

All Labor Must Answer Steel Barons' Declaration of War!

By WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

THE steel masters have spoken.

The statement issued by the American Iron and Steel Institute is a declaration of war not only against the steel workers and the Committee for Industrial Organization, but against the entire labor movement.

Behind that statement stand five billion dollars of predatory wealth, dominated by the Morgan-controlled U. S. Steel Corporation.

Behind it are the machine guns, the tear and vomiting gas, and other munitions of war which the steel barons have been storing up for months, as disclosed by the La Follette Senate Committee.

Spy System Aids Bosses

Behind it are the 43,000 spies and stool-pigeons which honeycomb the steel industry, and the thousands of plug-uglies and underworld criminals who are being hired to defeat the organization campaign.

Behind it are the power, the brutality, the cyn-

ical contempt for the rights of the common people of the most reactionary forces in the country—the Morgan-du Pont Liberty League, the Hearst press, the organizers of Black Legionism—who have saddled the Republican Party and are night-riding toward fascism.

The dukes and earls of steel hypocritically say that "the promoters of the campaign will employ coercion and intimidation of the employes."

Who Speaks of Coercion?

They speak of coercion—they who have created arsenals ready to pour a death-fire on defenseless men and women who dare to fight for their rights, denying all civil liberties in their company-controlled towns!

They speak of intimidation—they who spend at least \$30,000,000 a year on the greatest industrial spy system in the world!

They speak of the principles of collective bargaining—they who have foisted company unions

on the workers and are already firing large numbers of union men merely for joining the union, as they did in 1919.

To this declaration of war by the Steel Trust, American labor must reply in clear and unmistakable terms.

Labor Must Answer

It must reply with the greatest organization drive in the history of the labor movement, a drive that will crack the stronghold of the open shop and bring the slavemasters of steel to terms.

This brazen declaration of war by the steel trust was undoubtedly encouraged by the A. F. of L. Council opposition to the steel campaign and the threat of suspending and outlawing of the unions comprising the Committee for Industrial Organization. The statement of Green in commenting on this declaration continues to give aid and comfort to the steel trust. It is absolutely necessary that the A. F. of L. Council and William Green should

at once announce their undivided support to the steel campaign, and drop all talk of suspension of the C.I.O. unions. Failure to do this on the part of Green and the A. F. of L. Council would be nothing short of treason to the labor movement.

The entire labor movement must spring to the support of the steel drive if it is to be successful. Every local union and central body should get behind the steel organization drive and demand the suspension threat of the A. F. of L. Executive Council be dropped immediately.

Miners and R. R. Men

One united labor movement against the Steel Trust—this should be labor's answer to the challenge of the steel barons. Of particular importance is the support of the coal miners and railroad men behind the steel drive, so that the steel masses will know that if they force the workers to strike the entire industry will be brought to a standstill.

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There must be no reliance on government officials. President Wilson, the "friend of labor," helped break the 1919 strike, and it was President Roosevelt's intervention in 1934 which shortcircuited the strike movement in steel at that time and resulted in the decline of the Amalgamated Association.

DISARM STEEL THUGS!

The demand should be made that President Roosevelt and the administration act to disarm the steel corporations and to prevent the interstate shipment of strikebreakers, which is in violation of a law passed by the last Congress, though not yet signed by the President.

The steel drive should be reinforced by John L. Lewis and his colleagues of the CIO thus giving all possible encouragement to the building of Farmer-Labor Parties throughout the steel areas, and if they, together with the progressives in Congress, take the initiative in calling a national conference to launch a people's movement against political reaction, which is the servant of the overlords of steel and their allies.

The Communist Party as a party of the working class is supporting the organization drive in steel as it supports every struggle of the workers at all times. The steel companies, to cover up their cam-

paign of coercion and violence, are trying to raise the Red scare and to create the impression that Communists are "fomenting strikes." But in the words of Earl Browder, general secretary of the Party and its Presidential candidate, in his concluding speech at the recent Party convention:

"The Communist Party is not stirring up strikes. It is helping in every way possible to aid the workers to get better wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. And when there is no other way, when capitalism attempts to break up the workers' organizations then the workers have the right to strike.

"That is a fundamental right of the workers. The Communist Party will fight to preserve that right and will urge the workers to use it whenever it is necessary."

FORWARD TO UNIONIZATION!

The Communist Party calls upon all its members and sympathizers and on the workers generally to answer the Steel Trust's declaration of war by giving full support to the steel campaign and building a steel wall of labor solidarity that no machine gun can shatter.

FORWARD TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 500,000 STEEL WORKERS!

FORWARD TO A UNITED, POWERFUL AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR!