

National CIO Pledges Bond Fund for Indicted Unionists

Workers Party Calls Upon All Labor to Defend 544 and SWP

The national CIO this week came aggressively to the aid of the indicted unionists of Minneapolis. After a telephone conference with the national CIO officials, Frank Barnhart, regional director of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, to which Local 544 is affiliated, announced that "the national CIO has already set in motion the necessary machinery to insure that adequate bonds will be forthcoming to gain the speedy release of the persecuted unionists."

Coming after a deluge of greetings to the embattled unionists from CIO locals all over the country, the CIO pledge came as a fighting answer to one of the slimiest deals ever pulled out of a politician's hat.

WORKERS PARTY OFFERS SWP FULL COOPERATION

So far as LABOR ACTION knows at this time, none of the unionists and Socialist Workers Party leaders who were last week indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in St. Paul have yet been arrested. Bail has been set at \$5,000 per person, or a total of \$145,000. The FBI is evidently not pressing the hunt on the assurance that each of the men will turn up as bail is raised. It is possible that the defense will move to separate the cases of the unionists, all of whom deny being members of the SWP, from those who admit being members of the SWP. In addition to the CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union has protested the indictments.

The Workers Party has extended its unreserved solidarity to Local 544 and to the SWP. On July 1, even before the indictments had been issued, the Political Committee of the Workers Party, offered the SWP, in a letter to its Political Committee, complete cooperation and support. In its letter, the WP wrote: "Our committee has discussed the situation produced by the raid on the headquarters of the SWP in Minneapolis. . . . It goes without saying that the WP is in complete and unreserved solidarity with the SWP in this situation. We request you to arrange to inform us of any proposals and suggestions you may have whereby our party may offer its assistance." As we go to press, we have not yet received an answer, but hope we will in the interests of waging the broadest and most effective action.

TOBIN JOLTED BY RANK AND FILE MORALE

With the CIO on record, Local 544 has behind it the most militant section of organized union labor—a section which understands what lies behind the indictment of the 29 unionists and leaders of the SWP. On June 28, before indictments were handed down by the august federal jury, Frank Barnhart warned that "UNABLE TO BEND THE WORKERS TO HIS WILL BY THE OTHER VICIOUS TACTICS WHICH HE HAS EMPLOYED, DAN TOBIN HAS PERSUADED ROOSEVELT TO CARRY OUT THIS ACTION IN PAYMENT OF HIS POLITICAL DEBT TO TOBIN FOR PAST SERVICES RENDERED."

That's the long and the short of it. Tobin tried to crack the militant leadership of No. 544, tried to make the union fit in with the anti-union jingo schemes of the government. Local 544 turned its back on Tobin's bureaucratic AFL machine, determined on continuing its exemplary union fight guided by a single consideration: the interests of the Northwest teamsters, and labor in general. The CIO welcomed Local 544, a local with a brilliant record of militant action and democratic leadership, into its ranks.

Tobin then tried to loose a whole Pandora's box of persecutions. Thugs were imported into Minneapolis to intimidate union members. Suit was filed in court to tie up the union's funds. Through it all, the teamster rank and file stuck by the union that had won them magnificent gains, and the leadership that led them in struggle. The CIO News, for example, this week reports:

"In spite of pressure by the press, by the employers, by a hostile Administration, both state and national, by hundreds of slugging 'organizers' imported by the AFL, the morale of the men is very high. . . . The truck drivers understand, as few workers do, that they are subject to direct and quick pressure not only on the job locally, but in their homes, streets and alleys where their work takes them and on the broad highways and foreign terminals and other distant points. They have confidence because they feel that justice for the truck drivers and all of the workers who depend upon them, such as the building trades, can be obtained in making this magnificent fight."

Local 544 has suggested an NLRB election in which the members could choose AFL or CIO. Tobin knows he would be licked by a membership vote, and has consequently done all he can to block an election.

ANY OLD PORT IN A STORM . . .

Faced with this high morale and with solid ranks, Tobin got Roosevelt to pay off his political debt by what was supposed to be a crushing blow, but which may, if labor sticks together, prove a boomerang. The FBI was persuaded to stage a spectacular raid on headquarters of the SWP in the Twin Cities. Evidence collected in this raid included such "subversive" items as a picture of Leon Trotsky (!) and books and pamphlets which can be publicly bought. On the basis of this "damaging" evidence and instructed by the Department of Justice, the grand jury handed down indictments against 29 people, including Local 544's leaders and national

(Continued on page 3)

LABOR ACTION

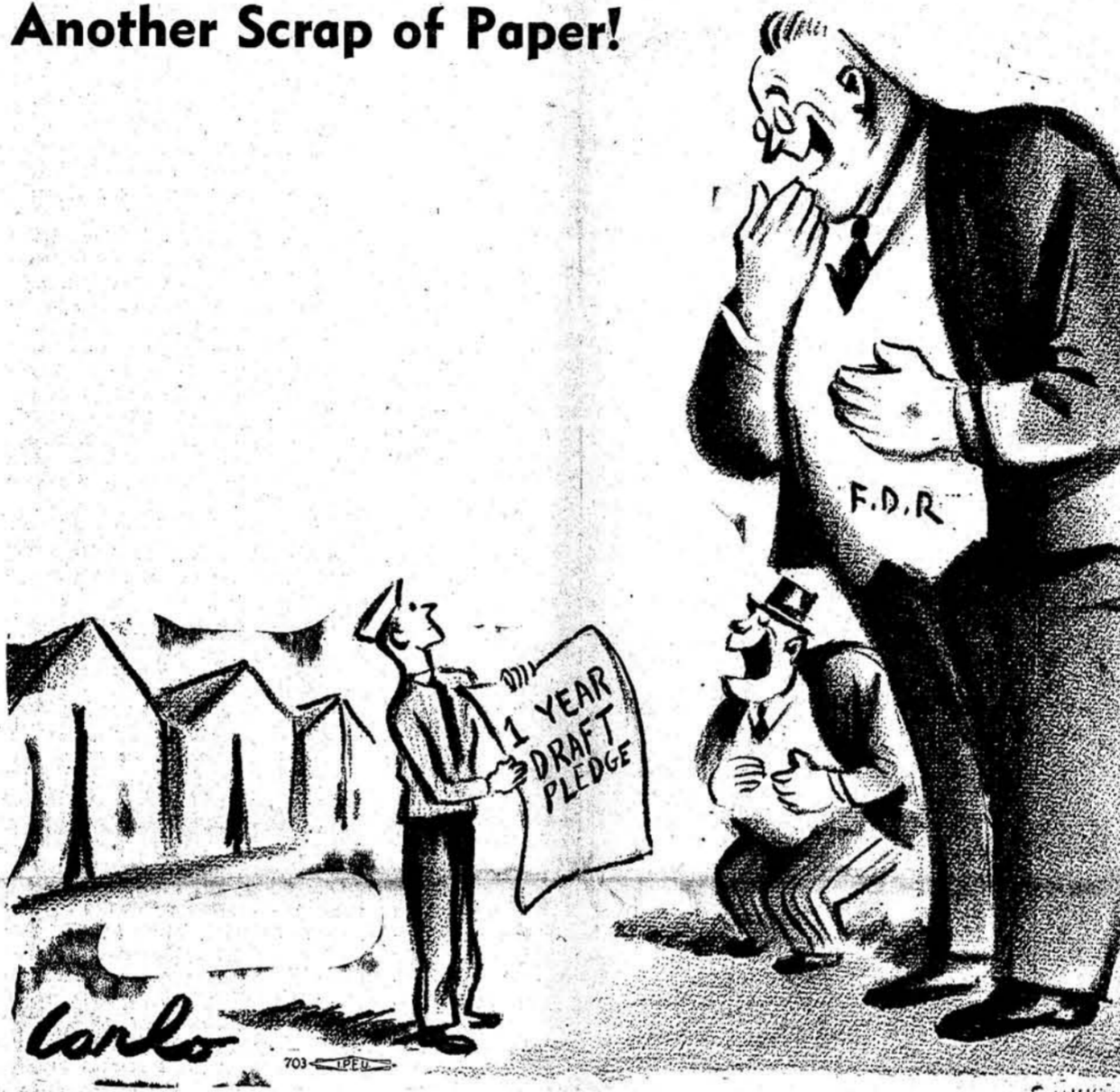
JULY 28, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

DRAFT EXTENSION HERALDS STAGE OF "SHOOTING WAR"

Another Scrap of Paper!



Roosevelt's Demand Stems From HIS Class Interests, But We Oppose It from OURS

Senate and Administration are rushing the draft extension law.

Rushing the law because the Administration expects total and full-fledged "shooting war" before the first year of draftee service is up.

That is why Roosevelt is courting the opposition of mass opinion, where yesterday he tried to allay it with hypocritical hokuspokus.

Roosevelt's pledge that the men would be kept in service only a year was never anything more than a piece of calculated deception.

Even a boss politician has to quit pretending when the facts become plainer than words.

A Special UAW Issue

of LABOR ACTION will appear next week in time for the Buffalo convention of the United Automobile Workers-CIO. Those who remember the special CIO convention issue, as well as other special issues of LABOR ACTION, will not want to miss them. Articles will discuss the problems confronting the auto workers and their union. Don't fail to get your copy. Order now for the UAW issue!

And the main FACT is this: Roosevelt has entered the war—he has said as much himself—and the time is now coming when he means to go the whole hog.

And, let us admit it: you can not wage war with a "temporary" army. You can not send troops to Iceland or Dakar or the Cape Verde Islands or northern Ireland on a part time basis.

Yes, from Mr. Roosevelt's BOSS POINT OF VIEW it's perfectly logical—and legitimate.

But that's the rub! It's logical and legitimate from the BOSS point of view. It isn't from OURS. Why? BECAUSE WE WANT NO PART OF THE BOSSES' WAR, NOR DO THE GREAT MASS OF PEOPLE WHOSE OPINIONS COUNT FOR NOTHING IN THE MAD SCHEMES OF THE WAR GOVERNMENT!

And that goes for the draftees too. They do not want to fight the bosses' war. They do not want to serve in the bosses' army. They didn't want it when they were first drafted. They don't want it now when their term of service is going to be extended.

So widespread is this opposition that even the jingo press has been compelled to admit it in news accounts. In one southern camp, slips of paper were dropped from a moving army truck protesting the prolongation of service. These slips said it was untrue that National Guardsmen are willing to continue in service, that the brass hats did not speak for the men.

Letters sent to Congressmen from Fort Dix had the brass hat totalitarianism in an apoplectic lather. Pronouncements went out that it was against the Articles of War for soldiers to speak up in their own interests. Threats were made of dire punishment. But even there the brass hats had to back down. Punishment would only have ignited a flame of protest in the camps.

THE SAME HAS HAPPENED IN MANY CAMPS. The draftees hate army life. Articles of War or no Articles of War, (Continued on page 4 in edit. col.)

Company Hires Professional Thugs To Hurl Against Bendix Picket Line

Special to Labor Action

BENDIX, N. J.—Professional thugs were used last week against striking workers at the Bendix plant of Air Associates. The Bergen Evening Record of July 17 admitted that F. Leroy Hill, president of the company, was using strike-breakers "of the fighting, not the working, type."

When it became known that the Bendix strikers were up against professional thugs, workers from the Brewster plants in Newark and Long Island joined the picket line to help their fellow union.

The pickets succeeded in driving the thugs back, so that the plant was completely shut down. In an attempt to break the line, police threw tear gas and shot their guns into the air. **BUT THE LINE HELD FIRM.**

Bendix was struck on July 11 when the company refused to reinstate nine

union men fired on the easily seen through pretext that the plant was short on aluminum. Since then, Air Associates, which manufactures plane parts, has been almost completely shut down.

No deliveries have been made to the struck plant because truckmen refuse to cross the picket line. The few scabs in the plant were even deprived of their ice cream when the "Good Humor" man refused to cross the line.

The week before the strike was called the union had won an NLRB election, after a very brief organization drive by the UAW.

The rapidity with which the union was able to organize the plant is easily explained by the wage scale at Air Associates—40 cents an hour for skilled help. The union is asking for a 75 cent minimum.

F. Leroy Hill is of the Girdler-Ford-Douglas type of boss. The very thought of a union makes him foam at the mouth. Not only did he try to establish a company union after the UAW came in, but he has since stalled in negotiations, refused to meet the OPM (the Knudsen OPM) and, to top it all, he has asked Governor Edison to shoot the pickets off the road. The governor was forced to issue a public rebuke to Hill.

Yes, Hill is the Girdler-Ford-Douglas type. But Ford and Girdler have had to bend before the militancy of their workers. Douglas is being squeezed hard by the union. The same kind of action that toppled King Ford and "I'd Rather Move to Canada" Girdler can crack the anti-union collarbone of Air Associates. Appeals to the government by the union will be effective in exact por-

portion to the size and militancy of the picket line.

The workers, most of them very young and in the union for the first time, are getting a bellyful of the "defense" program. They are beginning to understand what it means to them. One picket said: "If they won't pay us, let them run their own machines. The least we can get out of this is a decent salary."

THAT'S THE KIND OF SPIRIT THAT WINS STRIKE VICTORIES.

The strike has now been certified to the National Mediation Board, which, for the first time, has not asked the strikers to go back to work during negotiations!

A conference is being held in Washington this week and from all indications the strikers will win their demands.

Governor Talmadge Goes on Lynch-Law Rampage

AN EDITORIAL

Eugene Talmadge, a jackass of an ignoramus, who is governor of the poll-tax lynch state of Georgia, has succeeded in getting rid of two professors at the state university who were attempting to bring a little light, decency and civilization to this backwoods community. The two teachers, Dr. Walter D. Cocking and Dr. Marvin S. Pittman, were accused of promoting equality between the races. Talmadge had attempted to get the two educators out before but the regents refused. Talmadge then got a new regents board on which he had a majority for his mob views and opinions. The new board promptly did as it was told by the Fuehrer amid the plaudits of a host of savage Talmadge supporters.

The two educators were accused of "insinuating such things as this (racial equality) through our back doors." Dr. Cocker had read Embrée's book, "Brown America," and this very mild book is supposed to have derailed him and sent him off on a race

equality rampage. One of the Talmadge regents, Peters, frothed at the mouth at the idea that the Embrée book had been placed in "our college libraries." Peters said that throughout the book the thought runs, "erase the feelings of superiority of the white man." Peters was shocked that anybody should want Negroes to "use the same schools, ride in the same trains and sit side by side." Then Peters reached the climax: "They want intermarriage, that's what it means." When Peters said this Talmadge yelled: "THEY WON'T DO IT." Despite the fact that Cocking pleaded that he did not believe in racial equality, he could not satisfy Talmadge and the regents. They yelled for his scalp and got it.

We don't think that it is necessary to grow too excited over Talmadge and other Georgia mob leaders. Readers of LABOR ACTION know Talmadge and they know Georgia. Georgia is one of the poll-tax states where they elect congressmen under conditions where even the majority of the whites are disfranchised.

Georgia is a state where the mob, the demagogue, the rope and the torch are the law. Georgia is a state where they spend as little money as possible for the education of the people. Georgia is a state of sweatshops, child labor, low wages and ignorant politicians in the pay of the employers. And so, what could one expect from George except just such a show as that put on by the buffoon Talmadge.

There are a few observations that we want to make, however. Talmadge and his stooge board of regents are worried about white supremacy being placed in jeopardy. They are correct; they should worry because the only way that this gang can hope to maintain "superiority" is by the use of force and oppression. They are so enveloped in ignorance, illiteracy and stupidity that they could never prove intellectual superiority in any open and fair contest. Furthermore, what kind of white superiority is it that can be maintained only by keeping people in ignorance? Accord-

ing to Talmadge, if the white Georgians read books that he disagrees with, they will cease to believe in white superiority. The only way that Talmadge can perpetuate white superiority in Georgia is to confine the reading of white Georgians to his speeches.

Talmadge is also afraid of intermarriage. Don't let the white women of Georgia read books that are not "safe," or, according to Talmadge, terrible things might happen. There might be some intermarrying between Negroes and whites. From the appearance of some Georgians, white and black, that we have seen, somebody down there has been reading some of these books for many years. We never saw Talmadge or Peters, and we can't orate on the Anglo-Saxon purity of their blood. However, we are of the opinion that these gentlemen would a little reticent to have an expert genealogist dig too far into their antecedents. We only pass on these few observations for the contemplation of all the Talmadges in the South.

