

BUILD A LABOR TEMPLE - A UNION RADIO STATION

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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PRICE 5 CENTS

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!



Winona Drivers Strike Grocers

FWS-CLU DRAWS UP PROGRAM OF UNEMPLOYED AID

Relief Resolution of Joint Committee Adopted by NCDDC

Program Calls for State Youth Act, WPA Wage Increases

The Joint Relief Committee of Labor, set up by the Central Labor Union of Minneapolis, and consisting of representatives of the Federal Workers Section, Local 544, and of the C. L. U., has drawn up a labor relief program, which was adopted by the North Central District Drivers Council at its recent quarterly meeting in Hibbing.

The resolution, pointing out how the public relief agencies are seeking to divide and weaken the workers and their unions, presents a number of progressive demands. It reads as follows:

"The enemies of labor, cracking down in their drive to rejuvenate the Open Shop, are effectively using federal, state and local public relief agencies to divide and weaken the workers and their unions.

"The only real remedy for the workers is to counteract such cruel practices and unjust control by instituting their own programs for providing necessities to all workers and their families who are prevented through any cause, from obtaining such necessities by wages or other means. Thus it has now become imperative that Labor compel the public relief agencies to serve the said needs of Labor and to cease their anti-union schemes and practices; and that Labor now establish a proper relief program and representative organs equipped and empowered to put that program into effect.

Meeting Notices
"Be it resolved, therefore, that we
(Continued on page 3)

St. Paul Citizens Alliance Locks Out Laundry Workers

Laundry Drivers, Dry Cleaners and Laundry Workers on Strike; 22 Plants Bannered by Union

The St. Paul local of the Citizens Alliance laid down a challenge to the entire union movement of that city last Wednesday when the St. Paul Laundry and Dry Cleaning Plant Owners' Association posted on its bulletin boards a notice that it was locking out all laundry workers after Thursday night, Sept. 16. About 600-700 workers, members of Laundry Drivers Local 319, and Dry Cleaners and Laundry Workers Local 150, are involved. The union has established a strike headquarters at 871 Payne Avenue, and a commissary in the General Drivers hall on University Avenue, and is bannering the 22 plants whose owners are members of the boss association. Independent laundries are not affected by the struggle, and negotiations between these plants and the unions involved are now in progress. The laundry workers are issuing a small strike bulletin, and are demanding that all employers enter into negotiations and sign union contracts. At the present time, the situation is at a deadlock, with the employers branding the strike "illegal" in the boss press and inserting advertisements "deeply regretting the inconvenience," blah-blah-blah.

The real reason for the lockout is that the laundry bosses, backed by the Citizens Alliance, are determined to smash unionism in the laundry industry, after which they will open up the fight against the St. Paul unions all along the line. Ostensibly, the lockout grows out of a situation that occurred many months ago.

The Tale of Moosbrugger
Al Moosbrugger, a laundry driver, drove a truck for the Elk Laundry in St. Paul for sixteen years. In 1936 he was short in his account with the company. Every worker knows that this is no unusual situation, but on the contrary quite common among C. O. D. drivers. Such shortage has never been considered a badge of dishonesty or unreliability. Moosbrugger later paid up the shortage.

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17,000 MEMBERS REPRESENTED AT NCDDC MEETING

Convention of North Central Drivers Attended by 79 Delegates

FWS Relief Program Endorsed - Council to Aid Minot Taxi Strike

Brief reports from Hibbing inform us that on last Saturday the quarterly meeting of the North Central District Drivers Council got under way with 79 delegates present. The delegates represented 26 unions with 17,000 members. Symbolic of the progress of the Council was the fact that several new drivers' locals were represented for the first time—Winona, International Falls, Little Fork, Virginia, Willmar, and the Minnesota Independent Truckers Local 62. Iowa was represented with delegates from locals in Marshalltown and Mason City, and South Dakota furnished a delegate from the Watertown local.

T. E. Cunningham and L. J. Mero addressed the gathering, after which the regular business got under way. Reports from individual lodges were given. It was voted to increase the organizational fund, and the following schedule of contributions was agreed upon: Locals with less than 200 members will pay \$10 monthly; locals with less than 500 members, \$20; locals having over 500 members, \$35.

Locals receiving organizational aid from the Council are to pay one-third of the expenses, the balance to be paid by the Council. It is understood that the N.C.D.D.C. is not going to play the Shylock, and that

(Continued on page 2)

Wholesale Grocery Drivers' Strike Begins Second Week

Minneapolis Drivers Council Members Aid in Negotiations; Beer Drivers Strike Settled

Winona, Minn.—The strike of workers in the wholesale grocery section of the General Drivers Union here, which began last Wednesday, is going into its second week with the bosses feeling to an increasingly degree the pinch of the strike. The union has established a strike headquarters and commissary in the west end of town, and has tied up any shipments of food to or from the struck companies. Grant Dunne, representative of the North Central District Drivers Council, has been assisting the Winona Local since the beginning of the strike, and, altogether with Arnold Johnson, another Council representative will remain until a settlement is effected.

The beer drivers strike, which started last Thursday, was settled over the week end with every concern except the Winona Beverage Company signing up with the union.

On Monday morning Mayor Maze of Winona called a conference of employers and union representatives and recommended the following: "that a compromise wage be paid of 42 1/2 and 45 cents, effective as of September 15, 1937, subject to an arbitration board as outlined in union agreement or an arbitration board selected agreeable to employers and employees affected. Decision of arbitration board to be final and rendered within ten days from date of signed agreement. If the arbitration committee increases wage scale, employees will receive wage increase difference effective as of September 15, 1937, employees to return to work immediately."

While the mayor's recommendation did not grant everything demanded by the union, yet the union committee felt the proposal offered a reasonably fair basis for settlement, and accepted the proposal pending a union membership meeting to be held Monday night.

At that time, the bosses also accepted the mayor's proposal. Later Monday, however, they reneged and brought in a counter-proposal.

Tuesday, the union issued a statement putting forth its position, which was published in the Winona Republican-Herald. The union statement in part follows: "Following a series of meetings of employers together with other interested parties for settlement of the present labor controversy between the wholesale food and produce men and their employees a special meeting was held Monday at 10 a. m. called by Mayor A. H. Maze, which had for its purpose an attempt to make a settlement in order that the employees could return to work immediately. . . . The committee representing the union, composed of Maurice Nichols and Grant Dunne, accepted for their organization the mayor's proposal pending a meeting of the membership of the union which was held Monday night at Eureka hall, at which meeting the membership on strike voted almost unanimously to accept the mayor's proposal and to disregard the counter proposal which was made by the employers.

"The union wishes to record that the proposal of the employers was a demand upon the union to stop all outside firms, including chain stores, from supplying food and produce for consumption by the residents of Winona. This proposal of the employers was rejected by the union officials and placed in the minutes of the meeting. The union wishes to continue."

(Continued on page 3)

Hop Workers Run Out by Vigilantes For Unionization

Yakima, Washington—The agricultural bosses and their state police are up to their old tricks in this part of the country. Last week 50 Filipino agricultural workers, employed at the William Bauchane hop ranch, demanded a 25c per hundredweight increase in the hop-picking rates. This increase would have raised their wages from an average of \$1.75 a day to \$2—from which 65c daily is deducted for board.

"We work from 5:30 a. m. to 6 p. m.," said Aniceto Manzano, union leader, "and 100 pounds a day is a good average for a hop picker."

"Then Mr. Bauchane called the vigilantes and the state highway patrol. They hustled us into the patrol autos and herded us out of the county, without even giving us time to gather up our personal effects. They dumped us across the county line and told us 'Don't ever show your faces in Yakima County again!'"

West Coast unions are pouring protests into Governor Martin, Sheriff Lou Evans and the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee.

Fleming Guest Speaker in Iowa

In describing a drivers union meeting held in Marshalltown, Iowa, on Sunday, September 12, the Northwest Organizer neglected to mention that one of the guest speakers was Bob Fleming, an official of St. Paul General Drivers Local 120. Together with Karl Skoglund of Minneapolis, Fleming addressed the Marshalltown drivers and assisted them in their current organizational campaign.

and . . . ON THE Other Hand . . . By the Cynic

"In regard to Black a number of questions need to be cleared up without delay. He can no longer remain silent and evasive. What millions of Americans want to know is whether he still associates himself with the Klan and its principles."—Daily Worker.

Evidently the Communist Party reasons the same way about the Klan as it does about capitalists—that they are "good" or "bad." Perhaps the Senator is a "good" Klan member and if he will only speak right out loud on where he stands on the Bill of Rights and anti-Semitism and anti-Negroism, and take a withdrawal card from the Klan, a place may still be arranged for him in the great People's Front. Squads Right—March!

"American apologists for the Soviet Union are bawling their breasts in anguish and reaching into the shallow depths of a screwy mind in an effort to discover some excuse for the blood purge now taking place in the land of their heart's desire."—I. B. E. W. Union News.

No unions are needed for the Soviet Union—and no excuses required except for the butcher Stalin and his henchman. Stalin's betrayal of the Russian revolution, and the workers' state built by the followers of Lenin is the real reason for the blood purge. In order to replace Lenin's principles with Stalin's Stalinism, the greatest witch hunt in history is in full swing and all true Marxists are being ferried out and destroyed. Reactionaries in America who hate all reds may well envy Stalin in his massacre of the reds. They have much in common.

"Again I would say that what the country needs is a new political party giving expression to the hopes and needs of the workers and business people. In other words to those who render useful service."—Henry Teigan.

Why don't all you liberals, reformists and alleged progressives quit coddling and wet-nursing an already decayed economic system, and help build a real party of and for the workers. The country needs a new reform party like it needs a good 10c cigar. What the country DOES need is a party that has for its objective the complete overthrow of capitalism in all its varieties, Fascist, "Democratic," or "People's Front," and the establishment of a working-class democracy.

Harlan County Coal Employers Control Cruel Reign of Terror

In Harlan County, Ky., there is an employer's association known as the Harlan County Coal Operators Association. It is controlled by an executive board in whose employ is a secretary, a stenographer, and a deputy sheriff.

This deputy, Ben Unthank by name, is one of the most feared, hated, and despised men in any community.

He received \$150 a month as a salary, and an unlimited expense account. During January and February of this year his expense account amounted, for each month to more than \$2,000.

When questioned by Senator LaFollette as to what use Unthank had made of this amount of money, Pearl Bashman, operator of the Harlan Wallin Coal Company, and an executive board member of the association, said that he did not know, didn't want to know.

Ben Unthank went into retirement when the LaFollette committee subpoenas were issued. All of the officials of the association claim that they do not know where he is, that they have sent word to him via the grapevine system that he should come out of hiding. They also state that they have paid him no money since last September but that his accrued wages will be paid to him when and if he reappears.

Under the expert tutelage of this Ben Unthank, half of the ex-convicts of Kentucky have been given jobs as deputy sheriffs. They have waged a campaign of terror second to none.

Negroes Still Cotton Slaves; La Guardia Investigates BMT; CIO - A. F. of L. Fight On

Although the strikes prevailing throughout the country this week have been for the most part of a minor nature, the jurisdictional battle between the C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. continues to grow to major proportions. No longer is it a case of all newspaper talk and no action. The arena has been cleared and actual fighting for supremacy is now the order of the day. From the snow covered mountains of Washington and British Columbia to the sun-drenched ports of San Francisco and Oakland the two opposing armies are drawn up in real battle formation, fighting the fight to the finish.

In New York City the floorscrapers, the elevator operators, and one branch of the Newspaper Guild went on strike last week. In Atlanta and Macon, Ga., relief clients were threatened with permanent expulsion from the relief rolls unless they would take cotton picking work at starvation wages. A major strike among the transport workers in New York

Duluth Drivers Sign 16 Oil Companies

Duluth, Minn.—The General Drivers Union here signed contracts last week with 16 oil companies, covering petroleum drivers and bulk plant men. The contracts provide for union recognition, seniority, paid vacations, time-and-one-half after 40 hours; the 8-hour day, 5-day week, with a minimum wage of 70 cents an hour.

Local 292 Puts Back WMIN Employee

Following the victory at station WDGY, the Radio Section of Electrical Workers Local 292 gave another demonstration of its strength this week when one of its members, Jules Geller was placed back on the job Monday at station WMIN.

On Saturday, September 11, Geller was fired by Hoffman, owner-manager of WMIN. Geller has been active in organizing the radio station employees into Local 292. A committee from Local 292 called on Hoffman last week and convinced him Geller should be put back to work, after Hoffman denied Geller had been fired for union activity.

The employees of WMIN are organized nearly 100 per cent, as are the workers in other Twin City radio stations.

Employees in Akron Theaters Form Union

Akron, Ohio—Employees in Akron theatres have formed a union which is affiliated with the Akron Movie Operators Union and chartered by the International Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators. Ushers, doormen, cashiers and other employed in theatres are eligible to membership in the new local, which has grown rapidly in the past few weeks.

HARK! COAL DRIVERS! All coal drivers and yard men must report to their respective companies before November 1, to inform the companies as to whether they plan to work during the coal season. If this is not done, coal workers will lose their seniority rights. Attend to this, without fail, before November 1.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Wholesale Grocery Drivers' Strike Begins Second Week

(Continued from page 1) ue negotiations with the employers and will reiterate our previous statement which appeared in the public press that we will see that food and supplies are available so that the public does not suffer food shortages on account of our controversy with selfish employers. Picketing of unfair firms will continue until a satisfactory agreement is reached."

During the strike, the labor-hating food concerns have been losing their trade to the chain stores, which are under contract to the union. Thus Winona residents have not been inconvenienced by the strike. So far as is known, this is the first case where a group of employers have demanded of a union that it shut off all food supply to a community.

By refusing to accept the reasonable proposal of the Mayor for a settlement, the bosses have lost whatever little sympathy they may have had at the beginning of the struggle. The union is holding its lines firm, and is determined to stay out until its demands are met.

FWS-CLU DRAWS UP PROGRAM OF UNEMPLOYED AID

(Continued from page 1) adopt the following RELIEF PROGRAM OF LABOR:

"1. Counties and localities: "Require that all special and adjoined meetings of public bodies for acting on relief matters, and statement of such purpose, be given at least 48 hours advance public notice. See that adequate and decent relief and health and hospital services be given all needy residents by proper public agencies as now required by law, and that all public officials who violate or declare their intention to violate such laws be immediately replaced by others who are satisfactory to organized labor. Stop relief and WPA evictions by any means required. Stop enforced removals of workers, other than convicted criminals, from their home localities. Establish adequate standardized relief for the purpose of preventing pressure which might cause scabbing against organized labor. Enforce the right of unemployed and relief workers to collective bargaining and representation of their own choice in all relief matters. Avoid relief financing which would place the load on the workers. Establish local HOUSING COMMISSIONS OF LABOR to obtain public funds and subsidies and to begin construction that will genuinely relieve the housing situation for the needy. Assure cooperation in all respects to attain the state and federal relief objectives hereinafter set forth.

A State Youth Act "2. States—particularly Minnesota:

"Require immediate and continued appropriation of adequate funds to enable the counties and localities to carry out the aforesaid program. Obtain adoption of a state YOUTH ACT equivalent to the "American Youth Act." Require state agencies for relief and care of the needy to give all information and assistance to the relief organs of labor, and to facilitate

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by all lawful means the efforts of organized labor in carrying out this program, and in all further respects consistent with law to permit organized labor the maximum of control and influence over relief and welfare matters. Reduce and remove, by any means necessary, all legal restrictions which now limit the role which organized labor is lawfully permitted to carry out in respect to public relief.

Increase WPA Wages
"3. Federal "Require immediate and continued federal appropriations to assure to states the financial ability to carry out the relief program for states as outlined above. Enact the "American Youth Act." Obtain an immediate PRESIDENTIAL ORDER increasing maximum WPA wages for unskilled labor to \$22.50 per week. Secure for all WPA workers the same rights to organize and bargain collectively as are now enjoyed by workers in private industry. Obtain disability compensation to all relief and WPA workers equal to that of workers in private industry, and not less than their normal relief budgets. WPA pay checks to be given on the jobs weekly. WPA relief workers to be permitted to make up wages lost through any lapse of work or projects beyond the individual worker's control. Require federal relief agencies to furnish to delegations or representatives of aggrieved federal relief workers and clients, immediate and full information concerning the grievance, and all costs of decent transportation and maintenance in appealing such grievances until properly settled."

FWS Indicts City Hospital in Death Of William Edgar

(Continued from page 1) one, of infantile paralysis. The boy died that evening (Wednesday) between 6 and 7. Signed: Lee Edgar, 606 15th Avenue North.

While the General Hospital administration behaves thus callously towards the children of the poor, death takes no holiday. The Federal Workers Section is preparing a vigorous protest against those responsible for the lack of care given the son of Lee Edgar. The F. W. S. is demanding that such inhumane treatment be stopped immediately and that adequate medical and hospital care be given to the needy ill.

BAKERY BLAB

By A. M. Ogren
Hibbing, September 19.
First I guess I better correct a statement I made in the last issue of the Organizer wherein I told you the drapes in the 3rd floor hall cost \$165. It should have been \$265.

The regular quarterly meeting of the North Central District Drivers Council was opened yesterday at 1 o'clock in the beautiful Hibbing Memorial building.

By the way, maybe I should tell you what the N. C. D. C. is. This is a voluntary organization composed of the executive board of each local. That makes seven members from each Drivers' Local. This Council takes in all drivers' locals from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and Iowa.

The purpose is to help the various locals in securing their proper contracts and prevent any but genuine workers from securing charters and running the locals. Also to provide a united front in any kind of dispute relating to the various locals.

Further, we are seeking to establish uniform wages and working conditions throughout the whole district.

The Labor Spy

By Marvel Dobbs

I. According to the latest Funk and Wagnalls dictionary the term "rat" has many and varied definitions, all bad. In Trade Union parlance a rat is a strikebreaker, a renegade, and an informer. The active strikebreaker, whether just an out-and-out fink, a "company man," or a hired thug from a detective agency, is hated and despised. The renegade who either joins a union only because he has to, or for the financial benefits it will net him, and then deserts at the first opportunity, is looked upon with disgust and aversion.

The informer, the stool pigeon, the labor spy is also hated and despised. In fact, he is another form of strikebreaker, working in more subtle fashion to accomplish the same ends. He often plays the role of the agent provocateur, fomenting trouble, causing ill-timed and poorly organized strikes which meet with defeat. Perhaps, of them all, the stool pigeon is the most hated form of strikebreaker. He is hated because he has built friendships for the sole purpose of betraying his friends. He is hated because he has revealed the innermost secrets of his union; because all of his associates, innocent though they may be, fall under a cloud of suspicion once he is revealed. He is hated because he is a rat.

Some authorities claim that the present widespread system of labor espionage is not known in foreign countries. They say that this "industry" is peculiar to United States alone. While it is true that there are no large detective agencies who deal exclusively with this type of espionage in Europe, it is hard to believe that there is no spying on the workers in other lands. Human nature is much the same the world over. There has always been, and perhaps always will be, that certain type of individual who is known as the "company man." School children know this creature as the "teacher's pet." The term "company man" as we know it, is that person who carries favor in order to enhance his own position with the employer, by carrying tales about his fellow workers.

During the early days of the Industrial Revolution, before the organized labor movement began to make itself felt as a factor, employers used these stooges in order to keep track of their employees; how they reacted to long hours and short pay, and so forth. After 1825 when the newly born union movement in America began to be something with which the employing class realized they would have to deal, individual employers began to pay the informers for their extra services. Soon a loosely connected system of espionage was seen to be growing side by side with the new union movement.

Allan Pinkerton was the first detective to see in labor espionage a field for rich returns. He had long been serving the industrialists by supplying strikebreakers and armed guards. In 1873 he first branched out into this new field when he sent James McParlan into the Pennsylvania coal fields to break up the Molly McGuire. McParlan did his job so well that twenty members of this group were arrested, tried, and convicted by his testimony. Seven of them were hanged.

New clients, bent on keeping their industries free from unionism, came to Pinkerton, or were sought out by him. Today this business of supplying industry with information has grown to such proportions that it can well be classed with big business. Pinkerton pioneered in this field, but he was not long alone. Many others went into the same work, under many and varied titles.

The largest agencies which have come under the surveillance of the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee are the Pinkertons, the Sherman Service Corporation, the W. J. Burns International Detective Agency, the Corporations Auxiliary Companies, and others.

To date they have accomplished wonders and are striving to get every driving local in the Council.

Incidentally, I believe it is the only body of this type in the whole country.

It costs at present \$10 for the first 100 members and \$5 for each additional 100 members thereafter per month. The money is spent for organizational work.

The following towns were represented at yesterday's meeting: La-Crosse, Superior, Winona, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Austin, Albert Lea, St. Cloud, Mankato, International Falls, Little Fork, Waseca, Grand Forks, Minot, Fargo, and Marshalltown.

Mr. Ed Cunningham, president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, made the opening address followed by T. J. Merro, Secretary-treasurer of the North Dakota State Federation.

This being a two-day session we are to meet for the balance of the meeting today, Sunday, at 1 o'clock.

On Saturday, September 25, Howard Erickson, supervisor at the Excelsior Baking, will be married in St. Paul. The couple will travel in the east on their honeymoon.

The Union Gallery



G. VIENS

That skeptical puss above belongs to George Viens, one of the shots in the Federal Workers' Section, Local 544. This is how Georgie-Porgy looks when discussing some relief case with an investigator who is convinced the family should get along beautifully on nothing per month.

G. Viens is proud of being French, but proudest of the General Drivers Union and its unemployed section. His hobbies are arguing with Palmquist and giving one an autobiographical sketch of his early railroading days.

Viens thinks it wouldn't be a bad idea to have the unemployed workers take over the vacant factories and start producing. If we have to usher in Socialism to do this, it's all right with G. Viens.

Watt Notes

Brother Jack Williams is back on the job. We are all glad to have him with us again.

After the long rest, "Honest John's" dogs were dragging Friday night.

Brother Coates, another meter reader who is an active union member, has just been given a thirty-day lay-off. Reason???

Brother George Jacobsen of the Radio Section believes "13" is his lucky number—He went back to work September the 13th with full pay for lay-off and a \$15 a week raise.

A little trouble at WMIN is being ironed out. It is reported Brother Jules Geller is to go back to work Monday, September 20th.

The Radio Section boys say it feels great to have a strong organization representing them!

All members of No. 292 are behind you and interested in you boys. Keep up the good work.

The last Utility Section Stewards' Meeting was much better attended. There is still room for improvement. Let's see more of you boys.

Brothers Hackett, Montgomery, Stanchfield, Schultz and Phillips attended the State Federation of Labor convention.

KSTP and WCCO employees are slow to sign up with the union. In unity there is strength, boys.

It behooves all members to be on the job at all times and live up to all rules religiously.

No good union man will lay down on the job while working and hide behind the Union's skirts.

If he does he will harm and not help his Union in getting the things that rightfully belong to him.

Newspaper Guild Strikes N. Y. Paper

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The biggest strike in the history of the American Newspaper Guild was called September 13 when over 300 Guildsmen from the editorial, advertising and circulation departments struck against the Brooklyn Eagle. The struggle is looked upon by both sides as a showdown between the anti-labor Newspaper Publishers Association and the Guild.

A number of firings, motivated by the management's desire to intimidate employees, precipitated the battle.

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