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Labor Views

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"I APPROVE..." SAYS MAYOR KELLY AS COPS CLUB WORKERS

"I approve of Capt. Barnes action...I'm sure they are justified" said Mayor Kelly in defence of the Chicago police after the brutal beating of pickets in front of the struck American Automatic Devices Co. at 530 S. Throop St. last Friday (Oct. 4th). The union involved is local 453 UAW-CIO.

This was the fourth day in five days that pickets in front of this plant have been beaten and arrested by the police led by Captain Barnes. But Friday the police raised their savagery up a notch - they beat the workers to the street - WITH CLUBS.

Three of the workers subsequently arrested were first beaten with clubs to the ground and had to be carried to the squad cars, taken to the hospital and then to the police station.

Under such headlines as "Police Fight CIO Mob", and "Police Use Clubs Against Mob", Chicago's capitalist press has deliberately hidden the story of this week of bestial police attack against Chicago workers.

Here is Friday's story as told by the workers who were present:

200 or more pickets remained massed in front of the plant entrance between eight and ten o'clock in the morning. At that time it became apparent that management had decided to shut down the plant and all the pickets were dismissed except for a token force of 16 to 20 girls and six men carrying placards. A few others stood around talking.

At 10:30 all was quiet and Sam Marianni, the strike leader, left the scene.

About an hour before, however a scab employee had managed to get into the building along with other workers employed in the shops of other companies in the building. (The struck company occupies only the second floor of the six story building.)

The doors to the struck company being closed, the scab found himself trapped - afraid to leave the building.

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"I do not wish to appear to aid management unduly" - Kelly



ANSWER POLICE BRUTALITY WITH MASS ACTION

The savagery of the Chicago police against the workers with the Mayor's statements backing up this action speaks for itself.

Once again the defence of the workers is seen to rest not in legal action, not in appealing to the "authorities", but in the united mass power of the workers themselves.

For, action against the strikers at American Automatic Devices Co. last week indicates that the police are ready to step up the quantity and quality of their brutality to match the workers' increasing need for militant strike action. Mayor Kelly, representing the entire city government, has shown that he backs up these uniformed hoodlums all the way.

During this present period of higher and higher prices more and more workers are being forced toward militant strike action for higher wages. It is a sorry fact that the workers at American Automatic Devices Co. are now out on strike for their FIRST 18½ cent raise since V-J Day. This stopped being a raise six months ago!

Local 453, UAW-CIO began negotiations with the company in January of this year. The company has waged a vicious fight against the union including the firing of a steward to force the workers out on strike in April, the bringing in of a rival AFL union (which the workers voted down) and the refusal to meet with the union "in good

faith".

When the present strike began August 26th, the company found it had another weapon against its workers - the Chicago police.

This gang of uniformed hoodlums has gained a nation-wide reputation for its particular efficiency at breaking strikes.

Top union officials have already heard Mayor Kelly's attitude and any promises from other politicians are just pre-election soft soap. Chicago's courts have passed injunction after injunction against unions.

Why are these union leaders not planning giant mass demonstrations involving every local union in Chicago - regardless of affiliation - in protest against this common threat to every worker in Chicago?

Demands for such action have already been raised on the floor of several local unions. A leadership which does not respond to this urgent call is proving itself criminally timid or in actual comradeship with the Kellys and the Captain Barnes.

Labor Views urges every worker in every union to demand from the floor of their union a city-wide mobilization for mass inter-union demonstrations and protest meetings. Only mass strength will cause capitalism's paid hoodlums to retreat from their raw brutality.

the answer at HARVESTERS: **STRIKE ACTION NOW**

Militancy Can Revive UAW Local 6

Feeling the need for a militant striking organization, the workers in the huge International Harvester plant in Melrose Park have begun to take strike action on their own initiative. Beginning in the assembly department a few weeks ago workers on the line ceased work and demanded an adjustment in wages. They won their demands. This militant action spread like wildfire as other departments in the plant followed suit.

In the past eight months the Harvester workers have faced a vicious speed-up and are receiving some of the lowest wage rates in the industry. This coupled with the spiraling prices has driven them to desperate action.

At last Tuesday's (Oct. 8th) meeting of the UAW-CIO Local 6 - one of the two CIO unions fighting for jurisdiction in the plant - this militancy of the workers was sharply reflected. After months and months of waiting for a Labor Board election these workers demanded from the floor of their meeting that a one week dead-line be set for the Labor Board to act, that is, Tuesday, Oct. 15th. If no action is taken by that time the workers insisted that definite strike action be planned.

The workers have every right to be disillusioned and impatient with

COPS USE CLUBS (FROM PAGE 1)

At 11:30 AM twelve police squads paraded down the street. The police emerged from their cars at once. At the order from Captain Barnes they took their clubs from their hips. So armed, they formed two solid lines from the plant door to their squad cars and began to escort the scab from the plant.

From the small group of strikers who had retreated across the street came the shout, "WE'LL GET YOU YET!"

This was the signal. Captain Barnes gave the order and the police started swinging. Police crossed the street and nobody was spared. The clubs flew and flayed into anybody and everybody near the scene.

Workers beaten to the ground were arrested and are now out on bond - raising the number to 68 workers arrested for defending themselves and their picket line in front of this plant in the last week.

This account of Friday's action is substantiated by Marianni from the office of local 453.

the set-up at Harvester. In the face of the vicious Harvester speed-up and miserable working conditions two CIO unions, the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Farm Equipment Workers of America (FEWA) have found nothing better to do than to issue a steady stream of slander against each other and wait for a Labor Board election to settle which union shall have legal representation of the workers.

How is it that the 2,000 or more workers in the plant must now put up with this horse-play when they so urgently need militant union action? To answer this question we have to look at the past history of this plant. When this was a new war plant operated by Buick of General Motors the workers here organized Local 6 of the UAW-CIO. Local 6 was a militant outfit which under the guidance of the rank-and-file resisted the top UAW bureaucracy and opposed the traitorous "no-strike" pledge throughout the war.

The day after V-J Day thousands of workers were handed their last Buick pay check. Local 6 could no longer gather a quorum to its meetings and the UAW International executive board placed the local under Harry Wainwright International representation. Harvester has since taken over the property and there are again thousands of workers back in the factory, but they still have nothing to say of their own local affairs. Matze runs the union, writes its paper, and refuses to co-operate with the former leaders of the local.

But the record of the FEWA (Farm Equipment Workers of America) bureaucracy is no better. During the war the FEWA, in line with the policies of the Stalinists who control it, came out for piece-rates system and actively tried to promote this criminal speed-up method in plants that did not have it before. Unlike the militant rank-and-file of Local 6, the FEWA forced the no-strike pledge down the workers' throat.

Now, as a delaying tactic, the FEWA has filed a series of unfair labor practice charges which prevents an election from being held to decide union representation.

One place where the FEWA and the UAW bureaucrats agree is in the squelching of the militancy of the Harvester workers. Both tell the worker, "Wait 'till we win the Labor Board election." Both speak confidentially of winning. But what is the US Labor Board? It is a tool of big business whose sole

REPORT ON THE MILITANCY OF THE BINGHAM SECTION OF LOCAL 120 URW-CIO WHICH HAS WON THEM A NEW CONTRACT WILL APPEAR IN LABOR VIEWS NO. 22. THE SPACE LIMITATIONS OF A ONE PAGE LABOR VIEWS WILL SOON BE ELIMINATED.

purpose is to give the company time to inaugurate wage cuts and speed-ups while promising the workers an election.

The election is put off from week to week and from month to month. Militant workers are weeded out and rates are set up so high and wages down so low that eventually when the union does get to negotiate, work rates will be merely brought down to a speed-up level and wages brought up to a starvation level.

The Harvester workers have already hit part way on the right answer to the problem that faces them: to continue organizing strike action now. No twiddling of thumbs waiting for a Labor Board Election, but an organized militancy which rams the workers' collective fist into the pit of the company's stomach! At Harvester THIS MEANS THE VIGOROUS ORGANIZATION OF A UAW LOCAL - LOCAL 6. Because of the tradition of militancy already established by this local during the war years, the majority of Harvester workers are in favor of UAW local 6. Also, because the UAW International set-up allows a much greater chance for local autonomy than the strait-jacket control of the Stalinist FEWA, Harvester workers organized under Local 6 will have a better opportunity to control their own affairs in spite of the top UAW bureaucrats.

In the organization of this local the basic strategy should be to continue the militant strike action that has already been started at Harvester. Local 6 should elect its own officers and insist that the rank-and-file thus take its affairs out of the hands of the UAW International bureaucracy.

Local 6 workers should begin to attend their union meetings; they should insist on the organization of vigorous grievance and steward committees; they should make immediate strike plans. Based on this organized power of the workers, Local 6 can re-establish:

1. Direct collective action by the workers.
2. Direct negotiations with the company.

HARVESTER WORKERS:

DON'T WAIT FOR THE ELECTION.

MAKE LOCAL 6 YOUR TOOL FOR BETTER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

TAKE IT OVER AND CONSOLIDATE IT!