

Attend the Mass Meeting Tuesday Eve--Unite to Stop the WPA Lay-Offs!

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

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

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

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On the National Picket Line

The Chicago Newspaper Guild strike, now in the fourth week, against the two Hearst publications, the Herald and Examiner and the Evening American, continues to grow in strength and militancy against a campaign of terror.

This strike was called on December 5th after almost two years of intimidation, coercion and violations of contract. The latest contract, signed on January 30 last, has been flagrantly violated in the two most important issues. Twenty-five violations against the clause setting up procedure of consultation in times of "economy dismissals" are registered against the management. There are 62 violations of the wages and overtime clause. There have been more than 1,500 dismissals for union activity—a rose by any other name would smell as sweet—during the past two years.

When the overworked and underpaid workers of the editorial departments of the two papers began, in 1938, to flock into the Guild, the managements immediately began a campaign to discourage union organization. First they raised wages and restored the five-day week, discontinued after the NRA was declared unconstitutional. Failing in this move, they began firing men who joined the Guild.

Then the AFL stepped in and attempted to organize a dual union. This failed, so two company unions sprang into being, almost overnight. Workers were literally forced to sign application blanks. Many AFL craft unions suddenly found that their jurisdictional lines were being stepped on. In the NLRB hearings in 1937 Joseph Padway, official counsel for the AFL, presented the claims of the AFL craftsmen.

All this for two years, and now the workers are fighting valiantly on the picket line for the enforcement of their existing contract, for job security and for collective bargaining rights.

And in that fight they have the whole hearted support of Chicago labor—AFL and CIO alike. A conference called on Christmas night, and representing thirty unions from both labor camps, pledged the support of the entire movement to the strikers. Many unions have supported the strike financially, others with pickets, and still others by refusing to go through the picket lines.

The Chicago Teachers Union, the Chicago Principals' Club and the City School Committee have begun writing letters, as individuals, to the various big advertisers, advising them to withdraw their copy from the struck papers.

The International Photo Union of the Guild has refused to handle news and pictures either to or from the struck offices. The messengers of the Postal Telegraph, members of the American Communications Association, have literally forced their offices in the buildings of the struck papers to close.

The police have played their usual role. On December 8th they charged the picket line, aided and augmented by hired thugs armed with automobile cranks and loaded rubber hose. Many strikers were slugged. It was feared that one of the union officials would lose his eye. The Hearst papers cried to high heaven that the fight was between strikers and non-strikers aided by police who wanted the poor non-striking "workers" to have their constitutional "right to

14 Pickets All in a Row...



... and they effectively saw to it that all members of the Sioux City Retailers Association used trucks of only those transfer companies who have signed with the union.

The pickets, from Drivers Union Local 383 of Sioux City, are left to right: Howard Fouts, Al Sorensen, Wayne Mead, Clair Pike, Roy Ping, Floyd

Doren, Cecil Gilbert, Douglas Androy, Glen Buchanan, Roy Thompson, Joe Santi, Don Casper, Andy DeNoma and Ralph Johnson. Fouts and Johnson are business agent and organizer, respectively, of Local 383. Sixty members of the union have been locked out of the Sioux City terminals since September 9th when the Omaha lock-out began.

Many Unions Come To Aid of Omaha

Two Drivers Officials Arrested in Frame-up—Minneapolis Teamsters Council Advances Bail—Detroit Drivers Give Christmas Dinner to Omaha Brothers

Inspired by the great 17-weeks struggle of the Nebraska drivers, and revolted by the latest frame-up arrest of Shorty Stultz and Malcolm Love, president and organizer of the Omaha General Drivers Union Local 554, the labor movement of the Middle West redoubled its support to the fight of the drivers in Nebraska and Sioux City during the past week.

Last Tuesday Stultz and Love were arrested and brought to Columbus, Nebraska, 90 miles from Omaha, where they were charged with violation of the hated anti-picketing law and with carrying concealed weapons, in the latest judicial outrage against the drivers' movement.

A Trumped-up Job
Attorney David Weinberg, representing the unionists, immediately exposed the whole move for what it is—a trumped-up job by the truck operators to get the two union officials away from Omaha and thus weaken the union.

The fakery became even more obvious when the court reversed its position and refused the \$2,100 appearance bonds which it had originally set for the release of the two men.

When Judge Speice of Platte county set the appearance bonds at the high sum of \$1,100 each, a prominent Omaha merchant who opposes the outrageous "Harlan County" regime of the Omaha Business Men's Association quickly came forward with a property bond of \$2,200.

But apparently Van Patten, head of the Gate City Terminal, and one of the most vicious employers in Omaha, had reached the county attorney. At any rate, the union has learned he was cloistered with County Attorney Jesse Dougherty of Columbus most of Wednesday. The property bond was refused in court Thursday and a cash bond demanded.

Minneapolis Helps Out
The Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council immediately came through with a \$1,500 and an Omaha friend of Local 554 furnished the remaining \$600.

When the bail was presented in court Saturday, Malcolm Love was released, but an additional charge of kidnaping had since been placed against Shorty Stultz and he was kept in jail. It has been announced that a trial will be held early in January for Shorty.

Correction—Wages Higher!

Last week's Organizer read that under the new contract for city drivers won by Detroit Drivers Union Local 299, the wages were set at 70c, 75c and 60c hourly, depending upon the type of work. It should have read that wages were set at 70c, 75c and 80c hourly.

Unions Columns Revert to Old Style Set-up

A couple of weeks ago the Organizer staff got the bright idea that space could be saved by setting all the union columns two columns wide instead of one column wide.

We've tried it two weeks now, and received so many protests that we shift back to the one-column width this week. Our readers have let us know in no uncertain terms that they don't like the two-column set-up.

Letters came in from all over the country requesting the old column form. If we didn't learn anything else, we certainly learned that the union columns are very widely read and that readers like them one column wide. So that's the way it's going to be.

Local 346 Elects Board For Year

The 3.2 Beer Dispensers Union Local 346 held its annual elections on Tuesday at the union office.

The following will comprise the executive board for the coming year: Victor Bedel, president; William P. Doran, vice-president; W. F. Rathbone, secretary-treasurer and business agent; George Potvin, recording secretary; W. Val-leau Rathbone, chaplain; Albert Pangel, inspector; Roy Phelps, inside guard; Martin Holland, outside guard.

Unemployed in Detroit, New York Strike Hard Against Relief Cuts

Jobless workers in New York and Detroit again hurled themselves against the government's inhuman program of relief lay-offs and budget cuts in colorful struggles this month.

In New York City, the newly organized Unemployed and Project Workers Union showed its resolve to carry on a militant fight for higher relief standards, by conducting a six-day sit-down strike in two of the main offices of the Relief Administration here.

Women and children joined their men in the strike. Friends assisted in organizing the picket lines outside the offices. "Cash for clothing" and "Rescind all food allowance cut!" were the shouts hurled by pickets. Meanwhile, crowds of children demanding winter clothing paraded in front of Mayor LaGuardia's home

and before the City Hall. Police manhandled numbers of children, but were unable to prevent the picketing even after arrests.

Next trick of the LaGuardia administration was to shut off heat and water from the sit-in strikers. Fire escapes were blocked in an effort to starve those inside. This only served to draw the strikers closer together. Resourceful workers provided fellow-strikers with food despite iron bars over windows and heavily guarded doors.

Officials to Reconsider
The strikers consented to leave the bureau only when relief officials promised to reconsider all demands. It may surprise some workers to learn of the attitude which the Stalinists took toward these militant efforts of the unemployed to get food and clothing.

Cynically contributing nine cents for food in the 17th Street Bureau, the Stalinists idly looked on while investigators who are members of the Workers Alliance laughed when asked to support this action for clothes and higher relief.

General Strike Threat Wins
In Detroit, events reflected the growing militancy of the jobless. With the rope of starvation tightening around their necks, the WPA Division of the United Auto Workers Union used the threat of a general strike to force from the WPA an adjustment of numerous grievances and abuses on their projects.

The basic cause of the strike threat, however, is not yet adjusted. Failure to re-employ jobless unionists whose unemployment

compensation has run out was the major issue involved.

Sit-Down Gets Results
The strike vote was taken at a meeting of 300 project stewards on December 1. The next day 2,000 WPA workers picketed the G. A. R. Building which houses the Administration, and followed it with a sit-down. Strikers refused to budge until they received assurances from the WPA Director that negotiations would begin immediately.

After a sixteen-hour session, the union committee succeeded in forcing various concessions from the WPA. Two of these are of special interest to the local unemployed organizations: 1. Project supervisors no longer to have power to fire stewards; 2. An investigation of anti-union practices on WPA to be launched.

Local 664 Elects 1939 Officers

Officers of the City and Sanitary Drivers and Helpers Union Local 664 for the new year were chosen at the union elections held last Thursday, December 22nd.

Officers for 1939 are Harold H. Seavey, president; Harold Lanigan, vice-president; William Holtner, secretary-treasurer; Harold E. Nelson, recording secretary; Edwin Vogel, sergeant-at-arms, and Arlington W. Rowe, three-year trustee.

Local 664 also held elections for delegates to the Central Labor Union and the Hennepin County Committee of the Farmer-Labor Association. Roland M. Prindle, Harold H. Seavey, Harold Lanigan, Harold E. Nelson and Clifford Freeman were chosen to represent the City and Sanitary Drivers Union at the Central Labor Union.

Delegates to the F-L Association are Ray J. Helwig, Frank Dahlgren, Harold H. Seavey, Roland M. Prindle and Ray Lanigan.

Over three hundred votes were cast in Thursday's elections. Union election judges were Harry W. Peterson, Edward Pearson and Frank Dahlgren.

Milk Drivers to Nominate for Vice-President

Nominations for the office of vice-president will take place at the next regular membership meeting of Milk Drivers Union Local 471, to be held Tuesday, January 3rd.

In the recent union elections George Berquist withdrew from the vice-presidential race to run for business agent, leaving the latter post vacant. A special election for vice-president will be held in the near future.

Buy Your Gas From Stations Manned by 977

The Filling Station Attendants Union Local 977 reports that several union stations, employing union men at union wages, have called in protesting that some members of organized labor have driven into the stations and asked that they be given gas at a cut rate.

Obviously, these union stations cannot afford to lower the price of gas and still be in a position to pay decent union wages.

Local 977 asks all members of organized labor to patronize only those stations manned by members of Local 977, and to aid the Filling Station Attendants Union in maintaining conditions in the industry.

Meet Tuesday to Protest WPA Cut

Local 977 Votes Reinstatement Fee of \$2.50

The last regular membership meeting of Filling Station Attendants Union Local 977 voted a \$2.50 reinstatement fee to be imposed on all members who are three months in arrears in dues. This ruling will take effect January 1st, 1939. LARRY J. DAVIDSON Secretary-Treasurer Local 977

Central Labor Union Sponsors Mass Meeting at Eagles Hall—To Push Militant Program That Can Make Jobs for All at Union Wages—All Out Next Tuesday Night

Preparations for a mammoth mass meeting to protest WPA lay-offs, to be held Tuesday evening, January 3rd, at the Eagles Hall, under the auspices of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union Relief Committee, were completed this week.

Admission to the large Eagles Hall, at 117 S. E. 4th Street, will be free, and all WPA workers, all unemployed, all members of the trade union movement, are urged to

Local 544 Leaders Returned to Posts

Endorsing the policies of the men who have led General Drivers Union Local 544 for the past few years, all Local 544 officers were returned to office by substantial majorities in the elections held last Thursday and Friday. The total vote cast was about 1,250, compared with last year's vote of 754.

Officers of Local 544 for the coming year are Carl Skoglund, president; George Frosig, vice-president; Farrell Dobbs, secretary-treasurer; Grant Dunne, recording secretary; Kelly Postal, three-year trustee.

Frosig had been nominated by Jack Smith, who vacated the office of vice-presidency due to illness.

Kelly Postal ran away from the field for three-year trustee.

The balloting was held Thursday and Friday in the main floor at 257 Plymouth Avenue.

Five Election Judges
Judges in charge of the election were Verne Bennyhoff, Al Gardner, Harold Beal, Robert Bove and J. C. Rofer.

The election judges met Sunday morning, December 18th, and outlined the procedure to be followed in the balloting. The judges agreed that the names of nominees would be placed on the ballot in

the order in which they were drawn from a hat by little Miss Joyce Hansfin, age 7 years. Joyce drew the names in the order in which they later appeared on the printed ballots.

The judges recommend that a card system be arranged for the next election, to be held in December, 1939.

State Labor Body to Aid F-C-L Council

The education committee of the Farmer-Cooperative-Labor Council met Tuesday and took several important steps—to sponsor three open forums during January in various communities throughout the state on the problems of the producers of city and countryside and to seek the support of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor for the program and work of the Council.

Wednesday morning a sub-committee of the Council, composed of Gene Larson, William Gydeson, William Sinnott, Charles Egly and John Bosch, met with officials of the State Federation of Labor. Among the state labor leaders present were President Olson, Secretary George Lawson, and John Geary, vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The State Federation of Labor heartily endorsed the program of the Farmer - Cooperative - Labor Council and promised to support its work and to send a speaker to the meetings in the state.

FWS Quint Drops Game, 25 to 23

After leading at the half by a score of 15 to 11, the FWS Youth basketball quint went down to defeat before the seasoned Unity House Seniors last Wednesday by a score of 25-23.

Ken Hoeft played a whale of a game on defense for the union team, breaking up the Unity House charges time and again and holding his man scoreless. Stan Brouard was high scorer with 8 points. Andy Simso gathered in 6 points, and Ken Flakne, 4.

In preparation for the opening of the regular season, the FWS Youth quint will be cut to 10 players.

Many Good Speakers

Among the speakers at next Tuesday's meeting will be Peter Murck, president of the Building Trades Council; Walter Frank, chairman of the CLU Relief Committee; Roy Weir, CLU organizer; Miles Dunne, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council; Bob Cramer, editor of the Labor Review, and Max Goldman of the Federal Workers Section of Local 544.

Jobs for All Men at Union Wages

The meeting will demand the stopping of all WPA lay-offs; 30 hours of work each week at trade union wages and conditions for all workers; an immediate local construction program to furnish modern homes for all WPA workers and unemployed, to be constructed under trade union conditions without displacing any civil service or regular construction employees; state and municipal housing authority acts and an enabling act authorizing the city of Minneapolis to issue 25 million dollars in special bonds for financing the housing and heavy public works program, in addition to all demands for federal aid; that all agencies of the Minneapolis city government immediately meet jointly and separately to cooperate with the trade union movement in drafting plans for a 5-year or 10-year public works and housing construction program at trade union wages and working conditions. The meeting will also demand continuous employment at union wages, or the equivalent in social insurance or relief.

Bread or Bullets

With the national elections out of the way, the New Deal has begun a head-on drive against the unemployed. Already, over 125,000 have been cut from the nation's WPA rolls, and bigger cuts are planned for January.

Every Minneapolis worker should answer this attack upon the unemployed and the labor movement by attending this mass meeting. Unite to stop the lay-offs.

George Hall Dies; Led State F. of L. For 24 Years

The Minnesota labor movement was shocked to learn of the death of E. George Hall, who passed away Wednesday morning after a long heart ailment.

George Hall was of the old Gompers school of labor leaders. For half a century he was a member of the Cigar Makers International Union, and served it as vice-president up to his death. From 1911 to 1935 he was president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. He acted as assistant commissioner of labor under Governor John A. Johnson, in the days before there was a state industrial commission.

The funeral will be held Friday morning at Lakewood cemetery in Minneapolis.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

