

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wis.

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1937

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N. S. POWER STRIKE ENDS WITH REAL UNION VICTORY

Mass Meeting Hears Union Leaders Expose Splitters

V. R. Dunne Gives Shameful Record of Communist Party in Local Labor Movement

Trade unionists of Minneapolis packed the large auditorium at 257 Plymouth avenue on Monday night to hear union leaders present the facts about the state liquor bill, and to answer blow for blow the slanderous and lying attacks made by the Communist Party upon progressive trade unionists. The high light of the evening was the speech made by V. R. Dunne, in which he presented a devastating analysis and history of the Communists and their record in local labor history. One by one, Brother Dunne answered every lie and rumor that these people have sought to spread insidiously through the ranks of organized labor, and explained precisely why it is that the C. P. levels its attacks against all militant workers today. So completely did he silence them by his forthright remarks that when the question period came up, they had not one word to say. After adjournment of the meeting, scores of workers declared it one of the finest speeches they had ever heard, a real history-making event in Minneapolis labor annals.

Corcoran Presides

Brother Pat Corcoran of the Teamsters Joint Council opened the meeting and presided. Before introducing Bill Brown, he told the story of the Communist attacks against Local 574 in 1934. Corcoran paid tribute to the splendid co-operation which the General Drivers has given to the other driving crafts since its re-entry into the International Teamsters. He told of the record of the General Drivers Union in assisting other struggling unions, and pledged a continuation of this aid. He pointedly asked what the conviners and disrupters had ever done for the organized labor movement.

Bill Brown, the next speaker, pointed out the gains to union members and to the union movement that have resulted since the 1934 strikes. The General Drivers Union has raised the pay of some of its members as much as \$13 a week, Brown testified. Strike after strike has been won in the last few years. The only lost strikes have been those led by the present slanderers of the Teamsters. In closing, Brown compared the situation that existed in the union movement during the Northwest Bank strike with conditions today, in order to point

out what solid gains have been registered by the re-born union movement in Minneapolis.

Skoglund, Brewer Speak

Carl Skoglund in his talk pointed out what a crime it is against the interests of the labor movement to have such forces working within the unions seeking by poisonous gossip and slander to tear down what it has taken such sweat and blood to build. He called attention to the fact that the slogan raised by the General Drivers in 1934—"Make Minneapolis a Union Town"—is now almost a reality, and that organized labor must not permit disruption within its ranks when the goal is so close to achievement.

Ace Brewer of the Musicians testified that because of the growth and strength of the union movement, the employers have been softened to the point where they are willing to meet with union representatives.

Before introducing V. R. Dunne, Chairman Corcoran stated with pride that the Teamsters Joint Council now owns the building in which the meeting was held.

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Letter Tells Truth Of NSP Methods

March 1, 1937

Electrical Workers Union
Dear Sirs:

Much opposition, almost coercion, is being raised at North States Power Company to employes who are employed on a straight salary. Petitions are being circulated by CERTAIN employes who ask that you sign not to be represented by ANY union. This would, of course, mean any union other than a Company Controlled Union.

There is little or no chance for certain religious employes, and if a Company Union were formed there is little likelihood of a change, as the same groups would control the destinies of all employes as are now controlling them.

I wish that I were in a position to make my name public, but to do so, would, as you most likely know, result in my discharge. I believe that a union such as yours could remedy much of the politics which is so prevalent in the organization.

I hope that your strike reaches ALL of us, so that we may get what we have always asked: A Square Deal.

Yours for Unionization,
A Northern States Worker

On the Merry-Go-Round

Because of the recent attacks on the General Drivers Union and the other progressive unions by such people as Sam Davis, Harry Mayville, Swan Asserson, John Saltus, Harold Bean, and all the other Rosses, we consider it quite pertinent at this time to print the RECORD of these persons, and of their national and international leaders, in the local labor movement during the past few years. The statements in the left-hand column, unless otherwise stated, are taken from that pearl without price, the pamphlet "Permanent Counter-Revolution, The Role of the Trotskyites in the Minneapolis Strikes," issued by the Communist Party in 1934. (They don't sell this pamphlet any more.)

THEY SAID THEN:

"Thanks to the policy of cowardice and capitulation (of the Trotskyites) . . . Governor Olson, one of the most dangerous enemies of the working class, and the whole Farmer-Labor bureaucracy, came out of this clash of class forces with flying forces, colors borne by the 3,700 National Guardsmen mobilized during the 'truce' by this friend of the working class for use against the strikers."—p. 11.

"The exposure and defeat of Olson should have been the central political objective of the Minneapolis struggle."—p. 11.

"Is Olson the executive head of capitalism's State machinery in Minnesota or isn't he? Is it not a fact that henchmen of Olson and the Farmer-Labor Party in official positions in the Central Labor Council and elsewhere were determined to stop the general strike so as not to put Olson up against it?"—p. 22.

"In our simple-minded way, we cannot see any great difference between A. F. of L. officials silent whitewashing of the governors who called out troops against workers and ruined farmers in New Mexico, Iowa, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, etc., and the Trotskyite amnesty granted Governor Olson—with this exception: Governor Olson is the titular head of a party which PRETENDS to oppose the two big capitalist parties and protect the interest of workers and poor farmers. It is all the more necessary to expose his real role. This is elementary."—p. 23.

"Can Trotskyites plead ignorance of the anti-working class character of the Olson program? It is ridiculous. They know he is a conscienceless demagogue. They know of the underworld and capitalist connections of his machine."—p. 25.

"The Communist Party then (in 1924) favored the formation of a farmer-labor party. But it quickly became clear that this would inevitably be a party protecting the interests of big capital and would

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THEY SAY TODAY:

"Let us stand and bow our heads in silence for one minute in honor of Governor Floyd B. Olson, that great leader of the working class."—Robert Kelly, at the Sacco-Vanzetti Memorial meeting, C. L. U., August, 1936.

"To his everlasting credit, Floyd Olson was one of the first outstanding American progressives to recognize the need for a powerful anti-fascist Farmer-Labor Party."—Post-election statement, Nov., 1936.

"Can there be any doubt in anyone's mind that it is the duty of every worker to bring about the victory of the Farmer-Labor party to build it and make it a more effective instrument of the working people."—Statement published June, 1936.

"The common people know and have already seen to a certain extent that a F-L state administration can give the workers the right to organize and to strike without police interference, can stop the strikebreaking of the boss class and make use of the powers of the state including its armed forces for the protection of the workers and not the bosses." Minnesota State Comm., C. P. to the 1936 State Convention, Minn. F-L Association.

"It is to be expected that the capitalist press and the Republican and Democratic candidates will again distort, slander the Farmer-Labor platform even more so than they did in 1934."—Ibid.

"The Farmer-Labor Party would bring the masses face to face with the problem of state power, and therefore with all the problems of revolution."—Earl Browder, "What Is Communism?"—p. 95.

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Co. Grants Wage Gains, Closed Shop

All Strikers Back to Work Thursday A.M.

At 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the Minneapolis General Electric Company gave its signature to a union contract, thereby bringing to a close the eight-day strike of over 700 employees of the Northern States Power Co. The contract will run for two years, from Jan. 1, 1937, to Dec. 31, 1938. It provides for the closed shop, seniority rights, wage increases of from five to 10 per cent and vacations with pay for all employees who have worked more than two years. The contract calls for a continuation of the present eight-hour, five-day week, and overtime rates.

The end of the strike came as a result of a series of negotiations carried on directly between the management and the union officers. Wednesday night some of the strikers were already back to work, and it was anticipated all strikers would be working by Thursday. This union victory is unquestionably the most significant since the winning of the drivers' strikes in 1934. The strike was conducted by Local 292 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. M. J. Boyle of Chicago, a vice president of the Brotherhood, participated in the negotiations with the management.

CIO, Steel Workers, Crack Carnegie Corp.

Like a bolt from the blue came the news Wednesday that the Committee for Industrial Organization had bagged a union contract with the great Carnegie Steel Corporation. This development can only mean that within a short period, the entire 600,000 workers in this key industry will be working under union conditions, for all other steel companies will have to fall in line to compete with Carnegie for the government steel contracts, which call for union working conditions.

In the meantime, Lewis and his associates drove ahead to sign up as bargaining agent for Chrysler's 67,000 workers, and General Electric's 60,000 workers. It is believed the textile industry will then be taken on.

What with all these psychoanalysts around, it's getting so a guy is a-Freud to say hello to his own mother and father.

Famous Last Lines: The company refused to barter away the legal and moral right of employees not connected with the union to bargain in their own behalf.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Sharecroppers Week Is Celebrated Here, Throughout Nation

The story of the disinherited cotton tenant farmers and sharecroppers of the south is being told to Minneapolis audiences this week by Howard Kester, treasurer of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Meetings are being held all over the country for the purpose of bringing to the American masses an awareness of the frightful scope of the farm tenancy problem and to raise funds to aid the fighting Southern Tenant Farmers Union. The union, jointly with the Workers Defense League, is sponsoring this nationwide campaign.

Mr. Kester will speak Saturday night at an informal party at the home of Robert West, 406 Fifth St. S. E., Minneapolis, to which the public is invited. Kester will appear Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the public forum in the Iverson Hall, at 3745 Minnehaha, and Sunday night at 8 p. m. at the First Unitarian Society, 1526 Harmon Place. The speaker appears before fifteen other organizations in Minneapolis and the state this week.

FWS Organizers Meet Saturday

The FWS Organization Committee, consisting of the chairman and secretary of each FWS local, meets this Saturday at 1 p. m. in the 544 hall.

The general membership meeting of the FWS will be held on Friday, March 12, at 8 p. m. Important and interesting matters are up for action.

WPA Sewing Project Workers of Hennepin County are well on the road toward organizing themselves into the FWS. At their recent special meeting additional stewards were elected and machinery was set up for co-ordinating their work. The first task is to stop anti-union practices of project foreladies who have been setting up company union grievance committees and threatening workers who join our union with loss of their jobs. The rapid growth of union membership on sewing projects shows that the foreladies won't get away with their stuff much longer.

Recreational and White Collar WPA workers of Hennepin County have lacked basically correct organization and have thus been compelled to accept cut after cut and all sorts of discrimination without remedy or recourse. To correct this great weakness, a considerable group of these workers has now affiliated itself to the FWS. By so doing they are recognizing the identity of their own problems with those of manual workers. Their previous affiliations proved unfruitful. The FWS welcomes this new group to take its place in the union.

The charge that Stalin has framed up on the old Bolsheviks has been denied, exploded, discredited and laid to rest. It will no longer be mentioned by intelligent people. Only believed.

Ice, Coal Drivers Meeting Schedule

Local 221, Ice and Coal Drivers Union, will hereafter hold all of its regular meetings at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Regular Union meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Executive Board meetings are subject to call. The Union office is now located at the above address.

Bill Brown Says—

It was sure a pleasure to see Ray Dunne work out at the mass meeting Monday night. No wonder the midget Stalins hate him—he's got their number down to five decimal places. Toward the end, when Mayville took the floor, it became so brutal the referee should have stepped in to stop the slaughter.



BILL BROWN President of 544

F-L Convention to Reconvene March 14, Make Choice for Mayor

Indorse Aldermen, Adopt F-L Platform

About 500 delegates, including many from trade unions and ward clubs, attended the two-day Farmer-Labor convention last weekend to hammer together a platform and nominate candidates for the coming city elections. Congressman Dewey Johnson presided at the Sunday session at the Eagle's hall, with Mrs. Selma Seestrom

acting as secretary and Sander Genis and Owen Cunningham first and second vice-presidents. Governor Benson, who was scheduled to attend the Sunday session, was detained in Washington and failed to appear.

The following aldermanic candidates were approved: first ward, Harold Kauth; second, Hilliard Smith; third, Henry Bank; seventh, Ed Seestrom; eighth, Merlyn Cook; ninth, Eric Hoyer; tenth,

H. C. Miller; eleventh, H. G. Finstad, and twelfth, Ed Hudson.

Platform Adopted

The platform adopted contained the usual planks, such as: municipal ownership of all public utilities, prohibiting police from interfering with strike pickets, union pay scales for all city employees, lower gas electric and street car rates, requiring the union label on all city printing, repeal of the Brooks-Coleman law, etc. Other planks called for turning proceeds of the moneys and credits tax over to the public schools, abolition of the pauper's oath as a requirement for relief, removal of Relief Superintendent O. A. Pearson, payment of union wages on all WPA projects, and punishing public utilities for shutting off gas or electricity for non-payment of bills. A resolution was adopted commending Benson's plan for a five day, 30 hour week for state employees. The strike of the Northern States Power workers was endorsed.

No Nominations for Mayor

The conference ended without taking up the important problem of nominating its mayoralty candidate. This question will be taken up at a special session to

be held Sunday, March 14. A rule requiring a two-thirds vote on this issue was passed at the closing session on Sunday.

B. F. Nelson Workers Meet Tonight, 8 P.M.

A special union meeting of all unorganized employees of the B. F. Nelson Company will be held tonight, Thursday, at 8 p. m. in the Teamsters Joint Council headquarters at 257 Plymouth. A contract is now being prepared and demands will soon be served on the management to establish union hours, wages and working conditions in this plant. Local 20316 is doing the organizing.

A substantial majority of the 350 employees of the Buzza Printing Co. have already enrolled in Local 20316, after a successful organization campaign carried on recently. A contract is being prepared and will be presented to the management next week.

Jiffy-Dump Wanted — by M. L. McNabe, Hyland Station, Route 7, Phone Orchard 9083-R.

Facts Pertinent to the Controversy in the Minneapolis Labor Movement

Continuous acts of provocation and the dissemination of slanderous gossip and printed statements against the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council and other unions by an irresponsible clique of self seekers within the labor movement have risen to a point where they must be brought into the light of day. The Teamsters' delegates attempted at the Central Labor Union meeting on Wednesday, February 24th, to secure from certain Central Labor Union officials satisfactory explanations of questions vital to the welfare of the entire labor movement. In spite of the fact that the above Central Labor Union meeting was an executive session, the spokesmen for the Central Labor Union leadership failed to answer any of the questions.

We are, therefore, compelled to bring before the entire labor movement matters which should have been settled in the Central Labor Union. In the following evidence we have deleted important names and vital disclosures to prevent this information from falling into the hands of the enemies of labor. The Teamsters Joint Council is prepared, however, to submit affidavits and full documentary evidence before an authoritative commission of trade unionists. An abridged portion of the material available follows:

" * * * Brother and myself established ourselves in the West Hotel, Minneapolis, on February 2nd and immediately proceeded to establish contact with Lund and * * *

"I learned that Lund was at that time in Duluth. * * * I indicated to to whom I talked with on the phone that I was not particularly anxious to see him until I could speak to him and Lund together. was very anxious to talk to me. On February 3rd I agreed to meet and accordingly I had him come to Room 439, West Hotel. He was accompanied by a party by the name of Perry. has more mouth than anyone I have ever come in contact with who purports to attach themselves to the labor movement. He wanted to talk and I surely let him. He went into great detail and explained that Lund and his associates had been trying for about one year to obtain a charter other than the American Federation of Labor charter such as they then had. He went into great detail relative to the history of 19802 up to the present time. * * * His ego knew no bounds. I asked him to keep my visit a secret as I could tell from the character of the man that to do so was impossible and my deductions became correct, because on the following day, February 4th, he called and advised me that Lund was back in town and asked for an appointment.

"I had previously told that I did not care to visit with anyone except him and Lund. However, when they came to Room 439 at 9:30 A. M. on the 4th, came to the room first and said Lund was downstairs in the lobby waiting. In about ten minutes, several people came to the room and finally Lund. There were five altogether, Lund, Perry,, Professor Lester and

* * *. It was quite noticeable in all of my contacts with these people that there was no particular discussion of working men's conditions of employment. The main conversation at all times was political. * * *

"..... explained that his people had connections * * * in Minneapolis whereby they could intercept telegrams * * * It was also explained to me that all of General Organizer wires had been intercepted over a long period of time and their contents were well known. * * *

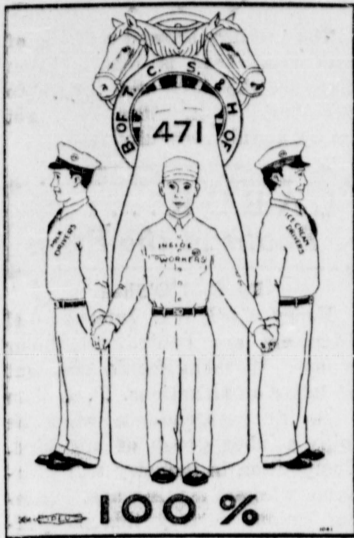
"In my meeting of the 4th, I was advised that these people had good contacts in the State Capitol, in the City Building and * * *. They were very anxious to have me meet the secretary to the who they explained was one of their people and when I declined this offer, I was informed that on my next visit they felt sure they could arrange to have me meet the himself. I was also advised by in my first meeting with him that "one of our people was arrested last night trying to get a hold of some of our records in the Cooks and Waiters Club."

"He informed me at that time also that his people had control of the Central Labor Union. He told me of a meeting which Organizer had just had with a Mr. and Mr. Urtubees, at which time Organizer made certain requests relative to the conduct of the Central Labor Union, and Mr., it was said, immediately reported back to "our people." It was explained to me in great detail that by following certain methods "we expect to take over and * * * the president of the Central Labor Union, Mr. Urtubees, will run for Mayor."

"I was told that Mr. of Virginia, Minnesota, was one of the most capable and influential men of "our people" in that section of the country and great things were expected under his guidance. I was invited to visit Mr. Lester at his apartment and was given his address as well as the telephone number. * * * Lund particularly tried to impress me by * * * explaining that he just wanted to demonstrate that he could take care of anything that might come up at any time. * * * I told Lund and that I had the authority to hire them as Organizers for the * * *. I also assured them that I would personally see that they had a charter. * * * They asked me if they should take in everybody regardless of their craft or calling, such as teamsters, etc. I was told that I need not worry about anything around Minneapolis because of their connections in the City Hall and state capitol and elsewhere. It was explained to me that one of their people by the name of was quite influential and active and that he would be one of the political office holders in the near future. I was even advised that it was possible that Mr. would even become President of the American Federation of Labor. While that was still problematical some thought was given to promoting him for that position." * * *

Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council No. 32

On the Route With the Milk Man



The Milk Wagon Drivers are all "a-wearin' of the green" this month—shamrock and all. The Norwegians will have to wait for their innings until May. And as for the Swedes—see what June will bring you.

The Daylight Savings bill took a rap in the House last week.

House File No. 800, dealing with the delivery and pasteurization of milk, is still in committee. If put in effect, this bill would ruin the sanitation requirements for milk. Brother Gidson of St. Paul is going right down the line with us on this vital issue.

Milk Wagon officials appreciated the response of the membership to the Monday night mass meeting.

Bill Sinnott tested a cigarette lighter on his proboscis the other day. The lighter's O. K.

The Milk Wagon Drivers, together with all the Teaming Crafts, extends the deepest sympathy to Brother Ed Cunningham, president of our State Federation of Labor, and hope he speedily recovers from the serious accident of Tuesday.

Yellow Notes

Have you ever noticed how closely Tony resembles a "white man" after he has had a shave?

Our former shop foreman, Ted Johnson, recently left the employ of the company.

It seems that some drivers like to keep the fact secret that there is a cab parked on a stand at night because they evidently have developed paralysis in the right arm and can't manipulate the switch to turn the roof light on.

Have you noticed how "effective" our inspection service is on lights on the cabs? You never see a Yellow with any of the lights not working properly. Oh yeah!

Did you ever hear of a fellow who was partially drunk that called the police department and reported a disturbance and was picked up by the squad car for creating the disturbance?

In the January 21 issue of the Northwest Organizer we stated that the Blue House Hamburger Shops, Inc., had discharged a man for union activity. We are happy to say at this time that the man discharged is back at his old stand which makes the Blue House Sandwich Shops "kosher."

On the Merry-Go-Round

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lead the working class away from the revolutionary path, deeper into the morass of reformist parliamentarism."—p. 32.

"The struggle to destroy the illusions about the Farmer-Labor Party cannot be conducted in the same way that a struggle is carried on against the Republican and Democratic Parties. They are supported by a skillful trade union bureaucracy, familiar with and able to use the stock terms of class struggle whenever necessary. It requires constant vigilance to understand and follow the maneuvers of these leaders; it needs patient and continuous exposure of them and warning of workers against them."—p. 34.

"The second truck drivers' strike did not result in victory for the drivers, as the Trotskyites claim. The drivers carried on a heroic struggle, lasting five weeks; but in the end were compelled to go back to work with no increase in wages and without union recognition."—p. 39.

"The leaders of the Central Labor Union, Cramer, Weir and others, ordered the Trotskyites to keep quiet about Governor Olson or they would have nothing to do with the strike. The labor fakers demonstrated their dissatisfaction with the Trotskyites' 'forgetfulness' by refusing to appear at a big mass rally at the Parade Grounds."—p. 42.

"That the Farmer-Labor Party receives its support from workers and farmers does not alter the fact that in essence the Farmer-Labor Party is a capitalist party; that, in modern society, the petty bourgeoisie does not play an independent role and the State apparatus is not a weapon of the petty bourgeoisie, but of the big capitalists to whom the petty bourgeoisie is attached. It makes little difference to the workers whether a petty bourgeois individual executes the orders of the capitalist class or a member of the big bourgeoisie."—p. 46.

"Governor Olson and the Farmer-Labor Party have lately increased their demagoguery about establishing the 'cooperative commonwealth.' It is necessary that we expose this fraud. This can be done by placing in opposition to the fake 'corporate commonwealth' our slogan of a real revolutionary workers' and farmers' government—the dictatorship of the proletariat."—p. 56.

"Defeat the Farmer-Labor Machine Gun Alderman." C. P. campaign slogan, June, 1935, Minneapolis city elections.

In our humble opinion, the above record—for consistency and political principledness—has probably NEVER been equalled in the history of world politics. The honest worker asks himself in bewilderment: Were these people making fun of us in 1934? How and where do they explain their about-face? Where will they be next year?

But perhaps we are doing these Peg-leg Petes an injustice. There IS one thing upon which they were agreed in 1934, in 1935, in 1936, and in 1937. And that is that the leaders of the General Drivers Union in Minneapolis are union-wreckers, counter-revolutionists, agents of Hitler's Gestapo, crooks, degenerates, racketeers, cowards, drunkards, embezzlers, despoilers of American womanhood, so weak they can be scorned and so strong they constitute a threat to the entire labor movement, bureaucrats, fakers and rats who are working hand-in-glove with the Mikado to defeat the United States in the coming world war. And they lie in this as they do in other things.

Wright de Coster Workers Organize

The recent organization work at the Wright de Coster plant in the Midway district has resulted in almost 100 per cent unionization of the fifty workers employed at this loud speaker assembling plant. The union is drawing up a contract which will be presented to the employer in the near future.

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"The workers also know that such a F-L administration can help them obtain higher wages and better working conditions, can give them increased relief and enact unemployment insurance, can guarantee the farmer the security of his home and can help the small businessman in his life and death struggle against the trusts and monopolies." C. P. Statement to 1936 F-L State Convention.

"However, despite these differences, the Communist Party salutes the power and militancy of Local 574 and its progressive contribution to the Minneapolis labor movement."—C. P. "Appeal to Reason" leaflet, June, 1936.

"For unity of Minneapolis labor!" Slogan in "I Accuse" leaflet, Feb., 1937.

"In Minnesota the issue of the campaign was strikingly clear. On the one side stood the reactionary, fascist-minded forces of the Citizens Alliance and the Steel Trust and their Republican Party, assisted by the reactionary Democrats. On the other side stood the forces of the people including the progressive Democrats, united behind the Farmer-Labor candidates."—Daily Worker, Nov. 18, 1936.

"Communists contributed by their political clarity, by their discipline and energy, a good measure of the success of the Farmer-Labor victory."—Ibid.

"The Communist Party... calls on the entire trade union movement to continue its support of the Farmer-Labor party." From "Appeal to Reason" leaflet, June, 1936.

On Monday The Furniture Workers, Local 1895, presented an agreement to the John A. Anderson wood-working plant calling for union recognition, seniority rights, the 40 hour week, a minimum wage rate of 60 cents an hour, etc. About a dozen workers are involved. The group will meet Wednesday morning to consider the company's answer and lay plans for further action.

Mass Meeting Hears Splitters Told Off

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ing held, and welcomed all workers to consider it their own.

Dunne Names Names

Dunne, in the main speech of the evening, went directly to the heart of the reason for the attacks of the Mayvilles, Mossetts, of Swan Asserson, Harold Bean, Hilliard Smith, Nat Ross, George Lund and the Communist Party members against "the Dunnes and Skoglunds." They do not attack us for our work in the trade union movement, he said, but for our political convictions. Dunne traced the degeneration of the once great Communist International since the death of Lenin and its other founders. He told of how the uninformed and bureaucratic clique headed by Stalin had maneuvered into control of the Communist International and of its sections all over the world and had distorted this once revolutionary instrument into the toy of the nationalistic and reactionary group controlling Russia today. They have a hatred of all militant workers the world over, and especially of those revolutionists, the so-called "Trotskyites," who have the understanding to expose the fakery and degeneration of their international organization. "Whereas we always and everywhere subordinate the interests of the revolutionary movement to the interests of the general labor movement," said Dunne, "the Communist Party today places the interests of its own narrow grouping above the interests of the organized working class."

Dunne proclaimed that the leaders of the General Drivers don't sit back and rest on their past achievements, but stand on what they are doing today and tomorrow for the trade union movement. He told in some detail the work and the thought that went into the organization of the coal-yard workers which laid the foundation for the upsurge of the union movement in Minneapolis. Praising the full co-operation and understanding shown by the rest of the labor movement in coming to the aid of the General Drivers in 1934, Dunne recalled the campaign of slander and lies unloosed by the Communist Party in the May and July strikes of that year, which matched the filth of the Citizens Alliance.

"We didn't drag these political questions into the labor movement, but they did, and now they are going to get answered," he said. The local Communist Party has received orders directly from its national and international leaders to destroy our influence in the Minneapolis labor movement, he proclaimed, and to achieve this they would bring the entire union movement down to dust and decay.

The Liquor Question

Dunne said there was nothing mysterious about the trade union opposition to the state liquor bill. For the good of the union movement, we take a principled stand against putting the State of Minnesota into the wholesale liquor business. For this, you are told, we are corrupt. We are against the liquor bill because it vitally affects the jobs and welfare of, a good section of the union movement.

Dunne paid tribute to the actions of solidarity shown by Leslie Sinton in the 1934 strikes and compared it with the rotten record of the Communist Party leaders. He told the story of how Local 574 helped to set up the Gas Station Attendants, Local 19802, and turned drivers over to them, after Lund had acted as strikebreaker in the July, 1934, strike. Lund later admitted he made a serious mistake, Dunne recalled. The story of the Twin Cities gar-

age strike and the strike of Local 1318 were told, and of how Local 574 manned the picket lines en masse, drove off the scabs, and lifted these strikes to success. "That we follow a 'rule or ruin' policy is a damnable lie," he said, "and our accusers know this." If this were the case, why did the General Drivers reach unity with Local 500 to solidarize the driving crafts here?

"And we don't attempt to discredit Benson or the Farmer-Labor Party. We are critical of them when we believe they are wrong, and we say so, and what is objectionable or hard to understand about that?" he asked.

In closing he urged all workers to study the leaflets now being published by both sides, to study other literature dealing with these questions and to reach a verdict.

Vigorously Applauded

When Dunne asked for question from the floor, Harry Mayville, the Communist Party spokesman, asked for permission to make a speech. Dunne countered by offering to debate fully with any Communist Party member any question of import to the labor movement. This fair and honest offer Mayville refused to accept, though pledging to "take it up" with his leaders.

A letter was read from Professor Lester to Pat Corcoran relating to a leaflet published by the Teamsters Joint Council (reprinted in this issue), in which Lester asked for an opportunity to explain his actions before the Central Labor Union. V. R. Dunne offered to lay all the documents pertaining to this matter before an authoritative trade union commission representative of the state-wide movement. At the adjournment of the meeting, he was given a hearty round of applause for the honesty and simplicity with which he had presented the case of the trade union movement and its slanderers.

Agreement Drawn For Sears Workers

Over 500 men and women, employees at Sears-Roebuck's, attended the mass meeting held last Friday at Grandvill Hall to make up one of the most spirited and enthusiastic organizational gatherings held in recent months in Minneapolis. A committee of 15 was elected to draw up a contract which will be presented to the management at Sears within the next few weeks. With so many live workers streaming into the union, officials confidently predict that this plant will be completely unionized in the near future. These workers are organized in the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316.

NEW MEETING SCHEDULE FOR LOCAL 1859
General Membership Meeting, March 3.
J. R. Clark and Casket Workers, March 17.
Puffer Hubbard, March 19.

Local 131

The regular meetings of the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Union are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. All members are requested to be present. The stewards' meeting is held on the second Thursday each month.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE
Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316
Regular membership meetings first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p. m.
Executive Board meets every Thursday at 8 p. m.
All meetings will be held at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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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 Bolshevik
I'm labor."

Most Americans Are Workers

Undoubtedly, one of the chief reasons for the swing to the left on the part of the masses of the American people, and the widespread and powerful upsurge of the union movement in the last few years, is the growing realization that the working class constitutes an overwhelming majority of the population—and that life as it is ordered today does NOT reflect at all the interests of this majority, but rather of a small minority. That this situation is a denial and distortion of democracy is slowly beginning to sink into the popular mind.

A study of the 1930 census reveals that the American working class constitutes 72 per cent of the gainfully employed, and that this percentage is growing each year. Included in this category are the 26,400,000 wage-workers, the 6,000,000 clerical-sales workers, and 2,500,000 other salaried employes, including teachers. The farming population has been decreasing since 1910, and today constitutes only 14.9 per cent of the total; in 1930, 42.4 per cent of these farmers were propertiless tenants, and this percentage has unquestionably risen during the past six years.

The middle class, according to the census, accounts for but 12.4 per cent, and the wealthy—what scientific sociologists refer to as the "big bourgeoisie"—number but 350,000, or less than one per cent of the gainfully employed!

And yet who could deny that it is the policies of this infinitesimal minority that by and large prevails in the life of the United States today? What is the reason for this? In a large measure, this is because the wealthy are more conscious of their interests than we are of ours. Furthermore, they are organized to see to it that their policies shall prevail.

The answer to this obviously unjust state of affairs is that we, too, must organize to defend our interests, the interests of the great majority of the American people. It is because millions of workers are beginning to see this truth, and because the Committee for Industrial Organization is taking the initiative and is furnishing the framework by which this can be accomplished, that the unionization campaign of the C. I. O. is causing so much alarm and such bitter hostility in the camp of the minority. The selfish few realize all too clearly that once the majority are in the position to offer organized resistance and defense, the interests of the majority will prevail. And this thoroughly democratic goal is precisely what they fear most of all. The answer we must make is to strengthen and extend the union movement, for the organization of the workers on the economic field into strong and effective unions is a prime necessity in order to enable workers to defend their day-to-day interests in the struggle against the exploiting few and to develop the power and self-reliance that will be so necessary in the days to come.

Watt Notes

By J. J. Kitowski

Since the strike the company has found that the "loyal" members of the Arc Dept. arc no more.

Wow—how the wives of the strikers are volunteering for kitchen duty. Although completely tired out, they refuse to go home. They are true fighters, every one. The slogan today, they say, is "One for all and all for one."

The membership hears daily from the public that they are behind the strikers 100 per cent, and scores of people have claimed that the strikers have been more than considerate as regards the public welfare.

And how the boys are taking out the full memberships. It kept three men busy at the desk signing 'em up the first morning of the strike.

The citizens of Minneapolis have been heard to remark that this is the best strike yet. They say: More power to the union! (Does that mean less light?)

Stan Kaneski of the overhead

department is the proud pater of a bouncing baby girl.

Everyone's glad his name isn't Fink Prouse?

Test for the picket line. How many smoke stacks are there at the Riverside plant? Don't look now.

When are the Electrical Shopmen eligible for the inside section of 292 going to wake up?

Ho hum, the loyalty petitions are out again. It gets pretty thin after a while. How come the "loyal and true" can't think up a new one? The petitions should be made on tissue, as the paper is the strongest thing about 'em.

"Loyalty League" Thornjo is in charge at Main Street and in all his glory. The union answer is: So What?

The structure at 257 shook to its foundations Tuesday morning. It seems there were a couple of dark spots in north Minneapolis and Mrs. Bill Brown lived in one of them. It was ironing day. She couldn't decide whether to climb the pole—or to treat some of the strikers to hot coffee.

This strike, like every strike,

shows one thing. It takes UNION men to keep the machinery of life humming. Scabs and pets simply don't know how.

Independent Truck Chatter

Who Is Who?

Wonder if Governor Benson has been requesting the removal of the right man? Maybe Christgau isn't the guiding spirit of local WPA after all.

Letters have been sent to all Farmer-Labor ward clubs requesting a stricter adherence to the policy of day-labor work on state highway work next summer. If your club doesn't take action on this recommendation bring the matter up on the floor yourself and demand that the body make definite moves at once to put pressure on the proper centers.

Riddle

Trust WPA officials to get to the core of things in their own unique fashion. After much delay in getting a final answer about the establishment of seniority on WPA, Mr. Sassman intimates in his disarming manner that seniority could possibly be put into effect for contract trucks. When all is said and nothing done, we can happily see that they mean trucks will be laid off according to seniority. This is the full extent of WPA understanding of acceptable seniority. Why do all these good things happen to truckers?

In case you didn't know, Congress passed a deficiency bill for \$690,000,000. They put the skids under a Farmer-Laborite proposal for \$1,040,000,000 that would have carried on the WPA program full force until June. At the present time hundreds of truckers can not be placed back to work. It is likely that the money at hand will be used up before June and therefore necessitate another appropriation or a general lay-off. Let it be known that at the present time District Five has received its full allotment of the new appropriation despite attempts of WPA to soft pedal that fact.

Bouquet

Curt brought home four roses the other afternoon but the wife didn't appreciate his taste. Now don't ask why.

Even the easy going, "take whatever comes along" truckers will get a rousing jolt from the change in WPA work that is being formulated. Remember, your strength is in your union. Talk union, act union, be union. You will need it plenty.

Indebted

A sitting vote of thanks is due Mr. Sassman from the ITO Section for the wonderful results his recent edicts have had as far as causing delinquent members to pay back dues. The office and stewards report a rushing business from people with suddenly revived memories.

Carl must have made a name for himself in Washington. Dobbs reports that he had several inquiries about Skoglund, president of the Independent Truck Owners. Besides Congressmen he probably knows every brother snus eater in the District of Columbia. Skoglund for senator is our slogan.

We are warned almost daily of the alarming spread of radicalism in colleges, churches and labor unions. Anybody knowing the whereabouts of any radicals might direct them to the Communist Party—which is short of radicals.

With the Laundry Workers Union

We have been informed that Brother Brennan, Business Representative of the Laundry Workers Union of St. Paul and President of the Trades and Labor Assembly of that city, has resigned his position and become Business Representative of the Retail Clerk's Union. Rumors are that with the change went a \$20 weekly increase in pay.

Lillian Price of the Custom is up and around again after a serious automobile accident. Hope to see Lillian at our meetings again.

Alfreda Carlstedt of Laurence's, Mrs. Squires of the National Cleaners and Frank Bochnik of the Majestic are on the sick list this week. We hope the flowers sent to them will cheer them up.

Union members are requested to notify the office whenever there are any violations as to the five hour provision. The employees of the Pilgrim Cleaners were enriched by the sum of \$20.80 after the case was called before the Compliance Committee.

We are glad to hear Mrs. Bodigheimer is home again after spending a week at St. Mary's hospital.

One more dry cleaning plant signed a closed shop agreement with our Union. It is the Monogram Cleaners located at 808 W. 26th St. This makes a total of 32 closed shops to date.

We received a letter from President Brooks of the Laundry Workers International instructing the Business Representative, R. Latz, to demand that all Laundry Workers employed in the City, University and Veterans' Hospitals be transferred to Local 183. This is a job we are not so anxious to perform, but orders are orders.

We miss the presence of our genial hall manager, Dad Hoffman, who was suddenly taken ill and is now confined to the hospital.

Esther Anderson, silk presser who has been employed at the Mill City Company, has accepted a position in a cleaning plant at Menominee, Wis. Ida Busse of Gross Brothers is taking her place.

In appreciation of the wonderful work our shop steward of the Nevens Company, Hannah Mattson, is doing we are planning on something nice for her. Watch announcement.

We thought spring was here and the brown thrush was out, but upon investigating we found it was only Harry Brown practicing La Traviata for our next musical program to be held April 9.

NOTES OF AN ICEMAN

The Minneapolis Independent Ice and Fuel Dealers had their annual feed Saturday night. Steaks at the President on Nicollet.

The steaks were so rare, they must have taken them off the cows on the run.

Terp was all over the floor looking for more eats, or flirting with the ladies. He seemed to mention Mary quite often, and I never heard of a cow called Mary.

Ed Ariandson saw that no one got by without tickets.

Kirk hid in a corner, but Connie, the master of ceremonies, found him anyway.

Oakes came late for the steaks

—but also late for the ticket taker, so he didn't lose out.

Slim and Emil were getting their share. But the smallest man got two helpings. He needs to grow a little more, anyway, so we'll excuse him.

The brewery showed a movie of how good beer is made. From then on, the gang did justice to the Grain Belt. The kegs got empty awfully, awfully fast.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shea

Henry Ford sez: International financiers are behind the labor unions. Workers should stay out of labor organizations. . . A man loses his independence when he joins a labor group of any kind. Competition in industry will guarantee workers a fair wage, but labor unions destroy this competition.

Naturally, Ford would want the workers to compete with one another for low wages, instead of banding together to force higher wages for all.

That crack about union men lacking independence is a classic—a worker only BE-GINS to tread the path of independence when he joins a trade union. Did you ever see a financier on a picket line?

Dr. Hawkes of Columbia College: Don't worry about college students who wave red flags and march in peace strikes. . . Most of the young radicals become ordinary conservatives after graduation.

That used to be the case but it's not true any more—not in the eighth year of the depression. Not only do the radicals stay that way, but many conservatives turn pink after straightening up from a WPA shovel to wipe their brows with their college diplomas.

Washington news item: President Roosevelt today nominated ex-governor McNutt of Indiana to be U. S. commissioner to the Philippine islands.

Looks like our brown cousins are due for a long reign of martial law.

London news item: England's new national defense project will cost each family of five \$842.70.

I can't think of a better way to spend the nation's wealth—except to throw it into the ocean.

Emil Holms, chairman of the Union party of Minnesota (did you know it was still around): Policemen are soldiers in the front line trenches of the nation's defense.

Soldiers in the front line of capitalism, you mean.

Three groans for that newspaper guy who began calling a sit-down strike a sedentary protest.

Farmer-Laborites are, as a rule, quite radical—but like the drunken prohibitionist, they are not fanatical on the subject.

Washington announces there are only about ten million unemployed. It's swell to get Back to the Good Old Times, isn't it?

A poor man has about as much chance of getting justice in a court as a white collar has in Pittsburgh.

Our latest national superstition is that capitalism can be reformed by increasing the justices in the Supreme Court.