Angeles is whoooping it up with the claim that he knows (but evidently can't catch to arrest) people who threaten to "shoot on sight" any returning Japanese-American.

What is worse, a mob of thugs schooled in KKK tactics has evidently been hired and has begun its evil, cowardly work. The home of Bob Morishige of Selma, Calif. was set fire and burned and shotgun bargages were fired at the homes of 2 other Japanese-Americans of Fresno County, S. J. Kakutani and Frank Osaki.

The sinister methods to which these mobsters resort was brought out by Mrs. Joseph Holzman's report to the Los Angeles police that twice she was threatened by anonymous telephone calls in connection with her employment of two Japanese servants.

"Better get rid of them," said the voice, "or we'll get rid of you and take care of them." Stating that "an injury to one is an injury to all," Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers' Party (Trotskyist) candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, has issued a call to organized labor to con-

Detroit Auto Workers Strike Against Company Provocations

(Continued from page 1)

Stalinist Finks Aid Detroit Auto Barons

having 20 years seniority, could not keep up this pace they were summarily fired. This precipitated the walkout. The Dodge workers demonstrated their uncompromising spirit at their second strike meeting held on Tuesday, when they refused to heed the strikebreaking plea of George Adde, UAW secretary-treasurer and acting president in the absence abroad of R. J. Thomas.

BRIGGS TAKES TIP The Briggs Corporation lost no time in drawing the necessary conclusions. It eagerly accepted Adde's open invitation and followed the example of Chrysler by firing one committeeman and six stewards on Wednesday for allegedly causing a previous strike several weeks ago.

ing evening a meeting of officers of all Chrysler locals roasted the international officers for their treacherous policy toward the Dodge strikers. A motion to back up the strikers was made and would have carried overwhelmingly, but Rubin, assistant UAW Chrysler director, called the motion out of order.

With the first walkout at the Briggs plants, the strike took on a greater scope. It had become obvious even to the blind that the workers confronted an organized conspiracy on the part of the Detroit auto moguls. At their union meeting last Thursday evening, almost 2000 Briggs workers unanimously endorsed the strike and decided to go back to work only if the corporation reinstated the fired men.

William Jenkins, president of Local 490 and chairman of the Wayne County UAW Rank and File Caucus, then issued the following press release: "For the past month the Chrysler Corporation has given every indication that they wish a strike in the Highland Park Plant. They launched a reign of terror discharging people without cause, disciplining stewards. It seems that when the company failed to provoke a strike in Highland Park they immediately moved to Dodge where they were successful. The Dodge workers have our sympathy and will get our fullest support."

CHRYSLER LOCALS All the presidents of the Chrysler locals in this area, with the exception of the heads of Plymouth Local 51 and Chrysler Local 7, both under Stalinist influence, have come to the support of the Dodge strikers. On Tuesday, they voted for a mass meeting of all Chrysler workers. But the top UAW officialdom later decided on their own initiative to disperse with this meeting for fear of "hotheads." The following resolution made three demands. 1.) "Full support of our international union in our fight for the unconditional reinstatement of our discharged brothers and sisters." 2.) "A conference of all UAW local officers, committeemen and stewards in the Detroit and Wayne County area to plan effective counteraction." 3.) "Insisted that the Briggs Local elect a committee 'to immediately begin contacting the officers and active members of all UAW locals in Wayne County to build sentiment for and organize forces for such a conference.'"

"Transfusion? — Free!"



Reprinted from "Justice"

Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

"Yeah," Whitey Larson said despondently, "if we only didn't have that damn no-strike pledge!" "Sure, Whitey," I told him. "Sure that's the cause of most of our trouble. But hell, man, we've got to fight it. We've got to get a rank-and-file group going like they have in the auto union. It takes work."

Whitey's face was tired. "Yeah," he said. Times change, and men change with them. And then again, sometimes the time will change and a man will remain the same, so that time will run on ahead of him, leaving him like a fish gasping in a little, drying pool of water after the tide has washed out to sea.

When Whitey came to the steel plant it was a lot tougher than it is today. The foremen were tough. They were hired to be tough, and they walked up and down the furnace line like a pack of lions in the jungle, looking for somebody to sink their teeth into. There were no benches on the furnaces. Any boards that could be used for benches had to be thrown into the ladles. There was no eating lunch on the job. You were paid to work. The company wasn't paying you to eat! You weren't satisfied? Get your time: somebody else would like your job. Not satisfied? Get out!



Well, Whitey wasn't satisfied, only he wasn't going to get out without putting up a fight. He made a nuisance of himself in the company union, asking for better conditions and better money, but not going too far... yet. Then when the SWOC came around, Whitey and Terry O'Day, who worked over in the open heard, were the first to join.

One of the Pioneer Union Organizers

It was slow going, tough going, those first days. Meet men in saloons, meet them in the toilets, whisper about the union: "Hell, nobody's going to know you're a member till we get a majority. We've got to get everybody lined up. This damn company's got to be taught a lesson; they've been kicking us around long enough."

And the men joined up, slowly, one by one, and the union grew. There were a couple of demonstrations and slowdowns, and Whitey and Terry went out the gate, escorted by plant cops to make sure they got there. But they fought from outside. I went out to join them, myself. We worked day and night, preparing for the big day.

Then came the strike. Then came tragedy, ten men pouring out their life blood on that field near the big gate and God knows how many others hurt. Men and women both tearing over the road and over the fields trying to get away from the bullets and clubs of the cops, tears streaming down their faces from the gas bombs.

But that just made Whitey tougher. It made him set his jaw and fight harder. With the unions recognized, things were a lot different. There was no contract as yet, but there was a lot of fight left in the boys. Up in the office, Whitey would say to old Ellsworth: "O. K., if you don't want to make any concessions, I can't be responsible for what the boys do. They're pretty sore." And George P. Ellsworth would try to make the boys happy.

The foremen began to take notice of a union button. They began to be pretty friendly, especially friendly when they saw a steward's button. It got so you could live when you were inside the gate. But nobody was fooled. The foremen hadn't been friendly before we organized.

But, as I said, times change. During the strike, during the whole period of organization, Whitey was a giant. Today Whitey's just a little man.

When they made Terry O'Day an international representative, Whitey had practically danced with joy. When Terry began to change as most of the union staff changed during the war, Whitey was bitter. He couldn't understand it. And the reason why he couldn't understand it was because he himself was like Terry O'Day. Neither of them understood politics!

They trusted Roosevelt. When the no-strike pledge was given, they both expected that industry, too, would sacrifice. The President would make them. Equality of sacrifice! When the WLB was set up, they thought it would be impartial. The President said it would be. They were bewildered. Terry went the way of all bureaucrats, big or little; and Whitey watched him go, angry and bewildered. But neither of them understood why.

For a while, Whitey was still tough. "Aw," he'd say, "a strike is the only language the company knows." But the last time there was a tough situation when we almost walked out, Terry O'Day stood up in the meeting and read us a paper about how the strikers at the Norge company were drafted into the army and sanctions were taken against the union. "I know how you feel, boys," Terry said, "but I've got my orders; I've got to fight against you."

Whitey's mouth was open. He stared. Then he shut his mouth, got up without a word, and walked home.

Whitey Larson still wants to fight, but he doesn't know how. Maybe when the workers begin to move forward he'll be in the front line again. But until then he's just a bewildered little man.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MARCH 9, 1935

WASHINGTON—An official report of the Federal Research and Planning Division showed that Roosevelt's National Recovery Act was really a means of impoverishing the workers to enrich the bosses under the false banner of "social reforms." On the basis of the government's own figures, The Militant reported that "Taking 1926 as 100, payrolls in December (1934) stood at an index of 60, while dividends and interest stood at 150. The wage earners' share (of the national income) had been cut 40 percent while the capitalists' share had been raised by 50 percent."

That this was no accident but a part of the administration's design could be seen in the brazen comment of the official report that "clearly the recipients of profits have not failed to enjoy their proportionate share of the increase in industrial recovery!"

WAUKEGAN—Unity of factory and white collar workers was the most important factor in a victorious strike held at the Johnson Motors Plant in Waukegan, The Militant reported. The strike was called when three office workers aiding the organization of the plant into an AFL Federal Auto Local were fired for union activities. 400 workers struck, demanding and winning both the reinstatement of the victimized men and the recognition of their union.



PHILADELPHIA SUNDAY NIGHT FORUMS First Session MARCH 18 Labor Forum 405 W. GERARD AVENUE

"Get Off the War Labor Board," Demands Flint CIO Council

Typical of the widespread opposition of the industrial workers to the government system of compulsory arbitration and the War Labor Board is the following resolution unanimously adopted by the Greater Flint (Mich.) Industrial Union Council at its regular session on February 17:

Whereas: The War Labor Board, never more than a run-around scheme to sidetrack Labor's legitimate demands and stall bargaining, is now further "staked against Labor" by the new limitations laid down by President Roosevelt and "Assistant President" Byrnes, subordinating the WLB to other boards, and

Whereas: The CIO National Convention in Nov. 1944 and the UAW-CIO Executive Board in February 1945 have denounced the WLB for "poor administration and unfortunate policies," for "straight-jacket rules" and "meaningless rigmarole" hearings, and the UAW asked the CIO to get off the WLB, therefore be it

Resolved: That the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council calls on the CIO and all other union representatives to resign from the WLB and to stay off any such boards in the future, for the welfare of all labor; and be it further

Resolved: That copies of this resolution be sent to affiliated locals, to the press, Labor papers, the CIO and UAW International Offices and to the War Labor Board.

Pioneer Publications

THE CRIMES OF BIG BUSINESS PROFITEERS DURING WAR-TIME

What is to be done about the criminal activities of Big Business? The Administration and Congress have already conclusively shown that they either won't or can't take measures to make the punishment fit the crime. If anything is to be done, it will have to be done by the labor movement.

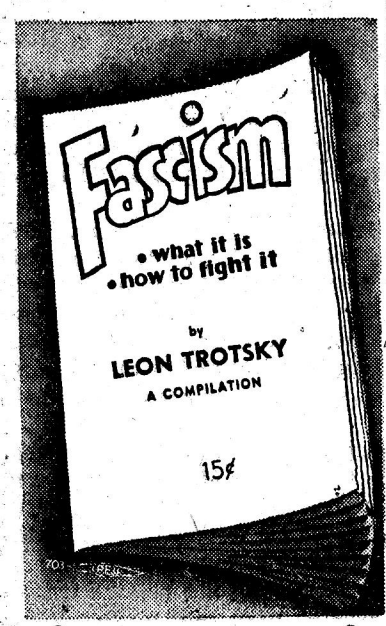
Some people have suggested

the passage of legislation imposing the death penalty on manufacturers whose fraudulent practices endanger the lives of the men in the armed forces. A bill providing this penalty or a million dollar fine has even been introduced into Congress. It is hard to imagine the present Congress—which is the servant, body and soul, of the big corporations — ever adopting legislation to punish them.

To get to the root of the problem, the Socialist Workers Party advocates that the ownership and control of industry be taken out of the hands of the capitalists. This course of action will be regarded by Big Business as far more drastic than any bill providing the death penalty and it will be fought by them with every weapon they have, but it is the only practical answer to capitalist mismanagement of industry.

Let industry be owned by the government and operated under the control of committees democratically elected by the workers. The profit motive would be removed, and with it would be removed the incentive to produce and sell dangerously defective products. The costs of production would be lowered and the workers' committees, having no interest in exacting profits from the blood of the soldier, would guarantee production and honest testing in the interests of the people.

(From "War-time Crimes of Big Business," by George Breitman, pp. 13-14. Pioneer Publishers, 1943; 16 pp., 5c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.)



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