

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

THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

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

VOL. 1, NO. 12

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1941

FIVE CENTS

544-CIO Starts Court Action Against Stassen

Woll Committee Here to Prepare Purge

Ramsey County Court Review Expected by November 15th—Stassen Decision Won't Bear Light

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl This winter, during an era of the biggest industrial boom ever to hit this country, two million new unemployed workers will pound the streets looking for work.

Tobin Behind AFL Committee Sent Here to Crack Down on AFL Unions—CLU Charter May Be Lifted

The Mathew Woll Committee named by the AFL Executive Council to "purge" the Minneapolis AFL unions arrived in town Monday, installed itself at the Nicollet hotel and launched its investigation into Tobin's charges of "communist sympathies" against the Central Labor Union.

The Woll Committee, headed by the notorious labor faker and insurance agent, Mathew Woll, was set up by the AFL top bureaucrats at the last quarterly meeting in Chicago.

CIO Meets In Detroit November 17

The call for the fourth national convention of the CIO has been issued by President Philip Murray. The convention will be held in Detroit starting November 17th.

Batting 5-0 Against the Railroad Workers



The so-called fact-finding board appointed by Roosevelt takes testimony on the issues in the dispute between the railroad owners and the workers whom they exploit.

Tobin Demands Purge

Informed unionists say that after Stassen and Blair came to Tobin's rescue by denying elections to the Minneapolis drivers, there was strong pressure on the AFL executive committee to drop the Woll Committee.

Hill City Trial Set For Nov. 7

The preliminary hearing in the trial of the Tobin thugs charged with criminal assault of Walter Doree, Hill City farmer, was continued in Aitkin county district court last Friday until November 7th.

29 Defendants to Have Mass Trial

Court Denies All Motions of Defense Attorneys—Trial to Start Here October 20th

The sixteen members of Local 544-CIO and the thirteen leaders of the Socialist Workers Party will be tried together in one mass trial, Federal Judge M. M. Joyce ruled last Thursday, in denying all four motions made by defense counsel.

begin on Monday, October 20th. It will be held on the fourth-floor courtroom of Judge Joyce's, in the federal building in Minneapolis, the same room where the mass trials of WPA strikers were held two years ago.

All Motions Denied

In rapid succession Judge Joyce denied all defense motions. Following the arguments of attorneys he read his prepared statements denying the motions.

Tobin Hysterical

Threatens to Organize Iowa Miners

DES MOINES, IOWA—Hysterical at the spreading revolt of Iowa drivers against Dictator Tobin's receivership racket, Carl Keul, Tobin's international representative here, announced last week that he was going to launch a dual union movement to the United Mine Workers among the miners of southern Iowa.

Last Purge in 1924

This is the first time in 17 years that the AFL has plotted a purge of the Minneapolis movement. The last purge took place in 1924, and resulted in the arbitrary removal of many progressive and militant unionists and the jerking of charters.

Tobin Begins to Pay His Debt to Stassen

In gratitude to Governor Stassen, who has aided him so greatly in denying democracy to the Minneapolis drivers, Dictator Tobin has invited Stassen to address a mass meeting of AFL drivers' unions in Seattle next week "in honor of Daniel J. Tobin."

Tobin has further prevailed upon the AFL Executive Council to invite the author of the Stassen Slave Labor Law to speak before the annual convention of the AFL in Seattle.

Unquestionably, these two invitations to address labor groups represent part of the "deal" made between Tobin and Stassen, whereby the governor ordered his state labor conciliator to reject the demands of Local 544-CIO for a democratic election.

Tobin's greatest need today is to prevent the Minneapolis drivers' escaping from his reactionary dictatorship. Stassen's greatest need, to further his national political ambitions, is to appear to have the semblance of support from the ranks of labor.

Stassen obliged Tobin by striking a foul blow at the Minneapolis drivers and denying them an election. Tobin now obliges Stassen by ranging him invitations to speak before the AFL Teamsters and the AFL convention in Seattle.

That is the way these things are worked.

Newton, Iowa, is the home of the Maytag Washing Machine company. It is owned and controlled by the Maytag family, and there is no other industry there.

In Meadville, Pa., there are 5,000 persons who earn their living making zippers. These workers make an average of 1,200,000 zippers a day.

In Evansville, Indiana, there are two large firms which make 575,000 electric refrigerators a year.

Steel is also one of the products listed as "critical" by OPM. That body estimated that this country will have an 11,000,000 ton steel deficit by the end of the year.

By the time this issue of the INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER reaches its readers, attorneys for Local 544-CIO will have filed for a writ of certiorari in Ramsey County District Court calling for a complete review of the entire Stassen-Blair ruling denying democratic elections to the Minneapolis drivers.

Union attorneys Gilbert Carlson and David Shama anticipate that the hearing will get under way Saturday, November 15th, at the sitting of the District Court.

The transcript of the testimony taken at the Blair hearing will be submitted to the court together with the motion for a review of the brazen Stassen decision to try to force the drivers back into Tobin's dictatorial craft-union set-up.

drivers and Local 544-CIO to knock out the Stassen decision and to obtain the justice to which the men are entitled.

Local 544-CIO is conferring with national CIO leaders on other possible steps to be taken to obtain the elections which the Minneapolis drivers want.

Thousands of drivers, together with their friends, wrote directly to Stassen, telling him they wanted the chance to vote on the union of their choice.

The fight of the Minneapolis drivers for a union of their own choosing, a union that will function only in the interests of the membership, will continue until victory is won.

In Detroit

Flying Squadrons To Defend Drivers From AFL Thugs

Hundreds of Drivers Daily Signing Up with CIO in Detroit, Other Michigan Cities—CIO Aroused at Tobin Gangsterism

CHICAGO, ILL.—At the recent meeting of the International Executive Board of the CIO United Auto Workers here, Russell Turner, in charge of the UCWOC campaign to organize the motor transport workers in Michigan, appeared before the Board to report on the progress of the drive and request full aid from the UAW.

The CIO drive to organize drivers is in full swing in Detroit, Flint, Lansing and other Michigan centers. Detroit is seething with the phenomenal progress of the CIO campaign among the drivers.

fits of democratic industrial unionism to the Michigan drivers will be pushed with full vigor and militancy and there is no question but that the auto workers will give the necessary aid and protection to insure that the drivers of Michigan will soon be lined up solid in the CIO.

The auto workers got their belly-full of the AFL and William Green long ago. Now they are ready to give a helping hand to the drivers to escape from the craft-union racketeers.

Australian Government Bribed Union Leaders

The issue of the Australian government's secret fund to bribe labor leaders, fight union militancy and corrupt the union leadership into support of the war, continues to agitate the Australian people.

By the narrow margin of one vote, the Australian House of Representatives on September 25th rejected a motion of censure of the government introduced by John Curtin, leader of the Labor Party.

Prime Minister Fadden admitted the government had used its secret anti-union fund to establish an Australian "Democratic Front." Included in the expenses of the fake "Front" was a payment of three hundred pounds (about \$1,400) to officials of the Coal Miners Federation.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town - - - Let's KEEP IT That Way

# Decline of the AFL and Rise of the CIO

## The CIO Is Formed in November, 1935, and Gets a Quick Taste of AFL "Democracy" — Expulsion from AFL Only Enhances CIO in Eyes of Workers — CIO Rolls Up Its Sleeves and Does the Jobs the AFL Should Have Done for the American Workers

The CIO was formed November 9, 1935, with the announced purpose of working as an organized group WITHIN the AFL to promote the progressive cause of industrial unionism. The CIO is unlike other industrial union movements such as the I. W. W. and the Socialist Trade Union League of former years in that the CIO was made up of strong AFL international unions within the AFL; the other industrial union movements were formed outside the AFL.

The seven original CIO unions were the United Mine Workers, with 500,000 members; the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, with 150,000; the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, 200,000; the men's headgear section of the United Hatters, with 7,000; the United Textile Workers, 65,000; the Oil Field and Refinery Workers, 40,000; and the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, with 15,000 members. All told, the CIO began with about one million members, the AFL retaining about 2,500,000.

The CIO never even obtained representation at the 1936 convention of the AFL. With that brand of union "democracy" for which Green and Woll and Tobin are famous, the AFL Executive Council flouted the AFL constitution and suspended the CIO unions before the 1936 convention in 1936.

The AFL's arbitrary and dictatorial action against the CIO, far from harming the latter in the eyes of the American workers, enormously enhanced the attractiveness of the CIO. "If the top fakers of the AFL are against the CIO, then the CIO MUST be good," was the attitude of the workers.

### CIO Shoots Past AFL

The CIO immediately began a speedy growth, which, except for the setback received by the Little Steel defeat in 1937 and the depression in the fall of that year, has continued to the present. SINCE ITS SUSPENSION FROM THE AFL IN 1936, THE CIO HAS RECRUITED TWO NEW MEMBERS FOR EVERY ONE TAKEN IN BY THE AFL.

The enormous growth of the CIO is still more impressive when one realizes that most of the CIO membership has been recruited in the basic industries controlled by the most powerful sections of the capitalist class in America, the very industries that the AFL never did succeed in organizing and never could organize in a thousand years on a craft-union basis.

At its Atlantic City conference in November, 1937, the CIO could already boast of 32 international organizations with a membership of over 3,500,000. It could boast that it had raised wages by \$1,000,000,000 a year, cut hours by some 2,000,000 a week, and improved working conditions everywhere.

### Men of Steel

The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers was founded in 1876. For sixty years this AFL affiliate failed on a magnificent scale to organize the nation's steel workers. The one formidable effort to organize steel, made in 1919, broke to pieces on the rocks of craft unionism when no less than 24 AFL craft unions intervened during the great strike of that year to divide up the workers on paper before they were ever organized. The 1934 AFL convention ordered the executive council to inaugurate an organization campaign in the iron and steel industry, but at the 1935 AFL convention the Greens and Wolls reported that they "did not deem it advisable" to organize steel at this time.

Encouraged by the progressive movement for industrial unionism and spurred by the feudal conditions in the industry, a militant rank-and-file movement sprang up in the nation's steel centers in 1934.

The steel barons answered the organization threat by laying in enough ammunition, tear gas and arms to equip a good-sized army. The bosses looked ready to defend their "American Way" in traditional gangster style.

The steel workers' committee was given the run-around not only by the AFL but by the Roosevelt administration.

In February, 1936, John L. Lewis offered the AFL \$500,000 toward a fund of \$1,500,000 to organize steel in an industrial union. Green turned down the offer. Lewis then offered the money to the Amalgamated, which held a convention in April, pensioned off its old officers and went to work. The bosses countered by pub-

lishing full-page ads in 375 newspapers declaring they would never recognize the union.

### 450 Contracts in 2 Months

On March 1, 1937, the U. S. Steel Corporation, giant of the industry, recognized the SWOC. Within two months, 450 more firms signed up.

The so-called "Little Steel" companies, however, controlled by the same financial interests that run Big Steel, decided to make a test of strength with the CIO. When strikes were called in Republic Steel, Youngstown Steel and Inland Steel, they were murderously repressed—by company-controlled gangsters, by company-purchased police, by national guardsmen acting for the bosses. Over-optimistic at its great victories over Big Steel, and unprepared to defend the union against boss violence and to protect the workers from labor board trickery, the union went down to a bad defeat in Little Steel. The depression of 1937-1938 dealt a further blow to the progress of SWOC.

### Steel Is Now Union

However, the CIO in the nation's steel industry has managed to stage a strong come-back from 1937 and today has organized Little Steel and forced these companies to sign union agreements.

For the first time in American history the nation's iron and steel industry is organized practically 100 per cent. It took modern industrial unionism to achieve this historic labor victory over the nation's basic industry. The steel barons laughed at the AFL. The CIO wiped that laugh off the faces of the steel bosses. Today steel is union, with over half a million workers.

### Sit-Down Strikes

The triumph of the CIO in the nation's auto industry has been even more spectacular than the steel victory.

The auto industry is the largest customer of the other basic industries and the most mechanized of them all. "Ninety per cent of its workers not only need no skill, but must have none," as Benjamin Stolberg says in his book on the CIO.

The only possible unionism that could organize auto is industrial unionism. Here the CIO has made formidable gains, inventing a new strike weapon inherent in the very processes of mass production industry: the sit-down strike.

Ever since the First World War the AFL has been making a typical half-hearted stab at organizing auto. Despite obstacles placed in their way by AFL President William Green, the auto workers flocked into the union in 1934 and 1935, and in August of the latter year the industrial unionists within the AFL forced the executive council to grant the federal locals in auto an international charter for the United Auto Workers of America. Green, in typical AFL fashion, shoved his own officers down the throats of the auto workers.

In April, 1936, some 30,000 auto workers sent delegates to their national union convention in South Bend, Ind. They promptly threw out the AFL-imposed leadership, joined the CIO, and launched a whirlwind organization campaign. By the end of 1936, the 30,000 had grown to 100,000.

The first real test of strength came with General Motors at the end of the year. The speed-up was intolerable, wages were miserably low, unemployment was the lot of the auto worker for a good portion of the year (as it still is).

### The Sit-Down Strikes

The General Motors strike began with a walkout of 7,000 at the Cleveland Fisher Body plant and quickly spread to Flint and Detroit, which completely tied up the corporation. General Motors had spent over \$1,000,000 during the past two years for labor spies, thugs, etc., but against the mass power of the workers expressed in the sit-down strikes, the bosses were helpless. Pitched battles occurred with company gangsters and the police. The government, both state and federal, did its best to smash the strike. But on February 11, 1937, the corporation capitulated and soon afterward signed an agreement with the union. In March, 60,000 Chrysler workers sat down and the following month won their strikes. Except for Ford, unionism had been

established in the giant auto industry.

### Aircraft Is Next

The AFL craft unionists continue to aim feeble blows at CIO in the auto industry, but such actions only provoke smiles from the auto workers.

The sixth annual convention of the United Auto Workers which met in Buffalo in August, 1941, relished the news that today the union has a paid-up membership of \$28,413, that its contracts cover 982 plants and 703,000 workers, and that the union has won every major decision over the bosses and the AFL in labor board elections. The union is now collecting a huge organization fund and launching a campaign to complete the organization of the nation's aircraft factories.

AFL craft unionism couldn't organize a bicycle factory. CIO industrial unionism has conquered General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford.

### Other CIO Unions

The AFL made its last bid to organize the nation's textile workers in 1934, when the nation's textile workers went out on general strike, which was broken by the Roosevelt administration and the national guards. In April, 1937, the CIO set up the Textile Workers Organizing Committee. One year later the TWOC had already organized 125,000 textile workers, and has grown steadily since then.

The nation's rubber workers first began to organize under the AFL in 1933. As they began to progress, the AFL craft unionists stepped in to sabotage the drive.

No less than 16 crafts claimed jurisdiction over the rubber workers. Finally in 1935 the AFL granted them an industrial union charter which was anything but industrial in character. In January, 1939, the Goodyear workers in Akron staged a sit-down, the first great sit-down in America. The strikers, fed up with the AFL, invited John L. Lewis to address them. Lewis assured them the CIO would back them unstintingly, which it did. The strike was won, and the CIO United Rubber Workers has proceeded steadily to organize the rubber industry. At its convention in September in Indianapolis, the union reported a peak membership of 82,000 in good standing, an increase of 28,000 members since last year. The Rubber Workers has contracts with 127 corporations, and has won over \$22,000,000 in wage increases during the year.

### Radio, Aluminum Organized

The radio workers began organizing, in the Philco plant, in 1933.

To go ahead with the case. On September 11th Federal Judge Joyce overruled the demurrers of the defendants and set trial for October 20th in Minneapolis.

### Former AFL Officer Writes

## Tobin Receivership Racket Infests West Coast Unions

"The history of this union (AFL Teamsters Local 287 of San Jose, California) under Dan Tobin, Dave Beck and the Caseys of San Francisco has been one of reaction and gangsterism," writes J. J. Anderson, former Local 287 secretary, to the INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER.

Brother Anderson, today a representative of the Santa Clara CIO Industrial Union Council, exposes the Tobin receivership racket as it has operated on the West Coast. His letter to the Minneapolis drivers follows:

"May I express my personal appreciation of the copies of the INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER. My interest in your fight with the gangster element which controls the AFL International Brotherhood of Teamsters is of more than passing interest to me personally, since as far back as 1907 I was one of the few who formed an organization of teamsters in Los Gatos, California. Later, I acted as secretary of Local 287, San Jose; from 1927 until 1936. I had the doubtful honor of attending the IBT national convention at Portland, Oregon, in 1935, when the Teamsters Union was in reality abolished as an international organization, by a constitutional amendment.

### Receivership Racket

"The history of this union under Dan Tobin, Dave Beck and the Caseys of San Francisco has been one of reaction and gangsterism. Local 287 of San Jose, which I had served from 1925 until 1936, operates now under a receivership. So do other locals of Teamsters in California. Not because of financial stress, but so as to avoid elections of officers, and so that the International may control the actions and finances of these organizations.

"This receivership racket has become the accepted technique

whereby democracy may be abolished within AFL unions. This must be stopped, not only because of the obvious harm to the membership, but in the interest of our very form of government and American institutions. If fascism is ever imposed on American workers they should at least not accept it with the union label. After nearly forty years within the narrow confines of the AFL, with its Greens, Wolls, Tobins and Hutchinsons, I know that the CIO is the answer to those who desire an organization that is clean, progressive and unafraid."

Fraternally yours,  
J. J. ANDERSON,  
San Jose, California

### Church 1 o'Clock Lunch October 7th

The Altar Society of St. Helena's Catholic church will give a one o'clock luncheon Wednesday, October 7th, in the auditorium of the school, Thirty-second avenue and Forty-fourth street. Mrs. T. J. Long is general chairman.

A CREED  
Justice is the only worship.  
Love is the only priest. Ignorance is the only slavery. Happiness is the only good. The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make other people happy.—INGERSOLL.

## 27,000,000 Unemployed Seen Here if War Ends in 1944

The National Resources Planning Board in Washington has released startling figures to show that, should the war end in 1944, there will be 27,000,000 Americans suddenly thrown out of their jobs.

	1941	1944
Man-power in war industries	4,800,000	23,500,000
Man-power in military service	1,800,000	3,500,000

Here are the figures of the NRPB:  
Total in war work..... 6,600,000 27,000,000  
Today there are 6,600,000 in war work, about 12 per cent of the nation's man-power. In 1944, there will be 27,000,000 in war work, or 45 per cent of our man-power.

The estimates of the above Board are based "on the present Army and Navy program and do not assume active belligerency by the United States."

Should the United States be in the war by 1944, there would no doubt be about 36,000,000 citizens in the armed services and the war industries. If peace should then suddenly break out, there would be 36,000,000 Americans looking for work—almost three times as many as at the bottom of the depression!

## Noted Educators, Writers Join Defense Group for 29

Among the latest nationally-known liberals to join the Civil Rights Defense Committee defending the 29 indicted workers who go to trial October 20th on charges of "conspiring to overthrow the government" are Kenneth Crawford, former president of the American Newspaper Guild; Dr. John Dewey, world-famous educator; Emmett

E. Dorsey, Negro leader and professor at Howard University; Dorothy Kenyon, labor attorney; William Rose Benet, poet; Ludwig Lore, columnist for the New York Post; Waldo Frank, novelist; and George W. Hartman, Socialist Party candidate for mayor of New York City.

Other well-known persons who joined the Defense Committee earlier are Warren K. Billings, James T. Farrell (national chairman),

John Dos Passos, Charles R. Walker, Carlo Tresca, etc.

Branches of the Civil Rights Defense Committee are being set up in cities from coast to coast. Trade unions and other labor and liberal organizations are being canvassed for contributions and support. Five local unions in Newark, New Jersey, have already made substantial contributions to defending this civil liberties case.

## Biddle Hypocrisy Exposed

### Prosecutions Speak Louder Than Promises, CRDC Says

The wide divergence between Attorney General Francis Biddle's pretenses that he desires to respect civil liberties, and his actions in prosecuting the leaders of Local 544-CIO, is pointed out in a letter written to the New York Times by George Novack, secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee which is defending the 29 defendants under federal indictment for "conspiracy to overthrow the government."

Mr. Novack's letter to the N. Y. Times follows:

Dear Sir:  
In a featured interview in the New York Times of Sunday, September 21st, Attorney-General Biddle is quoted as saying: "Insofar as I can, I intend to see that civil liberties in this country are protected and we do not again fall into the disgraceful hysteria of witch-hunts, strike-breakings and minority persecutions which were such a dark chapter in our record of the last World War."

This declaration directly conflicts with the prosecution initiated by the Attorney-General against the leaders of Local 544-Socialist Workers Party, who were indicted in Minneapolis on July 15th, 1941, on charges of "conspiring to overthrow the government by armed force."

The National CIO, Labor's Non-Partisan League, the United Auto Workers, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Nation, the New Republic and other labor and liberal spokesmen have condemned the government action in this case as precisely the kind of "witch-hunt, strike-breakings and minority persecution" Attorney-General Biddle refers to.

On August 20th the American Civil Liberties Union sent a letter of protest to Attorney-General Biddle, calling upon the Department of Justice to dismiss this prosecution. This letter states that the prosecution clearly infringes upon civil liberties, that the statutes upon which the indictments rest are unconstitutional and that the American Civil Liberties Union is prepared, if necessary, to test the constitutionality of the laws and their application to this set of facts in the Supreme Court. The letter also asserts that there was a "gross impropriety on the part of the government officials in securing the indictments . . ." in that "the government injected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side which supported the administration's foreign and domestic policy."

Attorney-General Biddle has replied that the government intends

to go ahead with the case. On September 11th Federal Judge Joyce overruled the demurrers of the defendants and set trial for October 20th in Minneapolis.

Unless and until the Department of Justice drops its prosecution in the Minnesota case, all of Attorney-General Biddle's words regarding his desire to respect civil liberties will be viewed with the utmost scepticism. Prosecutions speak louder than promises.

Yours very truly,  
GEORGE NOVACK,  
Secretary.

## CIO Wins At Grant Battery

Workers at the Grant Storage Battery voted 56 to 8 for CIO United Electrical Workers Local 1140 Monday in a NLRB election. It was the second CIO victory over the AFL in this industry in a week. Last week Local 1140 whipped the AFL, 27 to 0, at the Mitchell Battery. Local 1140 will now enter negotiations with the industry.

The AFL had represented the Grant Battery workers since 1936, but by an overwhelming majority the men chose the more progressive CIO.

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## Stassen Farce Ends

### Dr. Rockwell is Formally Removed

Teachers Union May Appeal Case to Defend Schools Against Politicians

One of the most shameful farces of the Stassen administration—that dealing with the governor's successful maneuver to get rid of Dr. John Rockwell, state commissioner of education—came to a dismal end last Friday when the state board of education voted formal dismissal of Rockwell for "inefficiency, maladministration and insubordination."

The vote was 4-1, as it has been throughout the governor's effort to "get" Rockwell. The four Stassenites voted Friday to dismiss Dr. Rockwell, and the one liberal board member, Mrs. Colvin, voted as always to defend the former state commissioner of education, whose crime, in Governor Stassen's eyes, was his liberalism.

The long fight to defend the state school system from the political machinations of Stassen and his reactionary friends has thus ended in temporary defeat.

That it may be only temporary was indicated last week-end by spokesmen for the American Federation of Teachers and other teachers' groups that the decision to dismiss Dr. Rockwell may be taken to court because of the precedent it sets for political control of education.

Dr. Rockwell himself has been working with the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in California since last June.

### Stirred State

When the Stassen attack on Dr. Rockwell, his assistant, Dr. Eugene Carstater, and the state school system was launched in the summer of 1940, it stirred educators, liberals and organized labor throughout the state and nation.

Late last December the state board of education, in control of the Stassenites, opened its public hearing on the phony charges against Rockwell. During the course of the hearing, attended by educators from all parts of the state, the Stassen camp revealed

its reactionary colors by red-baiting Dr. Rockwell and appealing to race prejudice over the disclosure that Rockwell had entertained colored persons at his home.

Rockwell was applauded by liberals throughout the country when he answered the board's attorney by declaring: "Yes, there have been colored people in my home. I am proud of it. I never draw the color line. I am proud that the state department of education, under my administration, has employed both Negroes and Indians."

Among noted educators to speak out in defense of Dr. Rockwell were Dean Harold Benjamin of the University of Maryland, Dean Thomas E. Benner, of the college of education, University of Illinois, educators at Northwestern University, etc.

### Stassen Fiasco

During the Rockwell hearing, it was disclosed that H. E. Flynn, whom the Stassen machine has now named to succeed Rockwell as state commissioner of education, was in business with Theodore Utne, another member of the department of education, whereby the two had collected \$10,000 in royalties over a period of ten years for various copyrighted school forms which were practically forced upon the state's high schools, who look to the state department of education for school aid funds. Flynn and Utne receive a 10 per cent royalty on the printed forms for school aid and other school reports.

## CIO Government Employees Reject 'No Strike' Argument

The convention of the CIO State, County and Municipal Workers of America, meeting in Lansing, Michigan, took a long stride towards independence from government control when it voted unanimously to reject the arguments advanced by Roosevelt, LaGuardia, and scores of other boss politicians that unions "could not strike against the government."

The union has revised its constitution to establish machinery for strikes in government departments.

During the past year the union has engaged in eight strikes, with four more now threatening. A union committee will meet with the Welfare Commissioner in New York City soon to seek sole bargaining rights for the 9,200 employees of the city relief agency.

The report of the union constitution committee to the convention pointed out that all of the strikes called had been forced upon the workers by "willful and irresponsible refusal on the part of labor-hating public officials to enter into collective bargaining. Our desire to defend our rights is proper and should be satisfied. Therefore, we consider it important to assert again that we have the right to strike. There is no law nor any legal precedent denying us this right and we will fight with deter-

mination against any abridgement of this right."

Edward S. Smith, former NLRB member told the convention he considered it "a disgraceful situation in our democracy that there was denied to government workers the protection accorded private employees by the Wagner Act."

A resolution was adopted calling for an increase in the base pay of soldiers to \$60 a month.

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# Trial Here Recalls Labor Cases of First World War

### Trials of Gene Debs, I.W.W. Remembered—Wartime Used by Bosses to Attack Workers' Rights

Imperialist war, which imposes unheard-of burdens and sacrifices upon the common people, always brings in its train new repressions and blows against the labor movement.

The United States is not yet a formal participant in the Second World War, and already the federal government has struck a blow at the heart of civil liberties by indicting 29 members of Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party for a "conspiracy to overthrow the government."

The trial of the 29, to open in Minneapolis October 20th, brings to mind the host of persecutions and frame-ups launched against the labor movement in the First World War.

Two of the most famous labor trials of that period were those involving Eugene V. Debs, Socialist leader, and 166 members of the I. W. W.

#### The Debs Case

Thousands of Minneapolis workers still recall hearing the great Eugene Debs deliver his Socialist messages in this city, especially the great mass meeting held about 25 years ago in the old Minneapolis armory that then stood across from the Parade Grounds.

Debs was the most prominent member of the Socialist Party. In June, 1917, this organization held its convention in St. Louis, adopting a famous declaration in which the World War was denounced as an imperialist venture. The convention proclaimed the international solidarity of the working class in opposition to the war. Debs worked tirelessly to enlighten his fellow workers on the fakery of the "war for democracy" and to point out to them that the only way to abolish war was to abolish capitalism, the system that breeds war.

In June, 1918, Debs delivered a famous speech in Canton, Ohio, reaffirming his opposition to the boss war, declaring his solidarity with the Russian Bolsheviks. He was arrested and charged with treason under the Espionage Law which had been passed a year earlier.

#### Wars Forced by Bosses

"In all the history of the world, you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people," Debs told his audience in Canton.

"Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and power. The strong have always tried to rob the weak. The masters have always de-

clared war. They never did any of the fighting; they have always sent the workers to fight for them.

"The masters alone declare war and they alone make peace. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose. You, the workers, have nothing to gain and everything to lose—especially your lives."

In Cleveland that September Debs was tried in court for treason. Debs himself addressed the plea to the jury:

"I cannot take back a word I have said. I cannot repudiate a sentence I have uttered. I stand before you guilty of having made this speech (in Canton). I do not know, I cannot tell, what your verdict may be; nor does it matter much, so far as I am concerned. Revolutions have a habit of succeeding, when the time comes for them . . ."

#### A Great Soul

On September 10, 1918, Debs was sentenced to ten years in the Federal penitentiary. In his final address to the court, Debs uttered the following marvellous words:

"Years ago I recognized my kinship with all living things, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest of the earth. I said then, and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am in it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Debs' lawyers appealed the case to the Supreme Court. In March, 1919, the war already over, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the lower court.

#### Denounces Court

"The decision," said Debs, "is perfectly consistent with the character of the Supreme Court as a ruling class tribunal. Great issues are not decided by the courts, but by the people. I have no concern in what the coteries of big-waged corporation lawyers in Washington may decide in my case. The court of final resort is the people, and that court will be heard from in due time."

One month later, at the age of 65 years, Debs entered prison. He was Socialist candidate for president in 1920 and, appealing to the working masses from within the prison walls, he polled 919,799 votes.

Two years and nine months later, Debs was pardoned by President Harding. Broken in health, he died soon afterward.

#### The I. W. W. Case

When President Woodrow Wilson and Congress declared war on Germany in 1917, Samuel Gompers, president of the AFL, ran to Washington to make a deal with the government. In return for his 100 per cent support of the war, he got the government to agree to smash the I.W.W., the industrial union movement of that period.

Attorney General Mitchell Palmer launched the Department of Justice against the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World.)

On September 5, 1917, Department of Justice agents in more than fifty cities invaded I.W.W. headquarters and homes of individuals with warrants which the courts later admitted were illegal. The government cops confiscated several thousand pounds of printed matter, and arrested 166 members of the I.W.W., indicting them for "criminal conspiracy."

The indictment was so horrible that it became a gruesome joke. No less than 17,020 crimes were charged against each of the 166 defendants.

Trials of the 166 members of the I.W.W. took place in federal courts throughout the country—in Sacramento, Wichita, Omaha and San Diego. The largest number of prisoners, 113, were tried before Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis (present czar of the baseball industry) in Chicago.

#### The Chicago Trial

The Chicago trial began in April, 1918, and continued for five months. Defense witnesses were intimidated and arrested. The boss newspapers printed lurid and lying stories of I.W.W. "crimes." A bomb went off mysteriously in the federal courthouse.

The Department of Justice, in order to lessen sympathy with the defendants, pulled the old trick of whispering to liberal-minded people that the government was in possession of evidence against the defendants "too important to be presented at the trial."

Washington controlled the case throughout. It removed one prosecutor. It fired the first jury and hand-picked a new one of "better" people. The government proved—imagine—that the I.W.W. conducted strikes and sent strike relief to workers in Bisbee, Arizona; that one of the organizers had suggested a general strike in defense against vigilante and governmental terror.

The I.W.W. General Defense Committee received just as vicious treatment as the defendants, one of whom went insane as a result of torture.

The Defense Committee's mail was confiscated. The express companies were persuaded not to handle defense literature shipments. U. S. marshals invaded the committee's headquarters and held them for 12 days, stealing literature, collection blanks, envelopes, etc.

#### 878 Years

The Chicago case went to the jury on August 17, 1918. The jurors spent 25 minutes in examining the 15,000 documents introduced by both sides and returned with a verdict of "guilty on all counts."

Two weeks later Judge Landis handed down savage sentences, most of them for 10 and 20 years—a total of 878 years in prison for the Chicago defendants. When two prisoners who had received the minimum sentence of a year and a day muttered a protest against the injustice of the ghastly sentences handed to their comrades, Judge Landis immediately changed their sentences to 20 years. "The U. S. has seen fit to make me the judge in this case," he smugly said.

When the defense moved for an appeal, Landis brazenly slapped fines of \$5,000 to \$20,000 on the penniless prisoners—a sum, with court costs, totaling \$2,570,000—and cancelled bail pending the appeal.

The case was appealed to the Federal Circuit Court and in December, 1920, the sentences and fines were struck out, although a new trial was denied. Later in the same year, 44 convictions were reversed. The higher court denounced the rotten conduct of the public prosecutor and Judge Landis. Most of the prisoners served from 4 to 5 years until released by a general post-war amnesty.

Revolutions are not made by laws. Force is the midwife of every old society pregnant with the new.—KARL MARX

## Defeat Compulsory Arbitration



Striking members of the Seafarers Union whose picket lines successfully smashed the government's attempt to force compulsory arbitration of the war bonus issue upon the seamen. Strikers are picketing the docks of the Alcoa Steamship company in New York City.

## Detroit AFL Bureaucrats Cry for Help as CIO Drive To Organize Drivers Gains

The general fear pervading all the AFL bureaucrats throughout the Middle West that the drivers and building trades workers will flock to the industrial unionism of the CIO was revealed in Chicago recently when the secretary of the Detroit AFL Building Trades Council came to Chicago to plead for aid from the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Ed Thal, head of the Detroit craft union group, warned that the entire CIO movement in Detroit and Michigan is behind the UCWOC drive to organize drivers and construction workers into democratic industrial unions.

"If the CIO licks the Teamsters' organizations and the Building Trades organizations in Detroit, you can make up your mind definitely that as far as the AFL is concerned, they might just as well pack up their things and get out of the State of Michigan," Thal told the Chicago craft union bureaucrats. His cry for help is printed in the September 27th issue of the Chicago Federation News.

Thal warned that Detroit is "the strongest CIO city in the United States, where the automobile industry is the predominant one of the city and where the CIO is most highly entrenched. In addition to Detroit, the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW) has organizations in nearby Michigan cities," Thal pointed out.

#### Dreiser Says

## Bosses Keep Daily Press Like Rich Man Keeps Whore

To counter the National Newspaper Week to be celebrated the week of October 1-8 by the boss press of the nation, Theodore Dreiser, great American novelist, has suggested that the labor movement bring to the attention of the people that in America we have a controlled press and radio.

Mr. Dreiser has written the following message on "Freedom of the Press" for IN PACT, the little weekly newsletter published by George Selnes:

"What about the Freedom of the Press in this country? You know and I know that the American press, with a very few exceptions, is a kept press. Kept by the big corporations the way a whore is kept by a rich man.

"The newspapers refuse to publish anything which reflects on the corporations they serve. They will publish nothing about freedom of thought and action on the part of the people, which they are deliberately seeking to destroy.

"But they will fail. Just as the slave owners of pre-Civil War days failed. They do not understand the common man. They only understand machines and systems and methods of exploiting the common man, regardless of his necessary welfare. And as usual, they are arousing, first, an understanding of their methods, and second, an intense hate that will de-

stroy them and their methods, and replace them with the democracy that America has dreamed of and will certainly yet have."

#### Suppressed Dreiser

Last year the boss papers celebrated Newspaper Week and called for expression from leading Americans. But when Theodore Dreiser sent in his reply, the publishers suppressed it. Here are extracts from Dreiser's statement, worth the reading of every man and woman who works for a living:

"Wherever labor has been employed and has struck for decent treatment, I have noted and frequently written about the zeal with which our liberty loving press invariably sprang to action in behalf of capital, and violently against labor. Also, in favor of every criminal monopoly program of our corporations. . . . The corporations of America control our newspapers and radio as well as our politicians, a large majority of our judges, our state legislators, Congressmen, governors, mayors, police, chambers of commerce, banks, ministers. . . . "Try, if you choose, to get some

# Seafarers' Union Whips Government Strike-Breaking

### Seamen Smash Government Effort to Force Compulsory Arbitration on Union

The Seafarers International Union has struck a decisive blow at the fink-herding U. S. Maritime Commission, putting that body temporarily out of running as chief union buster for the shipping bosses. Last Thursday, after an eleven-day strike which tied up twenty-five vessels in fourteen ports, the union agreed

to call off its strike temporarily, after it had been certified to the National Defense Mediation Board by Secretary of Labor Perkins. The pending hearings before that body exclude any participation in the mediation by the U. S. Maritime Commission. Round One goes to the union.

This strike, which began on Sept. 13, was the culmination of five long months of fruitless negotiations between the union and the companies affected, the chief feature of which was the Maritime Commission's "advice" to the bosses not to even argue the bonus and insurance question with the union. The Commission contended that no lasting peace between the unions and the shipping lines could be affected unless the entire matter of bonuses was thrashed out in a conference attended by all the affected unions and bosses.

Last May, after the Robin Moor was sunk, the union opened the bonus question with the shipping lines. In July, after almost three months of fruitless negotiations, the SIU struck three foreign-bound vessels, demanding a substantial increase in the \$60 a month war bonus, and an increase to \$10,000 in war risk insurance. This strike was settled temporarily by stipulation, after the Maritime Commission and the Department of Labor agreed to call a conference in Washington to settle the issue.

When the SIU representatives arrived in Washington they were excluded from the general conference, which was considering bonuses for only the licensed personnel—radio operators and officers. In fact, instead of a real general conference, the commission had broken the meetings into three sections—one for officers, one for radio operators, and one for unlicensed seamen. The only "results" of this conference, so far as the SIU was concerned, was the decision to arrive at some sort of a bonus, based on hull rate insurances, as, according to government spokesmen, "this would be the best way to judge where actual risk is involved."

That is right. A CIO victory for the drivers in Detroit is just the first step towards the building of a mighty national CIO industrial union embracing motor transport drivers and allied workers throughout the nation.

The AFL craft-union bureaucracy, in Detroit, Chicago and throughout the Middle West, are "striked" as they see workers everywhere rebelling against the craft-union racketeering machines and swarming into the progressive ranks of the AFL.

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pending the outcome of the NDMB's hearings.

#### Defeat Compulsory Arbitration

But those same membership meetings also reaffirmed the previous vote giving the union executive board authority to conduct a referendum vote for a general strike.

The union's official paper, The Seafarers Log, lists as their most important victory in this strike the fact that they have withstood and defeated the bosses' and the Maritime Commission's insistent demand that they submit to compulsory arbitration. The leading editorial in the Sept. 25th issue says:

"The shipowners for five months have stood pat on the issue of bonus and insurance. Their demand has been: COMPULSORY ARBITRATION. With the certification of the case to the NDMB, whose decisions are not mandatory, but merely recommendations that leave intact the Union's collective bargaining rights, COMPULSORY ARBITRATION in the marine industry has received a body blow. The seamen have that issue licked!"

The second most important victory, listed by the Seafarers Log, is the fact that the Maritime Commission has been pushed out of the strike picture entirely. That is what the striking seamen had demanded, and that is what they have won. The Maritime Commission has a long history of attempted union-busting, not least among which is their drastic attempt to eliminate union hiring halls and substitute fink hiring halls and fink books. Its guise as an "impartial" body has been ripped away by its completely boss-minded attitude in this strike.

Ready to Fight for Rights

The seamen have won the first round in this battle. But they are not over-run with enthusiasm. They know that the battle is just begun, and while some of them may place great confidence in the outcome of the NDMB's hearings, don't forget that they have equipped themselves with a very important weapon in case the Board's decision and recommendation does not settle the matter: A REFERENDUM VOTE FOR A GENERAL STRIKE!

The next morning, special meetings in all fourteen ports, voted to call off the strike, temporarily,

## CIO Director in Oregon Asks Unions to Aid 544-CIO

A plea for assistance to Local 544-CIO and a warning that unless the federal government's prosecution against the 29 is defeated that such prosecution will be directed against other progressive unionists, was sent out last week by William Dalrymple, Oregon State CIO Regional Director, in the form of a letter to all CIO affiliates in Oregon.

The text of Dalrymple's statement follows:

I take this means of drawing your attention to a battle within the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, in which every effort is being put forth to force men who have severed their connections with the teamsters organization of the AFL to go back into that organization headed by Daniel Tobin.

Members of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO are being persecuted because they have decided to go forward and organize into the CIO. These men are making a fight against great odds.

Twenty-nine of them have been cited for trial which has been set for October 20th in the Federal Court. IF THE AFL TEAMSTERS THROUGH THEIR DICTATORIAL AND GOON SQUAD METHODS ARE PERMITTED TO GET AWAY WITH SUCH PROCEDURE IN THE PROSECUTION OF THESE MEN, THEN IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO TURN AROUND AND APPLY THE SAME METHODS TO OTHERS WHO WISH TO LEAVE THE AFL BECAUSE THEY ARE FED UP WITH THEIR PROCEDURE.

There are thousands of truck drivers and taxi drivers throughout the country who are desirous of leaving the AFL and becoming affiliated with the CIO.

Recently within this section some of the officials of the AFL Teamsters saw fit to go out on the highway and threaten truck drivers if they attempted to drive their trucks into this city again. This procedure is nothing new for the AFL Teamsters. They have done it in the past.

We ask each and every affiliate of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in the State of Oregon to respond to the appeal of Local 544 to assist the Minneapolis men financially and morally in the fight now taking place. It is high time for our members to realize that there is no such thing as unity coming from the AFL. They have an assessment on their members now to fight the CIO. By all means refuse to be a party to assist your

enemy. Now is the time to get behind the Minneapolis truck drivers and allied workers. Send your financial assistance to Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer, Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO, 1328 Second Street North, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

(Signed) William Dalrymple, Regional Director, CIO

Muscle Man for Wall Street Makes His Confession

I spent thirty years and four months in active service as a member of our country's most elite military force—the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism.

Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. . . . I helped revive Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras "right" for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During those years it, as the boys in the back room would say, was a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals and promotion. Looking back at it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. We Marines operated on three continents. — GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER (In Huberman's Man's Worldly Goods, pp. 265-266.)

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Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNN

## Our Fight Goes On

Since Governor Stassen's labor conciliator handed down the brazen decision to deny elections in the motor transport industry, hundreds of Minneapolis drivers and warehousemen have contacted us to inquire anxiously if the fight for democratic industrial unionism would continue. We assured them, and we assure all our members and readers, that this fight will go on and on until the Minneapolis drivers have won their victory and established their right to have a union of their own choosing, a union that functions ONLY in the interests of the membership.

The first step to overthrow Stassen's dishonest and shameless decision has now been taken. Attorneys for Local 544-CIO have filed for a writ of certiorari whereby the court will review the Stassen-Blair ruling and compare it with the evidence presented. The Stassen ruling can never stand the light of day. It is based from beginning to end on deceitful logic and lies and gross injustice.

The court review of the ruling is only our first step in the struggle to overturn the obviously prejudiced decision. The drivers of Minneapolis will yet win the justice to which they are entitled.

## The Case of Harry Bridges

The national CIO has quite properly decided that it will continue to oppose and fight the federal government's recommendation that Harry Bridges, West Coast maritime leader, be deported to his native land of Australia. If the government gets away with its move to deport Bridges, it would intensify its reactionary policy of hounding all aliens, to the great detriment of the labor movement and of civil liberties generally.

It is hardly accidental that the Department of Justice chose Harry Bridges as the object of attack in seeking an opening whereby it can crack down on active unionists everywhere who did not happen to be born in the United States. Because of the general hatred for Stalinism felt by labor, the government hopes that workers will not rally to defend the West Coast maritime unionist, and will thus permit the government to establish the precedent it desires.

Without concealing our contempt for the Communist Party, which today is in the forefront of the war-mongers in the United States, and which for years has committed the rottenest crimes against organized labor, we still say that Bridges must be defended in his right to remain in this country.

From beginning to end, this long effort of the government's to deport Bridges stinks to high heaven. CIO President Philip Murray is correct in observing that the government's case against Bridges "relies largely upon sources that are either admittedly guilty of bias against Bridges or of working against organized labor." The chief government witnesses were stool pigeons and boss agents of a malignant character. Just a few weeks ago the FBI was caught illegally tapping Bridges' phone in a hotel room.

The report of special examiner Judge Charles Sears that Bridges be deported may be appealed to the attorney general and then to the federal courts. The Bridges Defense Committee has announced that such appeals will be made. Organized labor everywhere must support the stand of the national CIO in continuing the fight to prevent the government from deporting Bridges.

Should the government succeed in victimizing Bridges, it would unleash a wave of terror against working-class aliens throughout the nation. To defend Bridges today is to defend the rights and liberties of all aliens.

## National Unity-With Whom And For What Purpose?

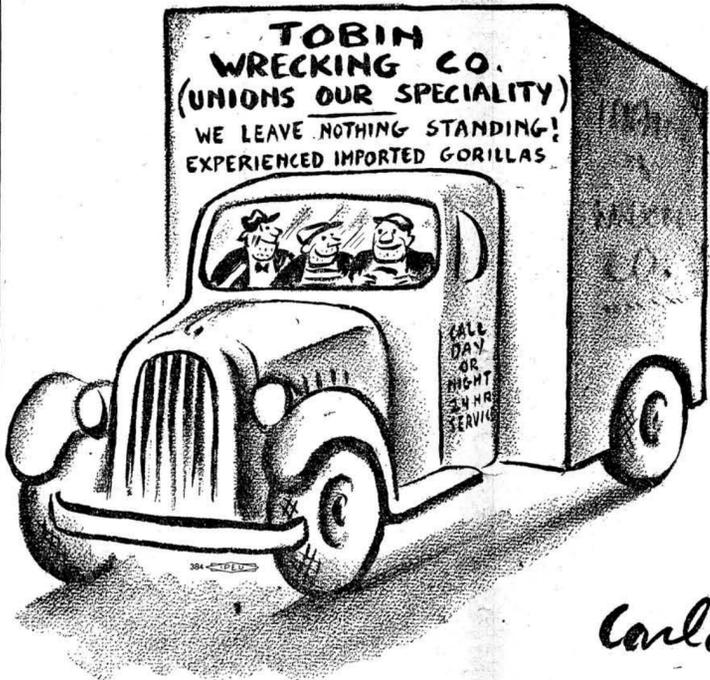
As the interests of American capitalism bring this nation ever nearer to active participation in the Second World War, leaders in many walks of life are today calling for "national unity." The slogan of national unity is without any meaning unless it is explained on what program unity is to take place. Each person who calls for national unity has his own program in mind.

When politicians like Roosevelt, Willkie and Stassen call for national unity, they mean that the American people should subordinate themselves to the war machine and leave the direction and control of the fight against fascism in the hands of the boss politicians, the diplomats and Big Business.

The advocates of national unity don't tell us who is to be united. Are the workers to unite with the profiteering employers who deny them decent wages to keep pace with the rising cost of living? Are the workers to unite with the politicians who send troops to break their strikes, and labor boards to deny them democracy and trick them out of their just demands? Are the Negroes to be expected to unite with the poll-tax Congressmen of the South who murder them, deny them protection, deny them the right to vote? Are the unemployed to unite with the leaders of a cruel system that denies them the right to life and a decent living?

No worker is indifferent to the fate of his nation. Just because the workers and the oppressed generally have so much at stake today in defeating fascism, they refuse to entrust their freedom and independence and the war against fascism into the hands of the imperialists. The American bosses are among the very people who aid-

## Tobin's Program



## National Labor Board Joins Stassen, Tobin In Denying Elections

### Profits of Railroads Hit Peak

Meeting last Friday with the President's fact-finding board, the railroad unions began presentation of their mountainous pile of evidence to prove the justice of their demand for wage increases and paid vacations. The workers are demanding increases of 30 cents per hour, with a minimum of 70 cents per hour and two weeks' vacation with pay. A strike vote has been overwhelmingly approved by all the unions.

With over 2,000 pages of testimony to be heard in addition to many witnesses it is expected that the fact-finding board will not be able to take the case "under advisement" on October 15, as scheduled. A delay of several days is most likely, after which the bosses will have 15 days to prepare an answer to the testimony of the railroad workers. The board is to have its findings and recommendations placed before the President by November 1.

The testimony already presented to the board has proved to the hill that the railroad workers are greatly underpaid. Section men, for example, receive around 35 cents per hour, with their work being the most disagreeable, dangerous and arduous of all railroad occupations. The workers are continually producing more transportation at a smaller wage cost, while the cost of living skyrockets in company with the profits of the railroads.

The revenues of the railroads are the highest since 1929. In August, 1941, \$492,000,000 was received by the railroads through freight and passenger traffic. In the year ending August 31, 1941, the railroads' revenues were \$4,955,000,000, an increase of 15 per cent over last year, and 28 per cent over the average annual revenues for the past 11 years, 1930-41. With the last four months of this year still to be included in this year's revenues, railroad profits will reach even those peaks of the World War years, when profits were the highest in history.

Because of increased efficiency of railroad workers (less workers doing more work) the difference

ed and financed Hitler and Mussolini in their rise to power. How can we have any faith in the "anti-fascism" of the bosses and the politicians? They can come to terms with Hitler, or they can introduce their own brand of American fascism, like their counterpart in France and Norway and elsewhere.

### NLRB Regional Office Takes Parallel Action With Blair in Rejecting 544-CIO Petitions—Pressure from White House Seen

The Roosevelt administration gave new evidence of its support to Dictator Tobin in his efforts to deny democracy to the Minneapolis drivers when the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board announced last Friday that it was declining to issue complaints against several hundred Minneapolis bosses charged with unfair labor practices by Local 544-CIO.

The NLRB also denied Local 544-CIO's petition for an election in the furniture industry. The National Labor Relations Board thus joins Governor Stassen in seeking to deny democracy to the Minneapolis drivers. From a reliable source, it is learned that Washington put tremendous pressure upon the regional NLRB office to get it to line up with Stassen's labor conciliator in denying Local 544-CIO's demand for elections.

Roosevelt has aided Dictator Tobin throughout this dispute—through the federal indictments secured against 16 members and leaders of Local 544-CIO, through the deportation proceedings launched against Carl Skoglund, 544-CIO organizer, and now through the NLRB's rejection of 544-CIO's petitions.

Though the NLRB did not make public until last Friday its decision to deny the drivers' petitions, the actual decision was taken days ago, presumably at the time Stassen and Blair decided they would go ahead and reject the 544-CIO petition for elections under the state labor board.

The very day that Blair finally made public his decision, union attorneys were notified over the phone by the NLRB regional director that his decision would parallel that of Blair's.

between overhead and profits exceeds those of 1917-20. Profits to the railway companies are expected to reach the all-time high of \$1,800,000,000 in 1941. The railroad treasuries are at the bulging point, \$907,000,000, in "cash balances," compared to \$757,000,000 on December 31, 1929, the previous peak of prosperity for the roads.

**ESPECIALLY WAR AND ROBBERY**  
Wholesale trade has always been more respectable than retail.

## Miners Win Pact at Dow Chemical

District 50 of the United Mine Workers has just climaxed a bitter four-year fight against the Dow Chemical Company by forcing that stronghold of anti-unionism to sign a contract—and what a contract!

Included in the terms are a closed shop, check-off, improved vacation set-up, seniority, and a shop steward system. Wage increases range from 10 to 39c per hour, with an additional 5c increase at the end of six months and another 5c raise at the end of a year. The new hourly minimum is 75c.

This firm has a long history of anti-union activity. It lost a battle with the NLRB when a U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the board's order to disband the company union, and to reinstate 25 unionists fired for union activity, with back pay amounting to \$112,000. As soon as the company union had been formally disbanded, another step-child sprung up to take its place—the Brotherhood of Dow Employees.

Last spring the United Mine

## Tax Bill Lessons

Noting that "millions of persons in the low-income group who were not heretofore taxed directly are going to have to kick in part of their pittance to the government" under the new tax bill, the AFL official press service declares that "it's about time."

The CIO feels differently. It recognizes the need for greater tax income to finance national defense, but it strenuously opposed the provisions of the present bill that place the burden on the pittance of the poor while exempting the war profiteers and the super-rich from paying their fair share.

The constructive proposals advanced by President Murray of the CIO to raise the necessary money from those best able to pay, instead of lowering lowest living standards, were rejected by Congress.

John T. Jones, CIO Legislative representative and director of Labor's Non-Partisan League, reports that this defeat for labor was due (1) to failure of most of labor's friends in Congress to act effectively; (2) to failure of Congressional leaders of both parties to support even the moderately progressive proposals of the U. S. Treasury; (3) to numerous parliamentary maneuvers; (4) to inadequate pressure by labor and other progressive groups; and (5) to effective operation of the big business lobby.

But the battle on the tax issue is not over. New and heavier taxes on the poor are soon to be considered in Congress. The CIO is not going to give up the fight for a fair tax system. But the lessons of the recent defeat must be learned and greater efforts made, if Congress is to change its attitude.

When a fair tax structure is achieved, along progressive lines, then and not until then will the CIO say that "it's about time."

## FDR's Hand Seen in Shooting Of Mexican Workers

President Camacho of Mexico demonstratively displayed the sharp shift to the right of the Mexican government last week when helmeted soldiers of the Forty-seventh Battalion opened fire on a crowd of 200 workers seeking an audience with the President, killing at least eight workers and wounding twenty-four.

The workers, including 30 women, went to the President's house in Mexico City to tell him that the Munition Workers Union was unable to obtain a hearing on its grievances with the industry. When the union secretary spoke to Colonel Ochoa and then refused to retreat, he was shot twice and later died in the hospital. Soldiers then directed a murderous volley into the crowd. The workers fled, leaving their dead and wounded in the streets. Labor circles believe that nine were killed, but are not certain of the number as the army removed some of the bodies. The Mexican government immediately clamped an embargo on all news of the shooting.

President Camacho charged that "alien agitators" were responsible for the shooting, but even the N. Y. Times correspondent admitted that "no evidence was available to that effect."

### FDR's Hand Seen

The attack on the Mexican workers by the Mexican government was frankly attributed by the N. Y. Times correspondent to a political shift to the right below the Rio Grande. The Mexican President's action, reports the Times "seems to be a step to the right, taken . . . because it conforms to the policy of cooperation with the United States by eliminating the revolutionary and even communistic influences that caused attacks on American capital."

"The shooting clearly presaged a more rigid policy toward labor on the part of the Avila Camacho government and the army. One prediction was that the government would militarize four munitions factories. The powder factory has long been under complete army control, operated by soldiers. A similar regime for other factories producing arms would eliminate labor's strike weapon."

"Good Neighbors" The real meat of Roosevelt's so-called "Good Neighbor" policy is revealed in the shooting of these Mexican workers and the turn to the right of the Mexican government as it falls more in line with Washington's policies. The "Good Neighbor" policy of Roosevelt's is calculated first of all to strengthen American imperialism throughout Latin America at the expense of rival imperialisms (especially British and German) and Japan, and secondly to fight democracy and organized labor, and strengthen dictatorship and capitalism.

The auto workers are the ones who will be the hardest hit when the new 50 per cent reduction of auto production goes into effect. Flint, Michigan, expects to have 20,000 new unemployed by Christmas. However, Flint is not only one of the biggest concentration points of the auto industry but it is also the home of the most militant sections of the United Auto Workers in Michigan because nothing concrete seemed to be being worked out, the rank and file workers in the three Flint UAW locals have formulated a fighting program which they will present to the National Automobile Manufacturers Ass'n. for negotiations.

One point—transfer to defense industry on a seniority basis—has been under discussion between the regional negotiating committee of the union and the bosses, and HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED. Here is the plan:

1. All workers covered by UAW contracts shall be transferred to and have preference in defense industry on a seniority basis (already agreed to).

2. All UAW workers shall receive the same rate of pay on defense jobs to which they are transferred as they now receive in the auto plants.

3. In order to effect this program and avoid unemployment and to AVOID THE NECESSITY OF WORKERS LEAVING THEIR RESPECTIVE TOWNS to distant localities, the following supplemental points shall be instituted.

a. All production schedules in auto shall be compressed to be carried out in the first months of the year to the end that no mass lay-offs shall be

Sunday, October 12—Over-the-road drivers who come under the area contract, 2 p. m.

Monday, October 20—Furniture Stores; Coal; Paper and Printing

Thursday, October 16—Tent and Awning; Newspaper, 10 a. m.

Friday, October 17—Job Stewards

Monday, October 27—Spring Water

Tuesday, October 28—Building Material

Thursday, October 23—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug

Friday, October 24—Cold Storage and Produce

Ice Drivers—2nd Monday, October 13th, Day Laborers

Warehousemen—2nd Tuesday, October 14th, Stewards, 4th Monday, October 27

## On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)  
contracts, some materials for national defense. By so doing it can retain 125 of its present employees.

From Dayton, Ohio, Grand Rapids, Mich., and Los Angeles—as well as dozens of small communities where the exclusive industry is the manufacture of refrigerators—comes news that thousands of refrigerator workers have already been laid off. Belleville, Ill., where the chief industry is the making of stoves expects to have half of its worker-citizens out of work in a few months. Attleboro, N. Y., concentrates on the manufacture of jewelry trinkets; Jamestown, N. Y., makes metal furniture.

Workers in radio are also hit. A radio tube takes eighteen materials in its manufacture—and all eighteen of these metals are listed as "critical" by OPM.

The Army, the Navy, and OPM—all arms of "our" government—have awarded 72 per cent of the nation's defense contracts to 56 firms. These concerns are concentrated in New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, and Massachusetts on the East; California and Washington on the West; Texas in the South, and in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio in the Middle West.

Now the OPM is making a frantic effort to decentralize this vast concentration of contracts by pushing the big industrialists into sub-contracting parts to small businesses which can be re-tooled without too much trouble. This program is considered a possible solution by OPM directors, although they don't put too much hope in it.

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## 44,000 Miners End Strike

A four-point truce formula has ended the strike of 44,000 miners in the "captive mines" owned and operated by U. S. Steel and other industrialists. The truce formula under which the union has agreed to send its members back to work was proposed by the National Defense Mediation Board, and was virtually the same program advanced by John L. Lewis some time ago.

"A captive mine" is one owned and operated for the exclusive industrial use of one producer of some other basic material.

Under the formula, the miners have agreed to go back to work, without a closed shop. The strike was called to force the mine owners to sign the standard Appalachian Agreement, which includes a closed shop clause. Under the truce the miners have agreed to hold in abeyance this one clause, and the companies have agreed to put all other terms of the Appalachian agreement into effect.

The union also agreed to give a three day notice before calling any future work stoppage.

The NDMB has agreed to keep this dispute on its calendar and to work for a permanent settlement of the closed shop issue.

Lewis stated that the UMW "still dissents from the principle that strikes must be broken as a quid pro quo for a hearing on merit before the National Defense Mediation Board or any other government agency."

necessary in the coming three to four months.

b. The question of distribution of defense orders, their geographical location, their plant allocation, as well as the question of geographical location of new defense plants shall NO LONGER BE DECIDED BY INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT ALONE, but shall be decided by joint committees of the UAW and the auto manufacturers, with the purpose that the men shall not be forced to hunt jobs in various cities but that jobs will be brought to cities which the demands of labor indicate.

c. Specifically for Flint, the union shall demand that the Buick plant being built in Chicago be used for some other purpose and the assembly of Pratt and Whitney engines be brought to Flint where there is ample space and ample labor to do the job.

d. A public works program shall be instituted for the purpose of training men in defense industry jobs in line with the previous agreement of the Buffalo plan. This program will take care of those men who are forced to wait for jobs and face unemployment prior to transfer to defense jobs. These men shall be paid a minimum of \$25 a week and shall at the same time not be deprived of state unemployment insurance benefits.

e. The UAW shall use all its economic and legislative strength to see that this program is put into effect.

This plan, based on the original National Executive Board program, and enlarged and strengthened, was first introduced in the Flint Chevrolet local, quickly endorsed by both the Buick and Fisher Body locals, and has spread like wild fire throughout the union. Rank and file committees, elected from each department, are now organized to lead the fight and rally all of the workers around the program.

## ORGANIZER WANT ADS

If you are a subscriber your ad will be published here free of charge. Mail or phone the Industrial Organizer, 1328 Second St. N.

\$2,700—DUPLEX, 8 rooms, modern but heat. Long lot, fine location. Good income. Cheaper for cash. Will sell furniture. 2831 Polk St. N. E.

## UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

### Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO

#### OCTOBER MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, October 1—Sausage; Petroleum

Thursday, October 2—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners

Friday, October 3—Job Stewards

Monday, October 13—General Membership

Tuesday, October 14—Lumber

Wednesday, October 8—Market; Wholesale Liquor

Friday, October 10—Wholesale Grocery

Sunday, October 12—Over-the-road drivers who come under the area contract, 2 p. m.

Monday, October 20—Furniture Stores; Coal; Paper and Printing

Thursday, October 16—Tent and Awning; Newspaper, 10 a. m.

Friday, October 17—Job Stewards

Monday, October 27—Spring Water

Tuesday, October 28—Building Material

Thursday, October 23—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug

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