

FIGHT THE INJUNCTION MENACE!

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(Written in Prison)

The Trade Union Unity League must take up in all seriousness the struggle against the injunction. With the deepening of the economic crisis and the sharpening of the workers' struggles, the capitalist judges will more drastically than ever apply the bosses' injunction weapon against our strikes. The injunction, with its suppression of picketing, free assembly, free press, etc., amounts practically to a prohibition of the right to strike.

The labor injunction was developed to smash the old trade unions in the days when they displayed at least some degree of fighting spirit. For many years, beginning about 40 years ago in the strike of the American Railway Union, every important article was countered by the employer-controlled courts hamstringing the strikers through injunctions. Thousands of workers were jailed because of such injunctions, hundreds of strikes broken by them. In those days the official attitude of the A.F.L. was to smash the injunction by mass violation, although the conservative leaders were themselves careful not to do any of the violating.

Now, however, the employers use the injunction but little against the A. F. of L. and independent craft unions. Thus in the recent fake strikes of the I.L.G.W.U. in the New York cloak and dress trades the court issued no injunctions. The old trade unions with their policy of "union-management cooperation," are against our principle. On the rare occasions when they do strike the leaders systematically repress every attempt at militancy and class solidarity. They are effective strike-breakers and the employers' need for the injunction is accordingly diminished.

But when strikes are led by revolutionaries, through the Trade Union Unity League, immediately the bosses' courts issue sweeping injunctions. In the recent months hundreds of our workers in the food, needle and shoe workers unions of the Trade Union Unity League have been railroaded to jail, without trial under Section 600 of the Penal Code of New York for violating these injunctions. These

arbitrary court orders become an increasing menace to our whole movement.

No longer do the conservative unions fight the injunction. Their fascist leaders now accept it. They use injunctions against each other in their factional quarrels; they use them especially against the revolutionary unions. Now the A. F. of L. bureaucrats only demand that they be given a hearing before an injunction is issued. This proposition is the substance of Governor Roosevelt's new law so loudly praised by William Green. The social-fascists join in this treachery on the injunction issue, the socialist party election platform declaring:

"We unreservedly support the demand of organized labor that no injunction be issued except after a full trial of all issues in open court."

The meaning of all this is that the A. F. of L. and the socialist party want the injunction retained but used only against the revolutionary unions. These bureaucratic leaders are willing to trust the capitalist courts to further their strike breaking program, hence they propose to leave these courts the power of issuing injunctions.

The task of fighting the injunction falls upon the revolutionary unions. It is our unions that must defend the workers from this menace. And the way to defeat the injunction is by the workers violating it en masse. The issuance of an injunction in a strike must be the signal for the T.U.U.L. to mobilize all possible forces to break it by mass picketing. Not only is it necessary to mobilize the strikers but also the militant elements from the other unions and from the unorganized.

In this way, by direct conflict with the tyrannical court order, we rendered inoperative the injunctions leveled against us in the fur and cloak strikes of 1926. And it is along this line we must develop our struggle. The T.U.U.L. must consider the fight against the injunction as one of its basic tasks.

Workers, fight against the injunction. Disregard court orders that deny you the right to picket and strike. Strike against wage cuts. Fight for the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill. Join the T.U.U.L. Vote the Communist ticket.