

Labor Views

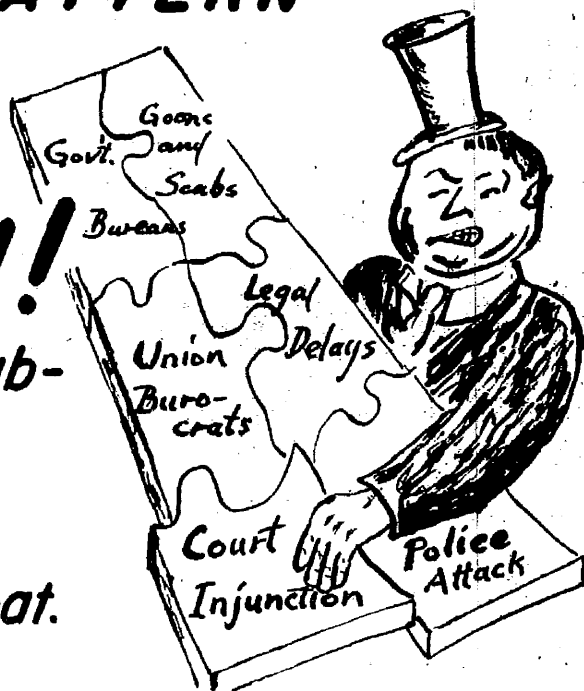
Vol. 1, No. 23

Oct. 26, 1946

STRIKE - BREAK PATTERN

INJUNCTION!

Pickets attacked by club-swinging police; court issues injunction against pickets. Labor fakers sit pat.



Last Monday, Oct. 21st, an injunction was granted the American Automatic Devices Co. against the workers of UAW Local 453 who have been picketing this plant. On the first four days of this month these workers have been forced to defend their picket lines against violent attacks by scabs and the Chicago police. The final day of this running battle was climaxed by a merciless club attack by 50 police on 20 pickets.

This is not a simple injunction against the 150 workers in this shop. Last Monday's injunction was the Chicago court's dramatic approval of this raw police violence against any workers who commit the "crime" of militant struggle to raise their living standards. The women workers (the majority) at American Automatic Devices Co. now get 65¢ and 70¢ per hour.

The injunction forbids any more than 7 pickets to be at the gates of the plant and prohibits the workers of this union from even congregating in front of the plant on the public sidewalk and orders them not to use offensive language to scabs employed by the company. The injunction forbids effective picketing against scabs, and therefore forbids the workers to carry on an effective strike.

Once again this latest step to crush the workers' struggle for higher wages has been met by the enemy policies of the so-called leaders of organized labor in Chicago. As in the case of negotiations with this company which the union leaders have allowed to drag on for nine months, as in the case of the police attacks against these workers on their picket line, now

in the face of the court injunction these bloodless leaders refuse to rely upon the massed strength of the workers. The 5,000 workers in Local 453 have the power to beat this arrogant company. The 500,000 workers in the CIO alone have the power to beat police violence and the court injunction which threaten every union in Chicago.

Immediately after the injunction was handed down the company announced that its shop would now reopen. It has so far managed to find a dozen scabs and the plant is, technically speaking, now open. It is

59 DAYS TO XMAS And Mattson is looking for Santa

"WE ARE HOPING THAT THE COMPANY WILL COME TO ITS SENSES AND NEGOTIATE WITH US." IS MATTSON'S ANSWER TO THE LATEST BLOW AGAINST THE UAW LOCAL 453. MATTSON IS THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF UAW-CIO. THE COMPANY, AMERICAN AUTOMATIC DEVICES HAS JUST WON AN INJUNCTION FROM THE CHICAGO COURT'S RESTRICTING LOCAL 453 FROM MASS PICKETING AND FROM "INTER-FERRING" WITH SCABS WHO GO THROUGH THE 7 PICKETS WHO ARE NOW ALLOWED AT EACH GATE.

This company has during the past ten months proved itself a most vicious anti-union outfit. Its crowning attitude toward unions is displayed in its public statement to the press that they expect to resume work this week in the struck plant. And according to Mattson himself this company is paying \$1 an hour to the scabs who have already entered the plant through the picket lines - compared to the \$.65 an

possible that they will have a difficult time employing workers because of today's labor shortage. BUT THE SIGNIFICANT FACT HERE IS THAT THIS LABOR SHORTAGE WILL EVENTUALLY GIVE WAY TO A GREATER AND GREATER ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED, AND THE STRATEGY OF SAVAGE POLICE ATTACKS AGAINST THE PICKET LINE FOLLOWED BY COURT INJUNCTIONS WHICH ARE SPINELESSLY OBEYED BY LABOR'S "LEADERS" WILL OPEN UP EVERY STRUCK SHOP TO SCABS, WILL SMASH EVERY LOCAL UNION WHICH STRIKES TO MAINTAIN OR BETTER THE WORKERS' LOT AND WILL GREASE THE DOWNWARD SLIDE OF ALL WORKERS' LIVING STANDARDS.

hour wage rate which the workers in this plant have been receiving.

"WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR ANYTHING, AFTER ALL," CONTINUES MR. MATTSON, "ONLY THE 18¢ AN HOUR ON THE 65¢ AND 70¢ AN HOUR WHICH THEY ARE NOW GETTING. AND THIS COMPANY DOES WANT TO MAKE PROFIT; SO THEY ARE BOUND TO COME TO TERMS."

Here Mattson has really said something. To ask for 18¢ now on a 65¢ an hour wage is certainly asking for nothing. The 18¢ raise is obviously far below the price rises today. But, the second point that this pork-chopper fails to realize is that the American Automatic Devices Co. is out not simply to deprive the workers of a decent wage; it is out to break the union. Indeed, Mattson admits that the company is now paying scabs extra money in order to do just that.

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Bread or Bullets!

In the bloody history of the Chicago police department the brutal beating of the American Automatic Device workers was just another incident. From the dawn of working class struggle for a better life here the reliable arm of the Chicago bankers, manufacturers and merchants has been the hoodlums in blue. At times however, when the fight became too ferocious, the National Guard and the regular army were thrown into the fray. A few historical references form a good background to the present day struggles.

When the depression beginning in July 1877 was headed for the bottom, it was the workers who suffered the most. Widespread unemployment and for those fortunate enough to work, drastic wage-cuts. Giant railroad strikes ripped across the nation to be joined by strikes of other workers. From hundreds of demonstrations arose the cry: BREAD OR BULLETS. Police, private police, militia, regular troops and cavalry patrolled the streets. Wherever workers gathered they were attacked and dispersed.

On July 23, 1877 a workers' meeting here at Market Square was charged by mounted police swinging clubs and firing pistols. The next day police broke into the Furniture Workers Union Hall shooting directly into the assembly and as the ter-

INJUNCTION! (from page one)

This company has used the trick of bringing in a rival union after the workers were forced out on strike last April. It has used the government labor bureaus to stall negotiations. It has used intimidation against the workers. It has inspired violence on the picket lines by calling upon the police to protect scabs as they were run through these picket lines; it has used Chicago police force which brutally beat these workers to the ground with clubs. And, finally, it has used the court injunction to prevent any effective picketing before the plant by law. Yet, Mattson representing the bureaucrats in control of the Regional Office of the UAW, "hopes that this company will come to its senses."

59 days to Christmas, but does this company look like Santa Claus?



1877 - ..."CAVALRY UNITS AT HALSTED ST. VIADUCT WITH DRAWN SWORDS... HACKING BLEEDING WORKERS TO THE GROUND

rified workers stampeded toward safety they were met at the stairs by a phalanx of police who bashed them mercilessly. Immediately afterwards a pitched battle took place between other workers and cavalry units at the Halsted St. viaduct. With drawn swords these American cossacks charged and counter-charged hacking bleeding workers to the ground. As the desperate workers fought throughout the city the Board of Trade mobilized a powerful army of cavalry, infantry regiments, police, special deputies, citizen patrols and uniformed vigilantes such as the Boys in Blue and Ellsworth Zouaves. In panic several companies of veteran Indian fighters were rushed to Chicago from the Sioux country.

Workers were shot, cut up, beaten trampled; their leaders were arrested and their halls demolished. To the urgent demand for BREAD the Chicago capitalist had answered BULLETS.

But throughout the '70s and '80s the class struggle mounted in savagery. When the city of Chicago was presented with a gatling-gun (an early model machine gun) the ruling class rejoiced openly. The Chicago Tribune gloated that this new gun would now be able to chew up workers faster than a dog chews sausages.

As a result of these battles the wealthy citizens here - the McCormicks, Fields and Armours - led a movement against narrow streets. Such streets winding in and out could be commanded by a few rifles firing from a second story building. Bowing to this agitation the city-planners laid out new streets broad

and wide and inter-secting at exact right angles. A gatling-gun could then sweep for a thousand yards; artillery pulled into position fire point blank for a mile; troops march ten abreast; and cavalry charge as easily as on an open field.

Going back further in the history of this city we come upon a proclamation of the Weekly Chicago Democrat in October of 1853: "Let the starving thousands of our eastern cities, whom poverty is driving to crime and the almshouse, swarm and scatter over the busy, teeming west. Here - in Chicago - their labor will be appreciated and receive its just reward, and they will find themselves the citizens of a land abounding in gold more plentiful than California and Australia, and flowing with milk and honey."

In October of 1946 the Chicago police once again pounded these lies to pieces, this time over the heads of the workers of American Automatic Device, out fighting for their post-war raise.

Labor Views

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THE WORKERS' ANGLE

News of the Week

Once again the daily papers headline John L. Lewis's call for strike in the soft coal industry. Lewis is charging the government (which has been in control of the mines since the last coal strike) with a breach of contract. Two of these breaches of contract include (1) the Government's insistence on computing payments to the miners' health and welfare fund on the basis of weight of coal loaded into railroad cars rather than weight at the mine tipple. (2) The method of pro-rate vacation payments set up by the coal mines administrator. Lewis will also ask for wage increases for his 400,000 soft-coal miners.

Sec. of the Interior, J. A. Krug, stated that because of numerous wild-cat strikes it was the union that had committed a breach of contract. The fact that wild-cat strikes have taken place shows us that the government administration was agreeable to Lewis but not to the miners. Miners who did welcome government intervention during their last strike, have learned their lessons now, and have rebelled against their "boss". The pressure of the rank-and-file in the mines has forced Lewis to talk loud about a coal strike, not

in the spring when he knows the demand for coal is lesser, but in the fall when the miners will stand a greater chance of winning their demands.

AT A CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL APARTMENT OWNERS ASSOCIATION IN OKLAHOMA CITY ON NOV. 18TH AND 19TH, PLANS WILL BE MADE FOR A NATION-WIDE STRIKE FOR HIGHER PRICES TO APARTMENT OWNERS. IN SPOKANE, WASH. 150 LANDLORDS HAVE ALREADY CALLED A MEETING TO CONSIDER A STRIKE.

WORKERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO PAY EXORBITANT PRICES FOR EVERYTHING THEY BUY. THE RENTS THEY NOW PAY ARE HIGHER THAN THEY SHOULD BE DUE TO THE FACT THAT DURING THE WAR YEARS THE LANDLORDS HAD THE EXCUSE OF NOT BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN MATERIAL TO REDECORATE OR REPAIR THEIR BUILDINGS. YET THE RENTS REMAINED THE SAME. THEREFORE, IF RENTS GO UP, IT WILL MEAN ANOTHER INCREASE TO THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY AND ANOTHER

PICKING OF THE WORKERS' POCKETS!

Most of price and wage control except for rents, came to an official end last week. This "official end" was indeed ludicrous since most of the prices had already burst far above the so-called price line in one way or another. Where they didn't, certain interest, such as the meat trust, saw to it that the market remained starved until demand reached the bursting point. The fact that the lid is now off of wages in the same industries means nothing. Wages have been held down so that prices have gotten a long head-start on them. Thus, the whole price and wage control program again stands revealed as a systematic method by which the workers' living standards have been brought down in the last year. Every worker who looks at his take-home pay and the prices in the stores can see the truth of this fact. Without OPA prices will continue to go up so as to squeeze every last penny out of the workers' pockets.

AT NUERNBERG - if the working-class

American and British imperialism have had their field-day in Nuremberg. 19 Nazi big-wigs were convicted of "conspiracy", "crimes against the peace" and "war crimes". 3 of the top-flight Nazis, Von Papen, Schacht, and Von Fritsch were released.

The fact that Schacht, the Nazi banker, whose financial dealings made Hitler's regime possible, was adjudged not guilty touches the very heart of the fact that these trials were a complete farce. The big American financiers who are pouring money into the Chiang Kai-Chek war machine in China don't want to rule themselves as "criminal aggressors".

If the dirty business of building up imperialist empires by armed force and violence is to be considered a crime today then the biggest criminals are the United States, British, French and German imperialism. But, obviously, the only way any one of these will be brought to trial will be when one of them is defeated by the others in the struggle for imperialist power.

While German imperialism invaded most of Europe and kept the European working class under its heel and

had hung all the aggressors



while it kept its guns pointing in the direction of the Soviet Union, the US-British imperialist bloc did not cry out, "aggressor!" But when like a Frankenstein monster it turned upon the very imperialist powers who had fostered it, Britain and America found their empires at stake.

The heinous destruction growing out of this war is the natural by-product of a world profit system which must resort to a bloody test of strength in order to decide who shall dominate the world and its

markets. It is immediately seen that the Nuremberg trials were not legal acts but political demonstrations. The total crime of capitalist war is blamed on the losing capitalist nation.

The gory pictures of the hanged Nazis are supposed to tell us: "Fascism and aggression are dead!" The working class can see the true nature of capitalist morality at work not in Nuremberg, but in India, Palestine, Java, Greece, Iran, Cyprus and the Phillipines.

at Harvesters: YOU CAN'T DRIVE A SPIKE WITH A TACK HAMMER

Between now and November 18th, the Harvester workers in Melrose Park will be called on to vote for a union to represent them. It continues to be obvious that the workers will select the UAW Local 6 over the FEWA. Why this choice?

First, because workers have become aware of the FEWA's notorious record. In all the Farm equipment factories it has organized, it has maintained piecework which results in an agonizing speed-up. This is the very speed-up which the Melrose Harvester workers have already come to know so well. Also, the FEWA's dictatorship rule over its local unions has become common knowledge (the full story of this rigid, Stalinist bureaucracy shall appear in future issues of Labor Views).

Secondly, Harvester workers remember the militancy of UAW Local 6 when during the war it represented the Buick workers in this same plant.

But it is here that Harvester workers should stop and ask themselves, "Is winning the election going to be enough?"

Let's look around and see the miserable conditions facing every Melrose Park worker. The plant is over-staffed with supervisors and foremen imported from the various Harvester plants - Milwaukee, Tractor Works, McCormick and Springfield (Ohio). They all rate themselves as experts in squeezing production out of workers and they actually compete with each other at the expense of the workers. Job rates are usually set at an all-time high and wages rank among lowest in the industry. So intolerable are these conditions that less than 2,000 workers can be retained in a factory equipped for 5,500.

Two CIO union headquarters sit across the street from the plant, and yet nothing has been done to change these conditions. OBVIOUSLY, THE MERE PRESENCE OF THE UNION

Orchids for m' lady While lard is 70¢ a pound

While workers vainly attempt to make their weekly pay-check stretch out to cover the mounting cost of living, the Arden Shore held a very special committee meeting luncheon in the Regency Room at the Drake Hotel on Oct. 9th.

76 enormous purple orchids were made into a centerpiece at the

EVEN AFTER THE ELECTION IS WON IS NOT ENOUGH. WORKERS HAVE TO VIGOROUSLY ORGANIZE THEMSELVES WITHIN THE UNION.

Last week's issue of the Local 6 Hi Flyer proposes exactly the opposite idea in saying,

"The main goal ahead is to roll up a real margin of victory in the NLRB ELECTION so that our bargaining committee can go into management knowing the workers are backing them 100%, so they can win gains for our workers in Melrose Park Harvester."

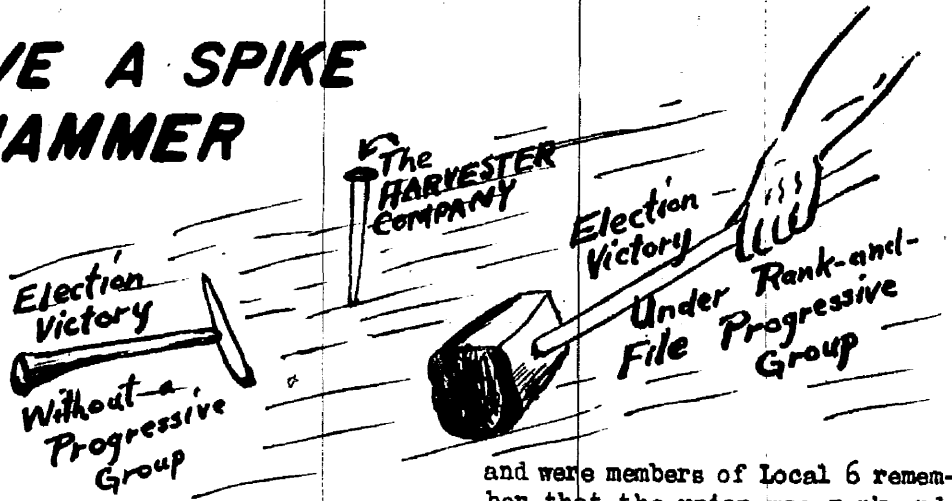
But, we ask, is this vicious anti-union Harvester Company going to melt before a bargaining committee simply because workers voted, "UAW, Yes!"? The Harvester company will respect only a rank-and-file controlled union thoroughly prepared for strike action.

In view of the fact that we are dealing with one of the most determined anti-labor corporations in the country and that we are entering a period when union smashing is the big business by-word, rank-and-file Harvester workers more than ever must be awake to the need to control their own union.

How can such rank-and-file control be built? This is best described by a Harvester worker who says,

"Those of us who worked at Buick

luncheon table. There were 35 committee members present and each departed with two of these blooms at her shoulder. The luncheon consisted of supreme of chicken under glass and fresh peach neon au flame (a concoction of ice cream, brandied cake and flaming brandied peaches). This was the fare of the "society women" as they gathered together



and were members of Local 6 remember that the union was rank-and-file controlled. All issues were decided by the membership because there were always active, functioning progressive groups. All issues were always thrashed out by these various progressive groups and by the whole membership on the floor of the union."

This active participation of the rank-and-file, organized into progressive groups guiding the union, rather than a small group of union bureaucrats - this was the secret of the militant rank-and-file policies of the old local 6.

A PROGRESSIVE GROUP IS THE ONLY ROAD TO RANK-AND-FILE CONTROL OF THE LOCAL.

Don't depend on John Doe, the other guy, to do the job. Organize into a progressive group which meets regularly. Such a group should take up the problems that face all the workers, formulate policies and programs of action, plan strike action and bring these plans into the shop and onto the floor of the union hall where they should resolutely demand that these plans be carried out.

Without this organized participation by the rank-and-file, without their constant vigilance the workers will have no effective bargaining agent against the Harvester company - no matter who wins the election.

to discuss the Arden Shore's Glass Ball to be given Oct. 26th at the Drake Hotel. Proceeds of the Ball are to go to the Arden Shore camp for underprivileged children.

What a clear picture this forms of the capitalist class nonchalantly tossing crumbs to the workers! The "cream of society" wallows in resplendent luxury with the excuse of the proceeds going to charity and when the ball is over a few of the workers' children may spend a week at a camp in the country.