

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must follow you.

Stand all as one
Till right is done!
Believe and dare
and do!

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1935

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HUGE UNION RALLY FRIDAY

LEWIS, BRADLEY WAR UPON OIL WORKERS UNION

Attack Union Officers on
Eve of Decision in
Arbitration

Workers Ready to Do Battle
if Bosses Follow Lewis,
Bradley Program

Meyer Lewis, in full accord with the union busting campaign launched against Local 574, has issued a vicious statement to the press about the Filling Station Workers Union, Local 19802.

Here again in complete solidarity with the Citizens' Alliance, he raises the "Red" scare.

Lewis has called in one Mr. Bradley who claims to represent both the oil workers and William Green, an obvious impossibility.

George Lund, the business agent for 19802, together with an elected committee from the local, has made truly great progress for the workers in the union.

Into this comparatively favorable situation Splitter Lewis and Union Wrecker Bradley have injected themselves—on the side of the employers. What appeared to be a peaceful settlement is swiftly turning into something far more serious.

The proposals of Lewis and Bradley hold out no hope for the Oil Drivers and Station Attendants. It becomes increasingly clear that the membership must prepare themselves for a struggle first against Lewis-Bradley and their local helpers and then against the employers who may propose to go along with these high-salaried agents of Craftsman Green.

Sub Drive Plans Being Worked Out

The subscription drive will be put into effect within a short time. It is planned that the subscription list of the Organizer can readily be increased by 2,000 names in a short time. Members should look forward to the announcement of this drive and make up their minds to win some of the really worthwhile prizes that are being offered.

Minneapolis Workers!

Demand the removal of Splitter Lewis!

Demand the immediate termination of the anti-labor "red" drive!

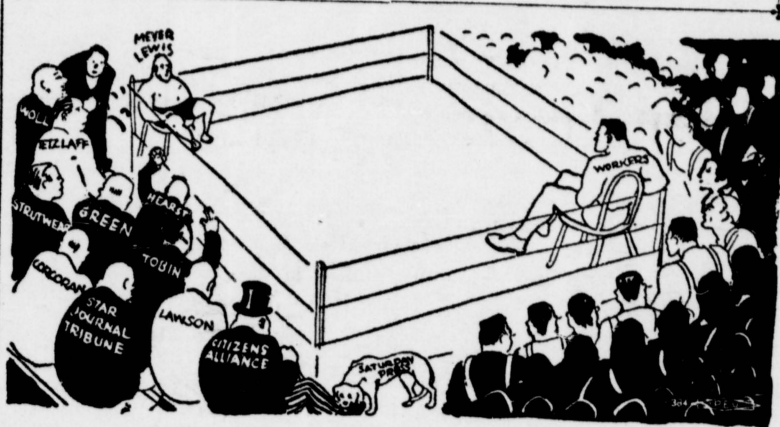
Resist every attempt to impose arbitrary and autocratic officials upon the labor unions!

Resist every attempt to expel good, honest, fighting union men from the labor organizations which they have helped to build!

Rally every force in the labor movement in an iron ring of solidarity against those who are working to undermine and destroy labor's organizations!

Rally every force in the labor movement to preserve and strengthen our unity, our progressivism, our fighting spirit!

SOMEBODY GET LEWIS A SPONGE



Bust the Union Busters! Demand the Removal of Splitter Lewis!

The organized labor movement of Minneapolis is in danger of being split wide open and reduced to complete impotence.

Minneapolis labor is threatened with a campaign that will make the city a thoroughly open shop town.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is now attempting to do what the Citizens Alliance, the associated employers and the reactionary press of the city have not succeeded in doing: to break up the organized labor movement.

In the name of Meyer Lewis, special emissary of Green, he has announced that a national drive is being launched to "purge" the American Federation of Labor of all "Reds." Minneapolis is the starting point for the drive, the point of concentration.

What is the meaning of the "anti-Red" drive? The drive is aimed to crush the spirit of militancy that exists in the local labor movement. The Minneapolis workers have been foremost in the battle for decent working conditions, for higher wages, for a shorter working day. Time and again, they have displayed their fighting ability. Time and again, they have struck and struck hard for a decent standard of living. The whole slush fund of the labor-hating employers has not availed to break the ranks of the organized workers. The whole sinister machinery of the Citizens Alliance has not been able to break the spirit of the workers. All the thugs and police and armed hooligans disguised as special deputies have not succeeded in breaking the ranks of the workers. The whole venomous, unremitting campaign of the reactionary local press has failed of its object. Not even the arbitrary lifting of the charter of our Local 574 succeeded in disrupting the bonds of unity that exist between the resolute fighting ranks of the Minneapolis labor movement.

That is why William Green has now ordered a systematic drive to split the ranks of the union movement. Is it just "communists" that Green is after? Not at all! Every worker who has a progressive idea, every worker who means business in the trade union movement, every worker who wants to FIGHT the reactionary employers and win an improvement in his conditions, every worker who utters a critical idea against conservatism and do-nothingism in the labor movement—these are the men and women whom the reactionary bureaucracy of the A. F. of L. wants to hack off in the labor movement.

In other words, Green and his agent, Lewis, and all those who co-operate with them, want to drain the labor movement of its very life's blood, of its best fighting forces, of its most militant champions!

Who stands on the side of Green and Meyer Lewis? William Randolph Hearst has been clamoring for years for such a drive as Green is now conducting. The Citizens Alliance is for the drive. The "civic associations" of the bankers, industrialists, reactionary business men, of

(Continued on page 2)

All Unions to Gather at 574 Hall November 8 to Condemn Splitter Lewis

I. G. Scott and Many Union Leaders Are
Speak at 257 Plymouth Avenue
North at 8 P. M.

A huge meeting of the membership of all progressive unions will be held at the General Drivers' Auditorium, 257 Plymouth Ave. North, on Friday, November 8, at 8 p. m.

I. G. Scott will speak for the

Union Gets Jobs for Independent Drivers

There can be no question that the WPA program is now going into effect with a bang. The Independent Truck Owners section have almost exhausted their list putting our people to work on the various projects that have been started within the last two weeks.

It will be of interest to every Independent Truck Owner, union or non-union, to learn that the majority of equipment that has gone to work on these projects in the immediate past period, have gone to work directly through Local 574. Every Independent Truck Owner whether or not he is a member of this union, and regardless of whether or not he is in good standing, should contact the union office at once and proceed to put himself in a position where he will be able to secure some of this work.

It is obvious now that the State WPA office relies on our union furnishing them equipment that will be used on these jobs and with the expansion of the WPA program it is almost certain that every piece of equipment that is eligible for this type of work, will be in use in a short time.

Thursday, November 7, will be the next meeting of the Independent Truck section of Local 574.

Every Independent owner should make it his business to be at this meeting prepared to reinstate himself in the union or join it if he is not a member.

Martin to Speak on Syndicalism Sunday

Jack Martin, member of the I. W. W., will speak on "Syndicalism in America" at the next Sunday afternoon Workers Forum, November 10, held in 574's auditorium, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Forums begin at 3 o'clock.

Bill Brown Says—

Meyer Lewis, member of the Musicians' Union, and former champion hog caller of Iowa, evidently thinks that battles are won by the side making the loudest noise.

His stay in Minneapolis has caused a lot of printers' ink to flow, but so far there have been no casualties.

He's got something to learn about the labor movement if he thinks the workers here can be stampeded by loud noises.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

Farmer-Labor Party. Leaders of many progressive unions and officers of Local 574 will explain the full meaning of the disruptive tactics of Williams Green and Meyer Lewis.

Loudspeaker facilities are being installed so that all may hear every word that is spoken on this vital issue.

Many unions which hold their regular meetings on Friday have arranged to adjourn to the 574 hall. Other unions are sending notices to their members to be sure and attend the meeting.

Every member of Local 574 is instructed to be present. No excuses will be accepted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 574

Hopkins Workers Assisted by 574

Monday morning at 10 o'clock a committee from the rural Hennepin County Federal Workers Section of Local 574, supported by V. R. Dunne and Ed Palmquist from Local 574, called on the Hopkins relief administration. The committee took up with Mrs. Renner, who represented the local relief administration, the questions of stoves, coal, food, clothes, rent, bedclothing, and many other items. Before the meeting was over, a satisfactory arrangement had been arrived at with the Hopkins relief administration which indicates that much of the trouble that has existed heretofore will be cleared up.

Coal Men Reaffirm Allegiance to 574

The Monday night meeting of the Coal Section was the best attended session of the season. Discussions from the floor revolved around the present wage scale. Reports disclosed that some of the companies were chiseling on overtime. At the close of the meeting a motion was passed endorsing the present policy and leadership of the union and pledging complete loyalty of the Coal Section.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,
I'm a decent Sheeney, Wop or Mick,
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevick
I'm labor."

"Big National Drive" Is Big Flop

With a great fanfare of newspaper publicity, accompanied by the staccato firing of flashlight cameras, Meyer Lewis, the great unknown, stalked into Minneapolis out of the tall weeds. The great crusades of Carrie Nation, the mighty conquests of Napoleon, all would pale to insignificance before the mighty work of Splitter Lewis, ardent admirer, and correspondence school protege of the number one Red baiter, Matthew Woll. But something slipped.

On Wednesday, October 30, speaking in the name of William Green, Lewis announced the "initiation of the NATIONAL drive against communism in the city of Minneapolis." Mark these words carefully. They are taken from Lewis' statement in the Journal of October 30. They will later be denied both by Splitter Lewis and his boss, Bill Green. A national headquarters was to be opened in the city. The "drive" was to go forward with great gusto, rolling over all opposition.

Lewis, however, was still a general without an army. So he sent special notices to the labor leaders whom he had graciously decided to anoint with the sanctified oil of craft unionism, calling them to a secret conclave. The boss press was also invited. The pictures of the "chosen few" were to be blazoned across page one of the Sunday papers, with an appeal to the bosses to deal with them only. Those leaders whose pictures did not appear were to be relegated to the shadows. Splitter Lewis had spoken.

But on the designated Sunday, not Splitter Lewis, but his boss, Bill Green, spoke. "The A. F. of L. has not launched a national drive," said Green, "the situation . . . in Minneapolis . . . is a purely local one and possesses local significance only." In the background could be heard the timid "I have been misquoted" by Splitter Lewis. What had happened? Why this sudden deflation of the Lewis balloon?

The news of the "national drive" had been headlined from New York to San Francisco, from Duluth to New Orleans. Everywhere, among honest union men and women, there was bitter resentment against this union-busting campaign. Telegrams and letters promising aid poured into the offices of the progressive Minneapolis unions which Green and his stooge Lewis were attacking. Strong and indignant protests poured in upon Green.

Looking forward to the next A. F. of L. convention, realizing that all his eggs were in this single basket, Green could already hear the death rattle in his throat. So he repudiated the statements of his emissary, Splitter Lewis, and left him sitting in his squalid quarters in the swanky Windsor Apartments holding the neck of an empty bag in his hand.

The "drive" has now become a matter of purging four unions, Local 574, Machinists Local 382, Metal Workers Local 1313, and Station Employees Local 19802. Splitter Lewis proposes to make them answer for the sins they have committed in really organizing workers and battling to bring them higher wages and better working conditions. They were able to do this because they organized along industrial lines.

Green, Tobin, Woll, Meyer Lewis, et al., are opposed to industrial unionism because it will mean the end of their job trust, the end of their living in luxury at the expense of the workers. Therefore, under the subterfuge of a "red drive," they seek to destroy the progressive upholders of industrial unionism.

They can't do it nationally. They can't do it locally. They can't even do it in one union. The workers will no longer tolerate these despicable tactics.

Demand the removal of Splitter Lewis!

What About the Farmer-Labor Party?

The attack by William Green upon the progressive industrial unionists in the labor movement is not without significance to the Farmer-Labor Party. And it is not without meaning that Green, a staunch Republican, opened his drive in Minnesota, the home of the Farmer-Labor Party, one of the leading groups in the third party movement.

The FLP has its base in the unions. Most of its support and a great part of its leadership comes from the ranks of the unions. The Green drive will lop off the Farmer-Laborite unionists just as quickly as it attacks any other group.

The FLP is faced squarely with an issue which cannot be dodged. If it stands aside, the Green machine will cut it to pieces. It must take a firm stand against the tactics of Meyer Lewis and aid the progressive unions in defeating him.

Winthrop Denounces Green-Lewis Drive

Rip Van Winkle slept for twenty years but the chiefs of the American Federation of Labor have slept fifty years. Suddenly Mr. Green, green with jealousy, sends one of his henchmen to Minneapolis to punish and drive Local 574, Drivers Union, out of the city as punishment for having accomplished more for the workers in two years than they have in fifty. Who do they call on for help?

They call on the paid press, and radio, coupon clippers, pirates of finance, tax dodgers, vigilantes, unlawful law and order leagues, citizens' alliances, racketeers, chis-

elers, gangsters, banksters and all the dark forces of hell.

The hunt for communists is going on! What a farce, what a tragedy! Theodore Roosevelt died, trying to reform Republicans, William Jennings Bryan died attempting to reform Democrats, and William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, will die trying to reform capitalism.

You can't reform capitalism—we must abolish it and then we'll have peace.

—Mose Winthrop

The Independent Truck Owners are rapidly learning that if they wish to place their equipment on the WPA jobs they must be right with the union.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, Nov. 8: Protest Rally
Monday, Nov. 11: Full Membership.
Wednesday, Nov. 13: Market Workers.
Friday, Nov. 15: Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Nov. 18: Coal Workers.
Thursday, Nov. 21: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Nov. 22: All Stewards; Federal Workers.

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Union men who wear their union button in their pocket are like engaged girls that carry their engagement ring in their purse. They can always be suspected of flirting with someone else.

The Independent truck owners have really gone to town in the last two weeks. They have placed over one hundred pieces of equipment on WPA jobs.

The Carnegie drivers, led by their steward, Sherman Oakes, held a well attended and enthusiastic meeting at 4606 Pillsbury avenue, Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. M. Dunne and Carl Skoglund were also present.

The Carl Peterson job at Como and Snelling has become a 100 per cent union project in the last week.

Contrary to rumors, Meyer Lewis will not be the speaker at the special meeting of Local 574 on November 8.

Ted Rogers, steward at Murphy's, has really got the thing down to a system there.

NO EXCUSES WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE UNION FOR NOT ATTENDING THE SPECIAL MEETING OF 574 ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, AT 8 O'CLOCK.

The Miller Cafeteria, which is being bannered by several craft unions, is totally and wholly unfair to organized labor, but those in charge of the strike seemingly have neglected the only sure method by which this unfair restaurant could be brought into line. When the drivers are asked to see that no more material goes in or out of this cafe, the strike will be registered as another victory of the trade union movement.

Reliable reports indicate that there has been a marriage merger between a prominent north side Italian family with the daughter of a former member of the Carpenters' Union.

Many local trade union leaders who have been assisted and helped the past year by Local 574 were horrified when they learned the extent of the campaign that was being initiated against our union by Green's henchman, Meyer Lewis.

Don't forget the smoker and entertainment that will be given in the Drivers' Auditorium, Wednesday, November 13, at 8 p. m. A splendid program has been arranged and it's a cinch that this will be one of the real bright spots in the winter's entertainment schedule. Don't miss it.

The coal yards, from a union standpoint, are in the best shape they have ever been since the formation of the union.

AFTER THE NAMES OF THE NEW COMMITTEE FROM THE TEAMSTERS' JOINT COUNCIL APPEARED IN PRINT, THE AIR WAS FULL OF INDIGNANT DENIALS BY MOST OF THOSE CONCERNED WHO PROTESTED THEIR NAMES HAD BEEN USED WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

Bust the Union Busters!

(Continued from page 1)

the employing class—they are cheering themselves hoarse for the Green drive. The reactionary press is for the drive.

What is good for Hearst, for the Citizens Alliance, for the reactionary press—is bad for the workers. What our enemies support, we must fight—tooth and nail, without giving an inch!

Why is Green concentrating on Minneapolis? Because Minneapolis has been the scene of many militantly, courageously fought labor battles. Because labor here has refused to lay down before the Citizens Alliance.

Why is Green concentrating on Minneapolis? Because the workers of Minnesota, in general, have built up a Farmer-Labor Party and elected a Farmer-Labor administration, thereby ousting the Republican machine from office. William Green is a Republican wheel-horse, working together with Daniel Tobin and the other Democratic wheel-horses in the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The old capitalist parties want to make a drive on Minnesota for the coming elections. They want to tie the Minnesota workers and farmers to the kite of the old capitalist parties again. They know that the best way to do this is to split the labor movement, to weaken it, to drive out of it the most militant and active fighters.

These are the real reasons for the disgraceful splitting drive that Green and Lewis are launching. Only traitors to the organized labor movement can give it the slightest support!

Already the splitters have taken the first step. Mr. Disrupter Lewis has appointed a hand-picked committee of discredited officials to "take over" Local 574 of the General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union. The first blow is struck at 574, which has made itself so popular by the work it has done. What are the crimes of Local 574? Here they are, and we point to them proudly:

It has organized thousands of unorganized truck drivers, helpers and inside men.

It has forced the employers to grant recognition to a union organization, to accept the principle and practise of collective bargaining.

It has won increases of wages for its members and improvement of their conditions.

It has engaged in fearless, heroic battles in behalf of its members.

It has extended a fraternal helping hand to every labor organization in the city that ever asked for its assistance.

It has faced the combined forces of reaction in this city, the thugs, the strike-breaking police, the tear-gas bombs, the armored cars—and come out of it stronger than ever.

It has established a most democratically conducted union organization, where the officials are not imposed from above but democratically selected by the membership, where the worker feels at home in his union, where he feels that it is HIS union, and not a racket for a gang of scoundrels.

It has proclaimed and put into practise the great principle of labor unity: if you are a worker, your place is in our ranks, whether you are a socialist or a Republican, a communist or a Democrat, a Farmer-Laborite or a conservative, a Catholic or a Jew, a Protestant or an atheist, white or Negro. The only question we ask is: are you a worker in our industry? And that's the principle for which we stand and fight everywhere.

We plead guilty to these crimes. We are not ashamed of them. We seek to unite the whole working class population of this city around the same principles and the same practises.

These are the reasons why we were given the honorable distinction of being attacked first by the splitting politician sent into the Minneapolis labor movement by Mr. William Green. These are the reasons why every progressive, enlightened and militant force is to be the object of attack by the combined forces of reaction, inside and outside the labor movement.

That is why we call upon every working man and woman of Minneapolis, and above all, upon every member of the American Federation of Labor to:

Demand the removal of Splitter Lewis!

Demand the immediate termination of the vicious anti-labor "Red" drive!

Resist every attempt to impose arbitrary and autocratic officials upon the labor unions!

Resist every attempt to expel good, honest, fighting union men from the labor organizations which they have helped to build up!

Rally every force in the labor movement in an iron ring of solidarity against those who are working to undermine and destroy labor's organizations!

Rally every force in the labor movement to preserve and strengthen our unity, our progressivism, our fighting spirit!