

EYE WITNESSES TESTIFY TO BRUTALITY OF POLICE AT FLOUR CITY METAL PLANT

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

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

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4

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JURY FINDS LATIMER GUILTY!

OIL MEN VOTE EXTENSION OF WALKOUT DATE

Union Estimates Concession
on Leases Will Return
400 to Jobs

Time Extended One Week
to Continue Negotiations
on Wages and Hours

The strike date of the Gas Station Attendants Local 19802 has been postponed to midnight Sunday, September 22. A concession by the oil companies in regard to the leasing of stations resulted in the extension of time.

The practice of the companies has been to put men in stations under a fraudulent lease which was in reality a refinement on the age-old yellow dog contract used against labor. The "lease" could be terminated on very short notice, throwing the men out of employment, and the men were required to work long hours for very low pay.

The employers' committee has notified the union that in the future any leases issued will be for the property and equipment and will stand for one year. A sales contract will supplement which may be terminated by either party on thirty days' notice. The union estimates that this change will restore 400 men to their jobs at once.

Negotiations have been carried on directly between the employers' representatives and the union negotiating committee. Reports are made regularly to the union strike committee.

The question of wages and hours of work has not been settled. The union is asking \$125 per month for station managers and \$110 per month for helpers with a 48-hour week. A commission rate of four cents per gallon on gasoline and proportionate rates for other products is asked for men operating lease stations.

The results of the negotiations will be reported to a special meeting of the union on Sunday, September 22, at 1310 Marquette. The strike will be called immediately after the meeting if there have not been satisfactory results obtained in the negotiations.

Support the Strike

The metal workers are carrying the full brunt of labor's desperate struggle in Minneapolis today. Give them your support!

Workers' Blood On Their Hands

Murder has been committed on the streets of Minneapolis. Grand jury investigations are being held "to determine who is guilty," but with a grand jury composed almost entirely of enemies of the workers, the investigations are bound to result in an attempt to absolve the real culprits and fix the responsibility upon some honest leader of the struggling workers. Already the grand jury has publicly whitewashed the police department.

This crime was a natural product of the struggle between the exploiters and the exploited, between capital and labor, another violent rape of human life for the preservation of property rights. Melvin Bjorklund and Eugene Casper, two youthful workers just stepping across the threshold of manhood, have made the supreme sacrifice on the altar of the class struggle. They have taken their place beside Henry Ness, John Belor and thousands of other worker heroes, known and unknown, throughout the world.

LABOR IS WRATHFUL

The blood of these boys is on the hands of many men in Minneapolis. From some of them we expect this and are not surprised. From others we had every right not to expect it and our righteous wrath against them exceeds all bounds.

Walter Tetzlaff, the head of the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, is one of the privileged few with large property holdings. He is a member of the Citizens Alliance and has a long and unenviable record as a hater of unions. We expect this from him and know that his conscience is not disturbed by what has happened.

Crimes like this are the most important function of the police. Every worker who dons a police uniform is a potential killer of his brothers. Mumbling idle phrases about "duty" does not forgive him. If he is a man, let him abstain from becoming a police tool of the exploiters of labor and doing his "duty" by shooting down his fellowmen in cold blood.

LATIMER ASKS MORE POLICE

The commander-in-chief of the police department is Mayor Thomas E. Latimer, who promised the workers before the June elections that he would not use the police against striking workers as they had been used by Bainbridge and Johannes. Fearful of threats by

the grand jury, he placed a higher valuation upon his political job than he did upon human life. And still fearful, he has joined with the grand jury in a demand for 200 additional police so that repressions against the workers may be more extensive.

The most sinister of all influences connected with this crime is the "secret six" appointed by Mayor Latimer. The General Electric Company and the General Mills (Washburn-Crosby), aided by the National Manufacturers Association, have opened a fight on the A. W. Strong (Strong-Scott Co.) leadership in the Citizens Alliance. They are attempting to unseat Strong on the charge that his general staff bungled the truck drivers strike in 1934 and permitted a militant leadership to take control in the labor movement. The representative of these forces are Robert F. Pack, Donald D. Davis and Sheldon V. Wood. These men recognize that they must in some fashion deal with organized labor, but they consider their present position untenable. The Citizens Alliance has been completely discredited. The workers are making steady gains and are becoming more militant. The unions are growing rapidly. They do not care to deal with labor on this basis; it means they must give the workers something and that they do not intend to do.

MANY MEN ARE GUILTY

Their task, therefore, is twofold: they must in some manner regain face for Citizens Alliance representatives and at the same time scotch the growing power of the unions. The first indications of this maneuver were evidenced when word came through the grapevine from the right wing that some of the bosses had been in to see the mayor and "wanted to go along with labor." Apparently they carefully specified what section of the movement they wanted to "go along with," for when the mayor called in the labor leaders, he did so by secret invitation. Many union representatives, both A. F. of L. and non-A. F. of L., were excluded. Invitations were carefully arranged so that the meeting would be under the complete control of the right wing.

After listening to spokesmen who outlined the program of the bosses, the meeting voted its adoption and issued a public statement condemning "racketeering, irresponsible, unreasonable" elements in the movement, giving the mayor their "moral and other support"

to use his full police powers against them. Nothing was said about the definition of these terms; in other words these so-called leaders of labor gave Latimer full sanction to use the police against striking workers whenever he saw fit to do so. Today there is blood upon the hands of the leading participants in that meeting.

"SECRET SIX" AGAINST LABOR

Armed with this support, Latimer appointed a "secret six" which he charged with the responsibility of working out a program for "industrial peace." This august body soon blossomed out into the Employer-Employee Board with Pack, Wood and Davis on the Citizens Alliance side and T. E. Cunningham, J. B. Boscoe and Guy Alexander representing labor. Dr. C. A. Prosser, director of the Dunwoody Institute, long groomed by the bosses for this role, was appointed chairman by Latimer with the approval of all the other six members. This made the count 4-3 against labor with three of the most reactionary figures in the movement as its representatives. Frank J. Miller is being secured from the Labor Board to coach Prosser.

The avowed purpose of this board is to set up the guide posts on the road to "industrial peace." When they have reached this goal, Prosser, Pack, Wood and Davis will carefully retrace their steps and mount a cross-bar on every post. On these they will hang the unions, one by one, as they cut them to pieces; and the last post they will save for Cunningham, Boscoe, Alexander and Latimer for they will no longer have any use for them.

LATIMER THREATENS STRIKING UNIONS

With this kind of a setup, Latimer issued a public statement in which he called upon the strikers to return to their jobs and submit their differences to this board for "adjustment." He warned other unions to go to the board instead of the picket lines and climaxed his statement with a pledge to use all the agencies at his command "for the preservation of law and order."

Taking their cue from this action, the Citizens Alliance instructed Tetzlaff to import professional strikebreakers and armed thugs into the Flour City plant. An ordinance against workers sleeping in factories could have been invoked against this practice. This was not done. Instead, the mayor delayed

(Continued on page 8)

PUBLIC TRIAL BRINGS FORTH TRUE ACCOUNT

Residents Recount Night of
Terror as Police Spray
Homes With Bullets

Detectives Make Attempt to
Remove the Evidence of
Shooting Rampage

The responsibility for the killing two youths and the injuring of many picket and bystanders at the Flour City Iron Works on Wednesday, September 11, was placed squarely upon Mayor T. E. Latimer, Police Chief F. P. Forestal, Inspector F. Ohman, Deputy Inspector J. Goergan and the Minneapolis Police Department in a public trial conducted by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense on Monday, September 16, at the Local 574 auditorium, 257 Plymouth North.

The testimony proved that the police had acted in a most provocative manner, gassing, clubbing and shooting pickets and bystanders, men, women and children, indiscriminately.

Although called on short notice, the trial was attended by more than 700 persons. Twenty-six witnesses, spectators and residents in the neighborhood of the plant, appeared, anxious to give their testimony. Only twelve could be heard because of lack of time.

The proceedings were opened by Mrs. Alfred Carlson, 2406 Lincoln Street Northeast, member of the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor party.

Mr. Elmer Huset, 937 Gould avenue, explained the aims and objectives of the N. P. L. D. Mr. Huset, a Farmer-Laborite, was formerly an ordained minister, is a recent convert from the Young Republican club, and is now active in Workers' Education. Mrs. Carlson and Mr. Huset are members of the Executive Committee of the N. P. L. D.

Wm. Brown, the president of General Drivers Local 574, was selected to serve as judge. Brown appointed bailiffs to maintain order, and asked for a volunteer to serve as clerk of court. L. Roseland, acting as clerk, asked each witness to swear to give a clear and truthful account of what he had seen on the night of the shootings.

The defendants, Mayor Latimer
(Continued on page 2)

Read the Full Account of the Public Trial of Mayor Latimer, Chief Forestal and Officers Ohman and Goergan in this Issue

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 1)

mer, Chief Forestal and officers Ohman and Goergan were not present nor did they send representatives. A written request to the defendants to appear at the hearing had been delivered by messenger to the Court House earlier in the day. Brown appointed Gilbert Carlson, Minneapolis attorney for the N. P. L. D., as defense counsel, when no one would volunteer to take the job.

The judge called for volunteer jurors, asking that only persons who had not been present at the shooting step forward. It was stated that members of organized labor were preferred. A jury of eight men and four women was impaneled. Each volunteer was asked whether he was present at the scene and was not accepted if he stated that he was. Ten of the jurors were union men and women. Two were not members of organized labor.

The judge announced that each of the attorneys would be given ten minutes for his opening remarks. Francis Heisler of Chicago, chief counsel for the Northwest district of the N. P. L. D., was the prosecuting attorney. The following is a verbatim account of the hearing as recorded by a trained court reporter:

MR. HEISLER: Your Honor, members of the Jury, citizens of Minneapolis, I feel that I ought to begin, make an opening statement with a word about the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. I have defended many cases many times before a jury where workers and farmers were charged with the commission of a certain crime, but it is the first time today that I have ever been in the role of the prosecution.

However, I believe that the prosecution is on the side of the people this time and, therefore, I shall conduct the prosecution in a manner that is not very often done by City Attorneys or States' Attorneys when they are conducting trials in the role of the prosecution.

We do not want to take too much time in telling you what happened here in Minneapolis because that shall be done through the method, through the witnesses who were either present or resided near the place of the murderous riot, or happened to be bystanders or perhaps on the picket line and you shall arrive at a conclusion that there was premeditated provocation on the part of the police officers in the City of Minneapolis. You shall be convinced that these provocations would have never occurred unless the men in charge of the Police Department of the City of Minneapolis had acquiesced and assented.

After you have heard the eye witnesses you shall become convinced, we believe, that these provocations could not have occurred but because of the actions of the Chief Officer of the City, the Mayor, Mayor Thomas E. Latimer, directed the police to act in a manner which led up to the murder of two young men and the hurting of a score or more citizens of the City of Minneapolis.

We shall present you testimony that shall not be by witnesses prepared by the prosecution because I met them for the first time about four hours ago. Most of the witnesses were not known to the prosecution up to this afternoon. The only instructions which were given the witnesses were that they shall come here and tell their story, tell the truth irrespective of where the guilt may fall.

We told them that at a trial this afternoon, we told them there is a certain proceedings going on, a proceedings which is known as

a "white wash." We do not believe that the citizens of Minneapolis are interested in any "white wash." They want to know the truth for themselves, they want to know who are the guilty, responsible, why those two men are today buried, why so many more persons are in their homes or in the hospitals, why so many people of this town are carrying the uncomfortable results of gassing. You citizens of this town want to know whether or not the methods of warfare such as gas and shotguns and other murderous weapons shall be used against the citizens or not.

We are sure you are interested to find out who is guilty and I am sure if you are going to convince yourselves who are guilty for the occurrence of last week, you are going to express your opinion and condemn, although you shall find, you are not going to hesitate to find the guilty even if the guilty persons be found in the front lines of the City Administration. (Very heavy applause.)

MR. WILLIAM BROWN: I will give the defense counsel ten minutes.

MR. GILBERT CARLSON: I will reserve my opening statement until after the prosecution has presented their case.

MR. HEISLER: I want to call the names of those witnesses who were invited to be present to tell what they know.

MR. CARLSON: I want you to call the names of those witnesses who were invited to be present tonight because the defense is entitled to know who are to be the witnesses.

(Mr. Heisler reads list of names.)

MR. GUSTAVE BECK, 701 Cedar avenue: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Your name is Gustave Beck?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your occupation, Mr. Beck?

A. Machinist.

Q. I call your attention to Wednesday last about 11 o'clock in the evening, were you present on or about 26th or 27th street in the neighborhood of the Flour City Metal Works?

A. Yes.

Q. What time did you arrive at the place, Mr. Beck?

A. About 8:30.

Q. Will you tell the Court and the Jury in your own words what happened after you arrived and until you left the place.

A. Well, I came down to the corner of 26th street and I saw some people parading up and down the place. They paraded three or four times and as far as any violence was concerned on the part of the people parading there, I didn't see anything that was wrong. There was nothing done by any of the people, they were just standing in groups some of them, and then the cops started to snoot these gas bombs right into the mob and I got some of it into my own face so I got out of there because I noticed the battle was going on. That is what I have seen.

Q. Were you yourself part of the mob you just described? Were you marching up and down with the rest of them?

A. No.

Q. Were you standing to one side? How far were you from that mob?

A. Across the street, about 150 feet from 26th street up the line toward 27th street.

Q. Did you see anything being done by the workers or the mob you referred to that caused

the police to shoot gas bombs?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you hear the workers calling them any names?

A. No, sir.
Q. What were they doing?
A. They were marching and singing songs.

Q. Did you see any of the workers throw any bricks?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see any of the workers use shotguns?

A. No, sir.
Q. Or revolvers?
A. No, sir.

Q. Before the police shot the gas bombs you did not see any provocation by the workers against the police?

A. No, not on either side.
Q. After the shooting started on the part of the police, were you yourself involved in any way, were you molested by the police?

A. I walked across the street and a cop pushed me in the ribs and says, "Go on, run, you son-of-a-bitch," and I says I couldn't because I have a saw leg and then one of them started to club me and I got across the street where I had my car parked and then a few more cops came around toward the north side and started to beat me up again and pushed me in the ribs so I took my car and went home.

Q. Did you give any reason for the police to club you?

A. No.

Q. Did you throw any bricks?

A. No.

Q. Did you have a gun?

A. No.

Q. Did you call the police any names?

A. No.

Q. Did they tell you why they clubbed you?

A. No.

Q. They just wanted to club you?

A. Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION
BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. You are a machinist by trade?

A. Machinist and mechanical draftsman.

Q. Do you belong to any union?

A. Yes.

Q. What union is it?

A. Local 382.

Q. Were you called out to picket this plant?

A. I don't know.

Q. How did you happen to be down there at that time?

A. Just wanted to see, that's all.

Q. You went down there out of curiosity?

A. That is it.

Q. Did you march up and down with the pickets in front of the plant?

A. No, sir.

Q. You were standing across the street?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. There was a large crowd, wasn't there, all around the plant?

A. Yes, sir, all around.

Q. Did you walk around or did you stay in front of the plant?

A. I stood still in front of the plant on the other side.

Q. There was a crowd on either side of the plant?

A. On one side of the street, only one, they were parading, the police on the other.

Q. You think there might have been rock throwing by part of the crowd you didn't see?

MR. HEISLER: I object to that because he cannot know whether or not any rocks were thrown that he did not see.

A. I didn't hear any rocks being thrown.

Q. You couldn't see all of the crowd?

A. No.

Q. There might have been rocks thrown?

A. I can't say, I didn't hear

it.

Resolution

WHEREAS, at the Public Trial conducted by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense on Monday, September 16, to which Mayor Latimer, Chief of Police Forestal, Officers Goergan and Ohman were invited to be present to defend themselves and the acts of the City Administration on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, September 11 and 12, and

WHEREAS, some twelve witnesses were heard and that extreme brutality and provocativeness on the part of the police was evidenced by the testimony of all of the witnesses, and

WHEREAS, this brutality and provocativeness on the part of the police was responsible for the death of two persons and the injury of scores of others.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Non-partisan Labor Defense stand ready and willing to furnish a transcript of this trial to the press and the Mayor,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this meeting demand the immediate removal of Chief Forestal and the suspension of Officers Goergan and Ohman and every police officer who was detailed or who took part in the attack on the workers and citizens of Minneapolis on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, September 11 and 12,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demand that charges be immediately preferred by the proper authorities with the Civil Service Commission against the police officers with a view to their permanent dismissal from the service.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we condemn the actions of the City Administration and particularly the actions of Mayor Latimer as pertains to the happenings on Wednesday and Thursday, September 11 and 12, 1935.

NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE
Minneapolis Branch
H. A. SCHULTZ, Secretary

Q. That's all.

MR. HEISLER: That's all.

MR. ROY HENDRICKSON: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Mr. Hendrickson, where do you live?

A. 913 21st Avenue South.

Q. In the city of Minneapolis?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you present last Wednesday evening when a little exercise was perpetrated by the Police Department of the City of Minneapolis?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you a member of the Union which is on strike at the present time?

A. No, sir.

Q. How far do you live from the place where the strike was going on?

A. About a mile.

Q. What time did you arrive there?

A. Around quarter of 11 or 11 o'clock.

Q. Will you tell in your own words what happened after you arrived until you left the place or until they took you away from the place.

A. Well, at first there was not any excitement at all and the crowd was going up and down the street and then all of a sudden it seemed like everybody broke out and started throwing bombs. We were standing right in front of the saloon, eight or ten of us together. The police says for us to move. We didn't move and everybody seemed to be throwing bombs. We stood still there, we figured we were not molesting anybody and we ought to have a right to stand there and watch what was going on, and then all of a sudden the cops on the other side of the street ran across the street and we started to break up and run. I ran towards 26th street and a policeman came around the corner just then and I run squarely into him and he hit me on the head and we both fell down and I got away and I heard him say, "Get that guy." I turned the corner and I heard a shot. I didn't pay any attention until I was running by a house over near 26th avenue and a fellow says, "There is blood running down your leg."

And then they took me over to an ambulance and took me to the hos-

pital.

Q. After you found you were shot?

Q. Will you please state where you were shot?

A. Well, it is kind of a difficult place to tell, right in back you know. (Laughter.)

Q. When you were shot while you were running, you were running away from the police?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the policeman who shot you?

A. No.

Q. Never saw him before?

A. I can't tell you.

Q. Did you give any kind of fight?

A. No.

Q. Did you call him any names like the police officer called Mr. Beck?

A. Never talked to him, didn't have time.

Q. Now when you ran away from the place and someone said, "Get that guy," do you know who they called at that time?

A. No, sir, there were three or four police on the corner there.

Q. Were there any other people beside policemen?

A. I didn't have much chance to look.

Q. After you heard that report, do you know whether you were shot at that time?

A. No, I don't.

Q. Did you hear any other report afterward where you might have been shot?

A. No, but there was a lot of reports from the police. When the police are shooting, you get shot any place.

Q. Did you see any of the officers engaged in any controversy with the workers?

A. I saw three policemen beat a working man lying down in the street.

Q. How many men?

A. Just that one.

Q. One man lying down and how many policemen were clubbing him?

A. Three.

Q. They were brave enough to do that?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see that man when lying down, was he doing anything?

A. I don't believe he was.

Q. He already had enough?

A. He was down when I seen

(Continued on Page 3)

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 2)

him.

Q. He was down?
A. Yes, he had his arms above his head hoping they would not hit him.

Q. Did you see gas bombs thrown by the police?

A. Yes.
Q. Did you see guns fired by the workers?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see any bricks or missiles thrown by the workers before the police started their gas shooting?

A. No, there was not.
Q. Did you hear anything or did you see anything to cause the police to start going after the workers.

A. No, I never saw anything.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Do you belong to any union?

A. Yes.
Q. Which one?

A. 19802.
Q. Were you called down there to picket the plant?

A. No, I went down there on my own accord.

Q. Were you in the company of these other men?

A. Three of us went down together.

Q. Where did you meet the rest of these eight or nine around the saloon?

A. Customers of ours.
Q. The officers had commanded you to move on?

A. The officer said that but he rushed past and didn't molest us.

Q. But you heard the command?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. You didn't obey that command?

A. No.
Q. You stayed right where you were?

A. Yes.
Q. Was the sidewalk blocked or the passageway obstructed?

A. It was full of people.
Q. These pickets marching up and down in front of the plant, were they molesting the persons passing by in any way, were they molesting the passers-by in any way?

A. No, sir.
Q. That is all.

MR. HEISLER: That is all.

MR. EDWARD OLSON: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Mr. Olson, you live in Minneapolis?

A. Yes.
Q. How long have you lived in Minneapolis?

A. Forty-six years.
Q. What is your address, Mr. Olson?

A. 2618 East Franklin.
Q. How far is 2618 East Franklin from the Flour City Ornamental Iron Company?

A. Five blocks.
Q. Five blocks?

A. Yes.
Q. Were you present Wednesday last while the shooting occurred?

A. Yes.
Q. Were you alone or in the company of someone else?

A. In the company of someone else.
Q. With Mr. Hendrickson who just now testified?

A. Yes.
Q. What time did you arrive?

A. It must have been about 10:15.
Q. Well, now, tell in your own words what happened from the time you arrived until you left the place.

A. Well, everybody was real quiet and there was nothing doing

until all at once come the armored cars, turned around the corner, threw gas bombs, and then the fire started.

Q. When you say fire started, from which side of the street did the fire start?

A. Toward 26th Street.
Q. Will you please tell us whether the firing or shooting was from both sides, from the workers, or from the police or from one side?

A. From one side, the police alone.
Q. Did you see any of the workers using guns, shotguns or gas bombs?

A. No, sir.
Q. Before the police started throwing gas bombs around, did you see anything being done by the workers.

A. Not a thing.
Q. Did you see Mr. Hendrickson there?

A. Yes.
Q. Did you see Mr. Hendrickson carrying a gun?

A. No, sir.
Q. A gas gun?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see him hitting the police?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you have a club?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did Hendrickson?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see him being clubbed over the head?

A. Yes.
Q. Before he was clubbed, did you see him doing anything which might have been offensive to the police?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see him doing any shooting, did you see Mr. Hendrickson get shot?

A. No, not exactly.
Q. Can you tell what happened when he was shot?

MR. CARLSON: Just a minute. I object to that on the grounds it calls for a conclusion of the witness.

Q. I asked the witness whether he saw when Mr. Hendrickson was shot and he said he did not and I asked him whether he knows what happened at the time before this, when Mr. Hendrickson was shot. There is no doubt but that

THE COURT: Objection overruled.

Q. Tell us, Mr. Olson, what happened, how it happened.

A. Well, we stood there on the corner and of course there was gas bombs and I came over by the people that stood there, we were not going to run. Finally these cops come over and they were going to make us run. I was hit on the head just right after that a shot was fired but I was gone, I was between the houses.

Q. You didn't want to be shot?

A. No, sir.
Q. Did you see any police officers standing around on the sidewalk shooting at the people that were running?

A. No.
Q. Did you see any shooting being done by the police other than that which got Mr. Hendrickson. Did you see any other shooting being done by the police or only the shot which got Mr. Hendrickson?

A. Yes.
Q. That was the only shot?

A. Yes.
Q. After that you left the place?

A. Right. No, I was looking for Mr. Hendrickson but I could not find him.

Q. You were looking for Mr. Hendrickson but you could not find him. What did you do afterward?

A. I went home about one

hour afterward.
Q. What did you do during the hour you were there after you were looking for Mr. Hendrickson?

A. Dodging bombs and shots, I guess.
Q. You were trying to get home and could not because you were afraid you would be shot?

A. Yes.
Q. You were hiding yourself in the alleys?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. You did hear shooting going on while you were hiding in the alleys?

A. Yes.
Q. Did you see any of the workers participating in the shooting?

A. No.
Q. While you were dodging the police bullets, there were other workers around you?

A. Yes.
Q. You know there was no shooting done by the workers?

A. Yes, sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Are you a member of a union, Mr. Olson?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. What union?

A. The Milk Drivers.
Q. You were in Minneapolis during the truck strike?

MR. HEISLER: I object, Your Honor, I don't think you should take up the truck strike, I don't think you should bring the truck strike into the line of questioning.

THE COURT: Sustain the objection.
Q. There was a large crowd down there?

A. Yes, Sir.
Q. You went down with Mr. Hendrickson?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. You also went in the crowd that Mr. Hendrickson was a member of?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. You heard the police officer order you on?

A. Just said, "Get", didn't say who should get.
Q. You didn't get?

A. No.
Q. You stayed there?

A. Yes.
Q. Although the officer had commanded you to move on?

A. Yes.
Q. You say you were hiding in the alleys and so you didn't see who was doing the shooting, did you?

A. Out of those armored cars.
Q. Were there any cars in and around the alleys you were hiding in?

A. What do you mean, any cars?
Q. Any armored cars, any armored cars you could see in the alley, go through the alley?

A. Yes.
RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. When you went down there, you went down there to see what was going on and you didn't expect the police to be shooting, did you?

A. No.
Q. If you had known the police were going to use artillery you would have stayed home?

A. Yes.
Q. You didn't go down there for the purpose of having Mr. Hendrickson shot by the police?

A. No.
MR. EUGENE A. BENJAMIN: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. You live at 2513 25th Avenue South?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. Your name is Eugene A. Benjamin.

A. Yes, sir.
Q. How far do you live from the Flour City plant?

Conference Call

TO ALL LOCAL UNIONS OF THE A. F. OF L. AND TO ALL RAILROAD BROTHERHOODS GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the charter of the General Drivers Union Local 574 has been revoked in violation of the constitution of the A. F. of L. and its principles of union democracy by D. J. Tobin, General President of the Drivers International, on the excuse of non-payment of per capita tax, and

WHEREAS, Local 574 was delinquent in per capita tax payment because of the tremendous obligation incurred through the strike struggles of that union in completely unionizing the trucking industry and improving the living standards of the workers in that industry, and

WHEREAS, the revocation of this charter is a serious blow to the security and unity of the Minneapolis trade union movement, seriously hampers the unionizing of Minneapolis and encourages the Citizens Alliance in its union-busting campaign, and

WHEREAS, the fact is well established that Local 574 is striving to remain a part of the A. F. of L. and has no intention of encouraging independent unionism,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that a conference of delegates from all trade unions and railroad brotherhoods be called on Monday, September 30, 8 p. m., in the Machinists' Auditorium at 1310 Marquette Avenue South, Minneapolis, for the purpose of establishing united action for the reinstatement of Local 574 into the A. F. of L.

- Upholsterers' Union Local 61
- Carpenters Union Local 7
- City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664
- Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Local 19152
- Ornamental Metal Workers Local 1313
- Painters Union Local 386
- Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers Local 18005
- Gas Station Operators Local 19802
- Machinists Union Local 382
- Lathers Union Local 190
- General Drivers Union Local 574

September 18, 1935

A. Three-quarters of a block.

Q. You live three-quarters of a block from the plant?

A. Yes.
Q. So you didn't have to walk very far if you wanted to be present when the shooting occurred, is that right?

A. Yes.
Q. Were you present?

A. I was present.
Q. All right, will you tell the Court and Jury and the larger jury here what happened on that Wednesday night.

A. Everything, I saw the worst thing I ever saw. The police started to crowd the people off the streets with the armored cars and then the shooting started and the crowd of course was scattered. They started to run up the street. We had just got up about a half a block from the corner. An armored car come driving by and got past us, then it backed up and shot another bomb and struck Mrs. Anderson in the leg and broke her leg.

Q. You saw that?
A. I seen it.

Q. Were you yourself hurt?
A. I never got touched by the police.

Q. Did you people run away?
A. We couldn't, she couldn't get up.

Q. You saw Mrs. Thompson was hurt, did you not, or Mr. Johnson?

A. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Anderson was both hurt at the same time.
Q. Did you see whether Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Thompson were attacking the armored cars?

A. They attacked nothing, they were getting out of the road.
Q. Trying to get away?

A. Yes.
Q. Did you see the police use the armored cars to go after the women?

A. Yes.
Q. They were successful?

A. They were successful, they got both women.
Q. How many policemen were there?

A. I would say about ten and three cops come down in by the houses to get us.
Q. Did you see these ladies before they were hit by the police?

A. Yes.
Q. What were they doing before that?

A. They were driving up and down the street.
Q. Did the police say anything to them before they shot?

A. Didn't say nothing to them, just did it to them, that is all.
Q. Now, Mr. Benjamin, you

were with these ladies, did you see any of the workers around the group—, were there any other workers besides you with the ladies?

A. Well, I saw there was one man and the rest of them was further back. They couldn't see nothing. My back was towards the alley.

Q. Just one more question, you didn't see any of the men have a gun?

A. I never saw one working man with a gun.
Q. Did you see the women throw bricks at the police?

A. No, I certainly did not.
Q. Did you see any of the workers throwing any bricks at the armored cars before they hit Mrs. Anderson?

A. Yes, before they hit Mrs. Anderson, yes, up on the corner they were. Then when they came back up toward us they did their dirty work.

Q. They happened to be near the place where the ladies lived?

A. We went up to Mrs. Johnson's place, she gave us the right to come in and have protection.

Q. Now before you walked up to Mrs. Johnson's place, you found it was necessary to have protection?

A. Yes.
Q. Did the police, did you see the police use their guns?

A. Yes, I saw them shooting bullets.
Q. Did you have a chance to look back while running or did you see any police take a deliberate aim and shoot at the people?

A. I saw that when we run over to Mrs. Johnson's place, on the other side of the street, one cop hit a guy over the head with his gun and then started to shoot at him, that I saw.

Q. Did you see the police shoot at the workers when they were running away?

A. Yes.
Q. While they were running away they shot after the people?

A. Shot them in the back, yes, sir.
Q. That is all.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Are you a member of any union, Mr. Benjamin?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. What union?

A. Local 91, Marble Workers.
Q. Were you invited down there?

A. No, sir.
Q. You went down there of your own accord?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you know this Mrs.

(Continued on Page 4)

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 3)

Thompson that was shot by the police?

A. Didn't know her but knew her sister.

Q. You didn't know her at all?

A. I have seen her but didn't know her.

Q. You did see the workers throwing bricks at the police?

A. Yes, I saw that.

Q. That is all.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Did you see any of the workers throwing bricks at the police before the police threw gas bombs?

A. No, sir.

Q. That is all.

MR. DAVID E. JOHNSON, 2704 E. 26th Street: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Mr. Johnson, you are a citizen of Minneapolis?

A. Yes.

Q. I have to ask these questions because it is important to know whether or not you live in Minneapolis.

A. I live here.

Q. Were you present Wednesday last when the shooting occurred?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. By the way, how far do you live from the scene of the shooting, Mr. Johnson?

A. Five or six blocks.

Q. What time did you go to the Flour City plant?

A. I would say it was somewhere between 9:00 and 10:00 o'clock.

Q. Before you left your home, did you take any guns with you?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you go alone?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. All right, now you tell us what happened while you were at or near the Flour City plant.

A. Well, I walked down there between nine or ten and when I was walking down there, there were a lot of people marching in front of the iron plant and they kept on for some time and I didn't see any disturbance. Then I walked towards 28th Avenue and as I turned around I noticed the armored cars shooting gas bombs at the crowd. Then after a while I stood on the sidewalk across from the plant on 26th Avenue and as I stood there a few policemen picked up rocks and threw them at some men that stood beside me. I noticed one man was hit by a rock in the ankle. After that we ran into an alley and got out of sight. I saw armored cars go by and shots were fired. I was in the alley about a half an hour or better. After that I wasn't able to get anywhere near the place.

Q. Mr. Johnson, you said you were hiding in the alley about half an hour?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You did that, why didn't you go home?

A. I couldn't get out.

Q. I see.

A. Shots were fired from one side and policemen on the other side.

Q. What do you mean, there were shots from the other side?

A. Armored cars went all around shooting.

Q. And the police were shooting from the other side, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. You stated before you saw a policeman heaving rocks at a fellow who was standing by you?

A. I saw the police heaving rocks, yes.

Q. Are you sure?

A. I noticed the policemen bent down to pick up something

and then throw it. There were no other men on that corner.

Q. You saw them throw something and there were no others there?

A. Yes.

Q. So you concluded the police threw the bricks?

A. Yes.

Q. Before the police threw the bricks did you do anything to cause that?

A. Not that I saw.

Q. Did you call them any names?

A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't call them any names?

A. No, sir.

Q. You didn't throw anything?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see anybody throw any bricks or shoot at the police before they started with their gas bombs?

A. No, sir.

Q. When you saw the armored cars pass by, did you notice them shooting continuously, looking for some people, waiting for people, or were they shooting blindly?

A. I wasn't close enough.

Q. How would they use their guns, did they use the guns when they passed by the alleys or corners, would they just shoot into the alley?

A. They couldn't see what they were shooting at.

Q. Whenever they passed up the alley, by the alley, they shot into the alley?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see any workers have any kind of guns?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you have a chance to observe the plant, Mr. Johnson?

A. Yes, before the trouble started.

Q. Did you see any shots being fired from the Flour City plant?

A. No, sir.

Q. You did not?

A. No, sir.

Q. The only shots you saw fired were from the ranks of the police?

A. Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. What is your occupation, Mr. Johnson?

A. Assembler.

Q. Is that connected with the metal trade?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you a member of a union?

A. Yes.

Q. What union do you belong to?

A. 382.

Q. Are you connected in any way with the union on strike down there?

A. As far as I know they are affiliated with 382.

Q. Did you work in this plant at all?

A. No, sir.

Q. Had you been invited down there?

A. No, sir.

Q. To picket?

A. No, sir.

Q. You went down of your own accord?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you go down alone?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You went down of your own accord you stated?

A. Yes.

Q. You thought you had a right to go down there?

A. Yes.

Q. You thought you had a right to walk the streets of the City of Minneapolis?

A. Yes.

Q. Even near the Flour City plant?

A. Yes.

Q. That's all.

MRS. MINNIE EBERT: Being

first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Mrs. Ebert, you live at 2620 East 26th Street?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you live in Minneapolis.

A. Twenty years.

Q. Twenty years. Are you a member of any union?

A. No.

Q. Do you go to church, Mrs. Ebert?

A. Yes.

Q. Every Sunday?

A. Yes, and every day in the week.

Q. Did you have anything to do with the strike?

A. No.

Q. Were you on the picket line, Mrs. Ebert?

A. No, I don't know what that means, I didn't know what it means.

Q. You didn't know what it meant.

A. No.

Q. Now, Mrs. Ebert, I spoke to you this afternoon, is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. And I asked you to come down here and tell me your story?

A. Yes.

Q. And you thought you couldn't come down because you were not feeling very well?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. I was gassed so bad.

Q. Were you on the picket line?

A. No, in the house.

Q. What house?

A. In my own house.

Q. Your own house?

A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Ebert, what did you do in your own house, did you shoot at the police?

A. No, I have nothing to shoot, I couldn't kill a chicken.

Q. Who shot gas bombs at you, did you do anything?

A. I don't know, I believe, I don't think I should be treated like I was treated but what could I do.

Q. You saw this shooting on Wednesday night?

A. Yes.

Q. It occurred in front of your house?

A. Yes, the gas bombs hit in my back yard and right in front of the porch and the smell from the bomb would not go away from that day. It stayed there and that is why I have to lay in bed, and then I have to get up, I don't know where I can go to get away from it, the gas is around in the ground.

Q. Mrs. Ebert, you were standing in your own home when the shooting occurred?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do when you saw the police going around your house?

A. I put off the light, I had my house dark.

Q. You shut off the lights?

A. I have no lights, I have it dark because it is so light around there. I keep the house dark always because there is so much traffic back and forth and because for two days the people stand around the corners and look.

Q. You say before the police started to shoot the people were standing in the street in front of your house across the street?

A. Yes, I tell you how I saw it. I saw people standing there like it was in my church it was so quiet. I belong to the Pentecost Church. It was on the corner like it was in my church.

Q. The people were as quiet as they were inside of your church?

A. Yes, I want to tell you just how it happened, how I saw it. The people were standing around quiet, it was so quiet that I don't know a strike was there.

Q. Did you give us the bullet, Mrs. Ebert?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you give us this bullet?

A. Yes, I have two with me here and I have another at home.

Q. Those are the two slugs which you found in your house?

A. Yes. This is the one which almost struck me in the front room, the one which nearly struck me.

Q. Mrs. Ebert, did you give this bullet to someone else?

A. Yes.

Q. To whom?

A. The police.

Q. When?

A. In the afternoon.

Q. That afternoon, did the police come to your house?

A. They were in plain clothing.

Q. Did they tell you they were from the Police Department?

A. Yes.

An Open Letter

To the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, all Trade Unions and Railroad Brotherhoods—

Greetings:

We have been approached with a request that the General Drivers Union, Local 574, permit one of its officers to serve on the Employer-Employee Board recently created by Mayor Thomas E. Latimer.

Our union emphatically rejects this proposal on the grounds that this board is usurping the legal rights of union organizations and has no cause for existence.

Through many years of bitter struggle Labor has established the right to strike and to select its own representatives to represent it in negotiations or arbitration with the employers. This is the inherent right of each individual union, and Labor cannot permit any artificial agency, undemocratically selected, and presuming arbitrarily to speak for all Labor, to be foisted upon the trade unions.

We call upon all trade unions, railroad brotherhoods, and workers' political and fraternal organizations to repudiate the Minneapolis Employer-Employee Board and to demand of Mayor Thomas E. Latimer that he refrain from this and similar actions that he has committed which are subversive to the interests of Labor.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
General Drivers Union, Local 574
FARRELL DOBBS
Secretary-Treasurer

I could see nothing. Then I heard a shot. I thought it was something else and then it came again a second time, several of the same kind of shots and then there came right there on the corner where I live, people standing all quiet, a rush and my heart almost stopped beating. The people around 26th Street started to run up in my yard and I bet I had 100 people there. One of the cars then came close to the house, then I took the people inside so they could get away from this. Then comes the police with the shotguns running, I don't know how many, about fifteen or twenty of them, and then shots. I started back in my house and started to pray to God that if I was able, that no soul should be harmed in my house, that they should be safe.

I want to be sure I am telling you right now, I don't want to be confused. The police were shooting and I heard screams and I heard swearing and then I heard, I don't know, I think it was the ambulance or some automobile was taking two people right from between my house and the house next to me. Right on the porch they was shot. Then after that it was so quiet and I thought everything is over and I went to the window, I went up to the window and then I stepped to the side and then there was a pain in my arm. It was a shot from the window. I went out to the hall and took my people into the hall and I prayed for them in the hall. I looked around at my arm and it was shot and the shot passed to the furniture.

Q. Did you give us the bullet, Mrs. Ebert?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you give us this bullet?

A. Yes, I have two with me here and I have another at home.

Q. Those are the two slugs which you found in your house?

A. Yes. This is the one which almost struck me in the front room, the one which nearly struck me.

Q. Mrs. Ebert, did you give this bullet to someone else?

A. Yes.

Q. To whom?

A. The police.

Q. When?

A. In the afternoon.

Q. That afternoon, did the police come to your house?

A. They were in plain clothing.

Q. Did they tell you they were from the Police Department?

A. Yes.

Q. What did they ask you or what did they tell you?

A. Just said if I was shot.

Q. Asked you to show them the bullet?

A. Yes.

Q. Then what happened?

A. I said, "I will show you them if you give me them back." He said, "Yes, I will give you them back." But he would not give it back so then I said, "Those bullets were in my house and they belong to me," and so he gave it to me then. I said I wished to keep it for a memory. It was all so terrible for the city of Minneapolis, the way I got treated, I thought so.

Q. But you got them back?

A. Yes, I thought it was a revolution, I thought it was a revolution.

Q. Mrs. Ebert, when the police came to your house they saw the window in the front room and the bullet which is still there?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you tell them about it?

A. They wanted to fix it up.

Q. They wanted to replace the part where the bullet had struck?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you want them to do it?

A. No, I want it.

Q. Were you called before the Grand Jury in the City Hall?

A. No.

Q. That's all.

MR. CARLSON: No cross examination.

MR. ELZA BISCHIR: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Will you please state your name?

A. Elza Bischir.

Q. How do you spell it?

A. Elza, E-l-z-a; Bischir, B-i-s-c-h-i-r.

Q. Elza Bischir. Where do you live, Mr. Bischir?

A. 2706 27th Avenue South.

Q. How far is that from the Flour City plant?

A. Kitty-corner across the tracks.

Q. You didn't have to walk very far?

A. No.

Q. Will you please tell us just in your own words what happened on Wednesday night?

A. About 8:00 o'clock that evening there was a little crowd beginning to gather on the west side of the street, that is the opposite side of the plant, and about

(Continued on Page 5)

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 4)

10:00 o'clock they began to gather in front of the Ornamental Iron Works. They were singing a few songs and marching up toward the end of the block. Then about 11:00 o'clock or a little before the armored cars began to move out. They were parked on the sideways corner of the Iron Works just across from our place. The armored cars started up the street and I imagine they got up to the end of the block. There was no disturbance whatever until that time. Then the crowd began to run both ways. They came into the yards and houses and the police followed them right up on my porch so that two of them were hit by the police right on my porch. I took them in the house and called the ambulance and they were going to hit me, that is, the police. I told them they had better get out and they didn't come back there any more. While in the house, they even went around and looked. Out on the street they dragged people out of cars and searched them and gave them a kick and told them to get on. There were two old ladies visiting at our place and they wanted to go home but didn't dare to go home. They were about seventy years old. These two men I spoke about the police laid their heads open by the porch and, as I said, we took the men inside the house and called the ambulance.

The two old ladies about one o'clock they opened the door and asked a policeman if they couldn't go home. They said, "Get back, you son-of-a-bitch or I will come after you."

Those cops are all alike, they are a bunch of drunken maniacs.

Q. Mr. Bischir, before the police started out from the Flour City plant there, did you see the armored cars standing around?

A. Yes.

Q. You are sure they were not common passenger cars?

A. There were plenty of armored cars there and I saw them splatter their own armored cars with bullets but they never shot at the V-8's.

Q. Did you see the pickets before the police started to go after them?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see them doing anything?

A. No, they were only marching back and forth.

Q. Did you think the singing was so very bad?

A. No, sir.

Q. It didn't hurt the Police Department?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see them throw any bricks at the police?

A. No, they threw at the ones they couldn't catch.

Q. You stated the people ran into your home?

A. Yes.

Q. You permitted the people to come into your home?

A. Yes.

Q. There were two men on your front porch that had their heads opened.

A. Right on the yard by the porch.

Q. In the yard by the porch?

A. Yes.

Q. When the police hit the men, did the men do anything to the police?

A. No.

Q. You saw two old ladies trying to get away from them, did you see those old ladies have guns?

A. No.

Q. Did you see them throw bricks?

A. No.

Q. Did you see them calling, did you hear them calling names,

calling the police names?

A. No, they are not that kind of people.

Q. You stated the police threatened you, too?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. Right beside my porch.

Q. What did you do to the police?

A. Didn't do anything.

Q. Did you have any guns?

A. No, sir, I should have had though.

Q. You were threatened by them right by your own porch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. Bischir, did you inform the Police Department or the Grand Jury or Mayor Latimer that you were ready to testify?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you called to testify?

A. No, I was not called.

Q. Were you called before the Grand Jury?

A. No.

Q. Were you called to testify at Mayor Latimer's hearing this afternoon?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you talk there?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you tell your story?

A. Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I am in the grocery business, I was in the grocery business until I was incapacitated three years ago.

Q. Are you a member of any union?

A. No, I ought to be though.

Q. After you told the policemen you lived there, they didn't molest you after that?

A. No.

Q. Did you see any of these people calling names at the police?

A. No.

Q. Did you see them throw any rocks?

A. The policemen threw rocks at the fellows they couldn't catch, the fellows they couldn't get close enough to hit over the head with a club.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. You told them you lived there and after you talked to the police they didn't bother you?

A. No.

Q. You told them they should get out of there or something would happen?

A. Yes, and to stay off my property.

Q. You stated that you lived just kitty-corner from the plant?

A. Yes, sideways.

Q. Sideways?

A. Yes, sideways from the Marble Tile.

Q. Just across the tracks?

A. The first house.

Q. The first house?

A. Yes.

Q. So you had a chance to observe it before the trouble started?

A. Yes.

Q. You did?

A. I didn't see anybody do anything out of the way except the police themselves.

Q. Mr. Bischir, by any chance did you see anybody shooting from the plant?

A. No, I did not.

MRS. ESTHER BISCHIR: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Your name is Mrs. Esther Bischir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your first name is Esther?

A. Yes.

Q. You are the wife of the gentleman who was just here?

A. Yes.

Q. You were at home on Wednesday last?

A. Absolutely.

Q. What time did the firing start?

A. Well, now, I should imagine it was a few minutes before eleven o'clock.

Q. I must ask you to talk louder so that the Jury can hear you. Tell us what happened then.

A. I was sitting at the northwest window and everything was very, very quiet and there was quite a crowd assembling. I should imagine by the way the crowd looked there had gathered around about 5,000 people and they were still coming but there was no disturbance. Then I went upstairs and looking out the north window and sitting and taking it all in and about a half a block up toward the Ornamental Iron Works the police had made a strong wall up to the center of the block. The pickets were parading and they were singing this "Solidarity Forever" or something. I heard them down there very nicely. All of a sudden there was a shot and more shots, tear gas I presume it was, and everybody started to scatter. Then the police were using their clubs and revolvers and their tear gas guns and shotguns and anything else and it didn't make any difference who they used it on and this kept up for a while, I can't say but I should say about twelve o'clock. Then there was a little let-up. Most of the people had gone away but the cars were still coming around but they made them go around 26th and 28th avenue. They had blocked 27th Avenue between 27th and 26th Streets and then they dispersed.

I want to tell you this right. Before this time I was upstairs and there wasn't any disturbance at that time and then all of a sudden the people were trying to get away from this hubbub by the policemen. They were gassing everybody and it didn't make any difference, young or old. It was just like my husband said, those two elderly women they wanted to go, wanted to go out about 12:30 in the evening and they just asked the policemen if she could possibly go home now. She lived about three blocks away. The policeman swore terribly at her and told her if she didn't quit throwing stones at them they would come in and get her. They continuously flashed their lights at our window, just as my husband told you. Then after things had quieted down and all the people were supposed to have scattered, there were people coming and going, I don't know whether they were trying to get to their homes, I don't know, and everybody was warned not to throw stones. Nobody wanted to throw any stones.

About this time there was a young man, a man in the thirties I imagine, he tried to cross the railroad tracks and a policeman pushed him first and because he didn't fall kicked him, kicked him just as hard as he possibly could, and then hit him again and then hit him over the head with a club.

Then a lady, a lady also in the thirties, she was coming along, was going home and she was hit over the head and dropped right there and then two men picked her up and carried her away. A few minutes after that, after this happened, along about twelve or one o'clock this Wednesday night or Thursday morning, there was an old lady I presume to be about seventy years old, I believe she was with her husband and a young man. As they came up in front of our house they were approached by a number of policemen and during the conversation she said she lived at our place and started to go toward the door but evidently changed her mind, prob-

Mayor Latimer Invited to Public Trial

(The following letter was delivered to the mayor's office at about 4 p. m. on Monday, September 16, the day of the trial.)

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 16, 1935

Honorable T. E. Latimer, Mayor

City of Minneapolis

City Hall

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mayor Latimer:

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense agrees with you that the bloody happenings of Wednesday night last demand the clarification of the causes thereof and establishment of the guilt of persons or departments responsible for the death and injuries which occurred.

To make the hearing of witnesses publicly possible, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense offered to you the testimony of unbiased and impartial eye witnesses to be present during the hearing announced by you to be held at 4:30 p. m. Our committee personally offered you such witnesses but you found it not to be in the interest of this hearing to accept our offer of co-operation. We are sure that your refusal cannot be based on a contention that the Non-Partisan Labor Defense has no right to intervene because you know the objective of this organization. You agreed with the same some two months ago when, during a personal interview with you, you were given in detail the program of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. As a matter of fact, you were at that time willing to co-operate with this organization and serve on its Executive Committee. That the Non-Partisan Labor Defense did not avail itself of your offer of services and withdrew its invitation extended to you is due to the fact, as you understand, that your actions during the past two months stamp you inimical to labor and in consequence inimical to the aims of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, which exists for the sole purpose of providing legal and other defense to farmers and laborers who are prosecuted for their opinions or for their acts carried on in the interest of themselves as an economic class of this country. You refused our co-operation to the public hearing but the Non-Partisan Labor Defense still intends to give an opportunity to the people of Minneapolis to participate in a real public hearing and it will hold a public trial today, Monday, September 16, at 8 p. m. in the Drivers' Auditorium located at 257 Plymouth Avenue North. We expect you to be present at this public trial, together with your Chief of Police, Frank Forestal, Officers Ohman and Goergan and any other of your appointees or subordinates who feel that they shall be able to present evidence in justification of the police brutality perpetrated during the past week.

The public trial will be conducted in accordance with common sense and civil and courteous attitude towards all, keeping only certain formalities during which the prosecution will attempt to establish, by competent and unbiased eye witnesses, testimony that your administration in general, and your Police Department in particular, is alone guilty for the occurrences of the past week. We expect that you and your subordinates will be represented either in person or by counsel or both and thus to take advantage of this opportunity to arrive at the truth surrounding the occurrences which we maintain were unjustified and provoked by the police. We further expect that you shall not fail to avail yourself of the privilege of this public trial granted to you.

Yours very truly,
NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE
MINNEAPOLIS BRANCH
By H. A. SCHULTZ, Secretary

has/t

cc to Chief of Police Frank Forestal

cc to Inspector Ohman

cc to Officer Goergan

cc to Minneapolis Press

ably thinking that we would not let her in. As she went back one of the policemen hit her over the head with a club with the result that she fell against the policeman and then she was clubbed more by the others. The old man with her protested and was knocked down the same way. One of the policemen knocked the young man's hat off from his head and when he stooped to pick it up he was severely beaten by four or five policemen. We could hear the sounds of the beating all the way in our house.

The cars that passed by were stopped and the people within were dragged out and searched for weapons and when they didn't find any they were kicked and cursed and told to go on.

We saw instances where the police picked up rocks and threw them at the folks walking by in the street and then called to us and our neighbors and told us if we didn't quit throwing those rocks they would come in after us. There were no rocks thrown by the neighbors that we could see. They all came from the police themselves.

I have never in my life seen such shooting and I have lived there for 43 years. I have never seen the like in Minneapolis. There was no difference between any of those policemen, they're all alike.

Q. Mrs. Bischir, you say you saw a gentleman walking across the tracks and the police officer kicked him?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you see him doing anything to the policeman?

A. No, not a thing. He ran and almost fell. He just managed to balance himself and then the cop caught up to him, knocked him

down and kicked him.

Q. The old lady didn't do anything to the police?

A. Nothing.

Q. You have told the truth, you didn't throw any bricks at the police, did you?

A. I would have liked to throw bricks but I didn't.

Q. Do you know whether anybody in your house threw rocks?

A. No, sir.

Q. You read Mayor Latimer's statement that the police officers shot in self-defense?

A. No, sir, there was no self-defense because the people were not armed.

MR. CARLSON: No questions.

MRS. RAY THOMPSON: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Mrs. Thompson, you live on 27th Avenue?

A. 2728 31st Avenue South.

Q. Were you present near the Flour City Ornamental Iron plant Wednesday last?

A. Yes, I was within a block.

Q. You were about a block from the plant?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were not on the picket line?

A. No, sir.

Q. You had nothing to do with the strike?

A. No, sir.

Q. You passed by the plant?

A. No.

Q. But you passed within a block from the plant?

A. Yes.

Q. What time of the day, or night, was it?

A. Ten minutes after twelve.

(Continued on Page 6)

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 5)

Q. Will you please tell us in your own words what happened when you passed by near the plant. Please keep your voice up so that the Jury can hear.

A. We were coming home about ten minutes after twelve and we came up 27th Avenue from 25th Street. I was with five others, my sister was one of them and she met her son there and stopped to tell him he had better go home. He said, "Mother, here comes the armored cars. You had better run." So we left the street and went in between houses right there about, I should say, 33 feet from the street and I happened to notice an armored car went by. I turned around and my sister was lying on the ground. She had been shot and then something hit me in the face.

Q. Do you know what hit you?

A. No.

Q. You were burned?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you go to a doctor?

A. I had a doctor the next morning.

Q. What did he tell you it was?

A. Some sort of gas.

Q. Did you do anything before you were hit?

A. No.

Q. Did you participate in any kind of rioting, throw bricks or shoot at the police?

A. No, we had only been there five minutes.

Q. Passing by a block from the plant?

A. Yes.

Q. Your sister was walking with you when she fell down?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened to her?

A. She is in the hospital with a broken leg.

Q. What caused it?

A. Just that she had been shot in the leg.

Q. And when you helped your sister you were shot in the face?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you call the police any names?

A. No.

Q. Did you provoke the police in any way?

A. No, we talked very quietly.

Q. Your sister was shot suddenly and then a gas bomb was thrown, hitting you?

A. Yes.

Q. Nothing told you you had better run?

A. Yes.

Q. You ran because your sister was hit?

A. We ran between the houses because they were shooting from the armored cars, shooting gases.

Q. When the armored cars drove up you were gone between the houses?

A. Yes.

Q. You didn't look back to see who shot you?

A. No, I was looking backwards.

Q. You didn't see anybody shoot gas at you?

A. No.

Q. It might have been someone walking on the street?

A. There was no one walking on the street.

Q. Did the doctor say the shot had broken your sister's leg?

A. Yes.

MR. MOSE WINTHROP: I would like to make a statement that Mr. Comstock is not here tonight. Mrs. Comstock stated that her husband, after I told her who I was, she said that she was afraid that if he appeared here someone will make it miserable for their boy. She said that she was afraid her boy would lose his job if he came here to testify.

MRS. MAUDE CARLSON:

Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. What is your first name?

A. Maude.

Q. Do you live in Minneapolis?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present near the Flour City plant Wednesday last?

A. I was.

Q. Will you please tell us what happened?

A. We drove down with some friends, I drove down and parked the car between 24th and 25th Street on 27th Avenue and walked up to the plant and stayed on the other side of the street from the plant until the pickets came up singing songs. Then we walked over and joined the picket line and we were marching back and forth singing strike songs for about two hours. At that time there was no disturbance or anything out of the way at all until all at once when I was up nearly to 27th Street an armored car turned quickly up the railroad tracks and shot gas bombs directly into the crowd across the street. The crowd went back and there was a young lady who fell down. There had been a line of cops over by the building and those cops left there and went over to the opposite side of the street when the armored cars started shooting gas bombs. This young lady fell down and two policemen ran up and started to beat her with their clubs.

Then two or three more armored cars came by shooting gas bombs into the crowd. I came across the street then and went up towards 26th Street, then I heard a couple of shots fired and as I looked up I saw it was coming out of a window of the plant.

Q. You saw smoke coming out of the window of the plant?

A. It had been fired from out the window of the plant. If the police had shot at the picket line, I would have noticed it but it came out of the window of the plant both times.

The armored cars had turned and started back down the outside of the street and shot at the picket line. One gas bomb shot right in my face. The cops had been running around swearing and talking dirty to everybody alike, it didn't make any difference. We ran across 26th Street by the side of a building which is on the corner and an armored car came up the other way and they started to shoot gas bombs across there. It got so that we ran behind the house and around in the alley and finally come up in front because behind there was an armored car down there. We were afraid to go down any farther and we ran around and we came up to the porch of the second house from the corner and came up to this place, I think the man's name is Johnson. We went up on the porch and stayed there for a couple of hours. As we stood there up on the porch, we saw a lone man standing by the beer parlor and two policemen ran across the street and one fired directly at him. He fell and laid there, stayed right there for about twenty minutes or a half an hour. I don't know the exact time. The people in the house and on the porch called to the police to pick that man up because he was wounded and it might mean his death to leave him lay there very long.

After a while, a couple of cops ran down in the street and picked him up. In the meantime some of the people on the porch

wanted to go down and help him but we prevented them because they probably would have got shot too. Finally, after an awful long while, two policemen went across to pick him up by his hands and drag his body into the beer parlor near the door. It seemed to be, like he was there a long time before the ambulance took him out. A lady was there with a couple of men and the lady and the men put him in the ambulance and then went away.

During the time we were there there were three men on top of the roof shooting.

Q. What roof?

A. Roof of the Ornamental Iron Works.

Q. What did they do?

A. They were shooting. In the flashes you could see three men up there on top of the roof and they were shooting. They seemed to be shooting in the direction the gas bombs had driven the crowd. The spectators had been driven that way and in the meantime a bunch of men, I don't know how many, it must have been a couple of hundred, come back with rocks and bricks and they seemed to be infuriated that these armored cars should shoot gas at them.

The police would get stragglers here and there and beat them up. Most of the people didn't seem to know where to go. In fact, most of them seemed to be women and the police would call them foul names. When the police caught a straggler here and there, they would run out and beat them until they would call them foul names and they would run back by the plant.

Q. You stated you saw a man standing on the sidewalk and the policeman took deliberate aim and shot at him?

Q. Did you see the man do anything to cause the police to shoot him?

A. He was standing perfectly still.

Q. Did you see him have a gun?

A. No.

Q. Throw any rocks.

A. He was standing still. He didn't throw anything or do anything.

Q. You were there about two hours before the shooting started?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have a chance to see where the policeman were during the two hours?

A. They were most of them right along between us and the building and some of them, I would say thirty or forty, between the picket line and the building and a few of them on the curb on the outside of the picket line.

Q. Did you see them go any place before the shooting started? Did you see them leave the sidewalk?

A. They crossed over to the beer parlor.

Q. Did you see any policemen on duty go into the beer parlor?

A. Yes, and they had a strong odor of liquor, some of them smelled like a brewery.

Q. Did you notice any particular odor?

A. Yes.

Q. What kind of odor was it?

A. They had been drinking.

Q. You were sure it was the smell of drinking?

A. Yes.

Q. You are not mistaken about the police officers on duty going into the parlor?

A. No, sir.

Q. You stated you saw a shot, the fire of a shot coming from the window of the plant.

A. Yes.

Q. Could you be mistaken?

A. Couldn't be mistaken like hearing the sound of a shot.

Support the Non-Partisan Labor Defense

The work of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense is carried on through the voluntary services of capable attorneys who are in sympathy with the cause of labor and with the support of progressive workers' organizations and sympathizers in conformity with the following objectives:

1. To provide legal and other defense for workers and families prosecuted for their opinions and activities in defense of their interests, regardless of sex, color, race, creed, nationality, political views and affiliations and to organize mass support of organizations and individuals for such defense.

2. To defend in the courts, and to bring about mass support in defense of the rights of labor to organize, to strike, to picket, and to give all possible aid in securing the democratic rights of workers engaged in strikes and other struggles.

3. To provide material aid for labor prisoners and other victims of reactionary prosecution, and for their dependents.

4. To defend all those who are discriminated against and prosecuted on the basis of discrimination.

Among the cases in which the NPLD has successfully participated are the Criminal-Syndicalist trial in Sacramento, the defense of the strikers in Fargo, and just recently in Pennsylvania, where a college teacher was discharged because of his participation in the work of the American Federation of Teachers.

To carry this work forward, it is necessary that the NPLD have the full support of all workers and working class sympathizers, both financially and in the form of constructive work. Affiliation to the NPLD by organizations and individuals is urged. Educational pamphlets are available which deal with the full question of labor defense work.

NON-PARTISAN LABOR DEFENSE

Minneapolis Branch

H. A. SCHULTZ, Secretary

* * *

Q. Did you see smoke coming from the window frame?

A. I did.

Q. You stated you saw three men from the Flour City plant?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you think they were pickets?

A. I don't think so.

Q. Do you think they fired the shot.

A. I saw puffs of smoke.

Q. You stated before the shooting started the police officers went after people, mostly women, and called them names?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear those names being called?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you repeat it?

A. I don't like to.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Calling your attention to the three men on the roof of the plant, you couldn't see whether those men were in uniform or not?

A. I tried to see. They were heavy set men but I can't say whether or not they were in uniform.

Q. You cannot tell at whom they were shooting?

A. No.

Q. So as far as you can tell those men were in plain clothing?

A. I don't know what kind of clothes they had.

Q. They might just as well have been pickets on that roof as policemen?

A. As far as the looks of them goes, they could have.

Q. Calling your attention to the puffs of smoke you saw coming from the plant window, which way were you facing at the time you heard the shot?

A. I was on the corner of 26th Street and 27th Avenue facing right toward the plant. You could see it across the railroad tracks.

Q. And you could see the window from which these puffs of smoke came?

A. You could see it from sideways.

Q. You didn't see any guns projecting from the window?

A. No, I didn't see guns from the window but I could see people on the roof.

Q. I am asking you about the shots from the window.

A. No.

Q. Did the smoke come from the door casing?

A. There was no door casing around.

Q. You couldn't see anybody at the window?

A. Not that shot.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q. Before the shot did you see any policemen standing around in the doors of the Flour City plant?

A. Not inside.

Q. In front of the door?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they let any pickets go into the plant?

A. No.

Q. While they went over into the saloon they could not get into the plant?

A. They didn't let the pickets cross the sidewalk. They stayed between the picket line and the building.

Q. You saw the police standing in the doorway of the plant not permitting anybody to enter so if you wanted to go in the plant there you would have to go through the police guard to get inside of the plant. You couldn't get into the plant except with the permission of the police.

A. That is right.

Q. Now I would like to ask you one more question. You read in the paper where Mayor Latimer declared that the police had been ordered to protect themselves, to defend themselves. Was there any need for self-defense on the part of the police?

A. I don't think so.

RE-CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Is there a fence around the plant?

A. Not on the side we were on but there is a fence on the other side.

Q. Were you in the rear of the plant?

A. Tuesday night.

Q. I am asking you about the night of the riot.

A. Not Wednesday night, no.

Q. Did you see this group of men throwing rocks at the armored cars?

(Continued on Page 7)

Eye Witnesses Picture Police Brutality at Flour City Plant

(Continued from Page 6)

A. Yes, but after I had seen the people shot in front of me. There were groups of men who come back after a time and then the armored cars come back and then there was a lot of throwing of stones.

Q. Before the pickets had thrown rocks at these cars?

A. I don't know whether they were pickets or who they were.

Q. That is all.

MR. HEISLER: Do you know any other witness that can testify to the shooting from out of the window of the plant?

A. The people in the house.

MR. HEISLER: What is the name?

A. The name is Johnson, no, I think it is Anderson.

MR. HEISLER: That is all.

MRS. SOPHIE MEWHORTER: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Your name is Mewhorter?

A. Yes.

Q. And the first name is Sophie?

A. Yes.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 1715 East 26th Street.

Q. You were present with Mrs. Carlson, were you?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present with her on the same evening near the Flour City plant?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Would you say your testimony would be the same as her testimony?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you say you had looked at the plant, I mean the Flour City plant—

A. Yes.

Q. And did you see any shots fired out of the windows?

A. Well, I am quite sure they were fired from the building. It sounded like I heard two shots and I believe they came from the building. We had passed in front of the building, we were going around in front of the building in the picket line. We were sure that the shots came from inside the building.

Q. Did you see smoke?

A. Yes, we did. Of course there was cops smoking in front of the building.

Q. Did you see anyone on top of the building?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people did you see there?

A. I thought there was two. Mrs. Carlson noticed the men up there first and I thought they were two. They walked around and then we thought they had a machine gun set up there. It looked like they had something set up on top of the building. We couldn't distinguish what it was.

Q. Did you see them use or fire a gun?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. Did you see or hear a report coming from up there?

A. There was so much shooting going on at that time.

Q. But you saw people on the building?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any other people around the house who saw the people on top of the building?

A. Yes, the people living in the house. I think their names were Johnson. They had three small children. It was at this time when we saw this man by the beer parlor. A Mr. Nelson and myself were there when the policeman shot the man across the street by the beer parlor and Mr. Nelson and myself wanted to go out and pick him up but the rest

of them held us back.

Q. Did you see the man who was shot down by the police do anything before he was shot?

A. No, the armored car went by and shot tear gas bombs and cleared the street. This man seemed to come out of the beer parlor and was just standing there when two policemen ran across and shot directly at him and the man fell. He lay there fully ten minutes before two more police went across the street and picked him up and dragged him over to the beer parlor.

Q. Did you see any policemen going into the beer parlor while on duty there?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have a chance to come near any policemen, near enough to definitely smell any particular odor?

A. Yes, when we were in the picket line these police stayed between the building, that is the Flour City building, and the picket line and during the time we stayed there we could smell liquor.

Q. Are you sure.

A. Yes, I am sure.

Q. Did you hear the police calling women vile names?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you say it was your opinion that the police were acting in self-defense?

A. No, they were just insane.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Mrs. Carlson was the first one to call your attention to these windows of the plant, was she?

A. Yes.

Q. She said, 'Look, there was a shot from the window?'

A. Yes.

Q. You were not looking at the plant before that?

A. No, we were walking back and forth and singing songs.

Q. So you don't know whether any shots were fired?

A. Well, we heard the first two shots fired.

Q. But you heard other shots around there?

A. We heard those shots before they started the tear gas.

Q. There were policemen smoking in front so that the smoke coming from the window which you saw might have been the smoke from the cigarettes of the police?

A. Our attention was called to the two shots and it looked like the shots could have been fired from the window.

Q. It might have been from the cigarettes of the police?

A. It might have been.

Q. It might have been?

A. It might have been although the smoke was up too high for cigarettes.

Q. You were in the picket line, were you not?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. And no policemen beat you?

A. No, they didn't beat us although they called us names.

Q. That is all.

MR. HENRY L. ANDERSON: Being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Your name is Mr. Anderson?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your first name is Henry?

A. Henry.

Q. Mr. Anderson, you are the husband of Mrs. Anderson who is at the present time in the General Hospital?

A. I am.

Q. When did Mrs. Anderson get into the General Hospital?

A. Thursday morning.

Q. What happened on the Wednesday night or Thursday morning?

A. We were walking over to the Thompson's coming from 26th Avenue down 25th Street and when we got down to the corner, we were coming toward 27th down 26th and we got to the corner and there we saw an armored car up 27th Avenue. After we had gone about three doors or so I saw them come. Of course, we were walking along, we were disinterested and had no intention of having anything to do with anything, just walking home. First one car come up, an armored car, and two more lined up on 26th Street. I suppose someone must have given them the order to stop. Then they drove down around and it seemed when we got in front of 2534 27th Avenue someone says, "Look out," because there was tear gas. Then we backed up on the lawn and this car with the two lights came toward us. My wife was standing about thirty feet back from the curb and the policeman said, "Let her have it," not "Let them have it." I heard it very distinctly.

She said, "Oh, Daddy, I am hit." Just then Mrs. Thompson turned around to help her and that tear gas bomb exploded right in her face alongside of my wife and she went down.

Q. You were going to your brother-in-law's place?

A. Yes.

Q. You were about a block and a half from the plant?

A. Possibly about a full block from the plant when it happened.

Q. Did Mrs. Anderson do anything to the police?

A. No.

Q. You heard it yourself, the police said, "Let her have it."?

A. Yes. Directly in the leg.

Q. How far was she from the police car when they shot at her?

A. I was down there the next morning, it was about thirty feet from the curb to the place where she lay. I suppose the car was possibly four feet out in the street. Now understand when they started shooting the gas and I said, "Come on, don't stand out there, don't stand around." Just as I said come on I turned around and I heard them say, "Let her have it."

Q. The brave police inside the armored car?

A. Yes.

Q. Not much could have happened to him?

A. No.

Q. Even if your wife had wanted to do something?

A. No.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. CARLSON:

Q. Were there any pickets around in front of the house in which you were?

A. There were not any at that time when we were walking up there were no pickets around.

Q. Were there any across the street?

A. No.

Q. Your back was turned when this shot was fired?

A. I was standing sideways.

Q. You didn't see the shot fired?

A. Well, I can't say for sure I saw it fired because I heard reports around. It seems now like the gun fired although there was no explosion when this shot was fired and hit Mrs. Anderson.

Q. You didn't see the shot being fired?

A. I saw when this—I can't tell you whether it was shot from a gun although the report wasn't very much like it. I am not sure whether it was a revolver shot, I can't tell you what they used or anything.

Q. You didn't see any man parallel with you coming from the same direction?

A. No, I can't say what it was

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THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

257 Plymouth Ave. N.

* * *

but according to the report there was nothing there that could have done it except themselves. There was nothing in front of them.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. HEISLER:

Q. Would you say the police shot in self-defense?

A. No, sir.

Q. If Thomas Latimer said they were acting in self-defense you would not agree with him?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were you called before the Grand Jury?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were you called before Thomas E. Latimer to testify before his committee?

A. No, sir.

Q. That's all. The prosecution ends its case.

MR. CARLSON: Your Honor, my witnesses have been detained this evening but I think they have presented their case before a Grand Jury and before the Mayor's hearing this afternoon so that I am unable to present any witnesses of mine at this time.

MR. HEISLER: I have here Exhibit No. 1 for the prosecution which is a gas shell picked up by one Mr. Payne. If the defense desires or is doubtful it was picked up or that it was shot by the police, I will have it identified. I would like to have it introduced into evidence.

The testimony having been concluded, the prosecution and the defense made the final arguments before the court and the jury.

At this time the judge, Wm. Brown, charged the jury, and the jury retired to a conference room

to ballot on its verdict.

While the jury was out, a vote was taken by the audience and the decision was unanimous that the defendants were guilty as charged.

A resolution was introduced and adopted demanding the removal of Chief Forestral and the suspension of Inspector Ohman, Deputy Inspector Goergan and all police participating in the attack. The resolution further demanded that charges be brought before the Civil Service Commission to secure the permanent dismissal of these individuals.

The actions of Mayor Latimer and the city administration were vigorously condemned by the meeting.

Shortly after the resolution and motions were passed, the jury returned to announce that it found the defendants guilty.

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Meeting Schedule Local 574

- Friday, Sept. 20: Stewards; Federal Workers.
- Monday, Sept. 23: Full Membership.
- Tuesday, Sept. 24: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 25: Ice Drivers.
- Friday, Sept. 27: Federal Workers.

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,
I'm a decent Sheeney, Wop or Mick,
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik
I'm labor."

Tear Gas — Not Bread

The march of the Relief Workers from the Auditorium to the Court House Friday morning ended in a huge cloud of tear gas at Fifth street and Third avenue.

Just as the Farmer-Labor Mayor has taken the lead at the Flour City plant, in using this new weapon of industrial warfare against striking workers, he now has to his credit the achievement of being the first to use the armored cars against the unemployed. The police under the able direction of Latimer, who bows to the every wish of the Tetzlaffs, no longer need even excuses to cover their brutality. All that is required is an opportunity. This was thoroughly demonstrated at the Court House last Friday.

While the relief clients were being tear gassed on the outside, the spokesmen of these men and women were being given gas without tears in the council chamber.

Over the protest of Aldermen Scott and Hudson, with studied and insulting disregard for the suffering of the unemployed, the City Council turned down the request of an elected committee from the workers' organizations for a hearing on the demand that the Welfare Board make good the agreement to increase relief allowances 35%. The matter was tabled by an overwhelming vote.

The election platform of the Farmer-Labor Party in the last city election contained a definite plank promising the unemployed this increase. Hard pressed by the unemployed and the progressive unions, with an excellent fighting lead by Scott and Hudson, the Welfare Board gave an increase. Under the pressure of the big bosses, who do not propose to give the workers a single additional crust of bread, Latimer and his appointee, Dr. Herbolzheimer, drew back like frightened children. They made an alliance with the characterless McGaughren and the Citizens Alliance mouthpiece, Josephs, to snatch the proffered crust from the hungry workers. The increase was cancelled.

Thus Latimer shows his contempt for the needs of the unemployed. His contempt is not a passive thing, he follows it up with the clubs of HIS police. Conscious of his perfidy and crimes, fearful of the reaction of the now outraged people, he seeks comfort in the camp of the workers' enemy. Through a proposal of his own and in close working harmony with the bosses' Grand Jury, Latimer has, since voting to cancel the relief increase, urged that the POLICE FORCE BE INCREASED BY FOURTEEN HUNDRED MEN.

Last Tuesday, speaking before the Council of Civic Clubs at the Curtis Hotel, Latimer declared that the people who exist on relief "have too much time to think of their troubles." Making this sage observation, borrowed from the language of the English "upper classes" when they were driving the poor from the land and into the then new factories, the Farmer-Labor Mayor puts the thought into action and gives the unemployed something else to think about. He sends the police into the peaceful assemblies of the unemployed, armed with tear gas, clubs and guns, the police seconding the Mayor's motion, adding savage and bestial brutality to insults and hunger.

In this manner, following the Flour City massacre, Latimer completes the sale of the meager enough Farmer-Labor platform to the brokers of the Taxpayers Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Untrustworthy

The leaders of the Communist Party, disregarding all agreements made in the united action committee, stopped the march of the unemployed at the Court House Friday and attempted without regard for the success of the demonstration to hold a meeting at 5th St. and 3rd Ave. S.

The C. P. leaders have once again demonstrated their unprincipledness and dishonesty. Local 574 has withdrawn from the action committee. Local 574 as in the past, will unite with any workers' organization that can agree upon definite objectives.

The union demands that such organizations enter the united front with simple honesty of purpose. The C. P. is evidently unable to meet this indispensable requirement.

Workers' Blood On Their Hands

(Continued from page 1)

action until an obliging judge had issued a restraining order against enforcing the ordinance. The city attorney has failed to attempt to have the restraining order rescinded.

POLICE TRY TO BREAK STRIKE

The mayor obligingly furnished over 100 police and the armored cars (purchased to protect banks) to protect the thugs in the plant. They were removed only after two workers had been killed and scores injured by the police. The mayor stated on Thursday, after the killing, that he had not closed the plant previously because he did not consider the situation sufficiently serious to warrant such action. On Tuesday night hundreds were tear-gassed and clubbed by the police. But this was not sufficiently serious. It took murder to move the mayor to action—to ask for 200 more police.

In this despotic manner, a Farmer-Labor mayor and a group of reactionary scoundrels from the labor movement allied with him have sought to strip the unions of the rights which they have gained through many years of struggle and sacrifice. Cunningham, Boscoe and Alexander have not been selected by the unions to represent them. They have not even approached the strikers to hear their side of the controversy.

UNION STANDS ON RIGHTS

The Ornamental Metal Workers, Local 1313, have repeatedly announced that they are ready and willing at all times to enter into negotiations to effect a settlement. However, they insist that they have the right to select their own representatives to speak for them.

We endorse this position as the only fair and equitable basis on which any labor controversy can be settled. The workers cannot bargain away their legal right to organize nor can they bargain away the provisions which protect them from discrimination on the job. They are also entirely within their rights when they refuse to place their fate in the hands of men whom they do not trust. The Central Labor Union has voted to officially notify Latimer that it will not recognize any arbitrary decision handed down by his Employer-Employee Board.

It is only by approaching the problem in this time-tested trade union manner that the controversy can be settled. Murder is not the solution.

Union Notes

O. O. O. Bove has earned a new monicker—C. O. D. Bove.

The beefy finks about town are learning that size is irrelevant and immaterial.

The transfer stewards are running a stiff competition for 100% jobs.

A conference has been called for Monday, September 30, at which delegates from the trade unions and railroad brotherhoods will take united action to battle for the reinstatement of Local 574 into the A. F. of L.

The term "racketeer," as defined at Latimer's star-chamber conference of business agents, means a worker or a union which aids other unions in their fight with the bosses. Wednesday night at the Flour City plant proved conclusively that thousands of Minneapolis citizens are "racketeers."

Labor Looks at the Press

Mr. Hearst's Arthur Brisbane says on Monday: "Washington, D. C., predicts a permanent government dole, with 'unemployable' men and others of the moron class spending their lives at public cost to the tune of about \$500,000,000 a year."

That is very like Hearst—to blame the unemployed workers, instead of the social system that today prevents fifteen millions of workers who want to work, from getting jobs. Government officials have openly admitted that if the 1929 production figures were reached again, six million workers would be jobless because of technological unemployment. We leave it to you who is moronic: the workers or Mr. Hearst.

Week's Prize for Hypocrisy

Recent headline reads: "League Maps Plan to Police Ethiopia—" and continues, "The League of Nations council committee on the Italo-Ethiopian dispute will complete a peace plan Monday, comprising a definite project for collective assistance for Ethiopia . . . In economic and financial fields, Italy would practically be given unlimited scope, and territorial adjustments will be provided for."

One great workingclass leader has called the League of Nations "a thieves' kitchen," which is exactly what it is: an international bandit gang to plunder weak nations such as Ethiopia.

By the way—don't you think we all ought to bow our heads in silent prayer, for the recovery of Police Inspector Frank Bleed and the other flatfeet who got "abrasions" at the Wednesday massacre?

Alderman Scott and Representative Bellman deserve a good round of applause for the really fine positions they took at the Thursday night protest meetings. That is the way workingclass representatives should act; and when they DO act that way, they should be shown that we admire them for it and are behind them 100 per cent.

Minneapolis news item, Friday, Sept. 13: "A union of Minnesota game wardens under the American Federation of Labor was sanctioned on Thursday at a meeting of the State conservation commission . . . Strikes would be permitted, according to information given the commission by Ray Wentz, State Federation of Labor official."

What does "industrial peace" mean? Well, it's like this. The boss is sitting on the head of the worker; and when the worker begins to squirm out from under, that's breaking the "industrial peace."

These Republicans
Congressman Teddy "Muskrat" Christianson says: "President

Roosevelt is spending nearly five times as much money as is needed to solve the national relief problem . . ."

It is plain to see that no Republican has ever tried to live on the "lavish" relief provided by our dear president.

The Minneapolis Citizens Alliance's grand jury says: "The unemployment being so great, so many people with nothing to do but follow disturbances for excitement in Minneapolis will undoubtedly be responsible for additional outbreaks such as happened this week."

The unemployed are grimly set on getting higher relief, and in fighting in solidarity with their employed brothers. Excitement, furnished by police brutality, is not their motive, and is deplored by the workers.

Washington news item: "Officials scanning latest reports on the prison population of the nation, predicted today that convicts in federal penitentiaries would reach another new high this fall."

It has been proven irrefutably that hard times increase the population of jails and prisons. In short: men rob and steal because they are hungry. Not more jails, but more jobs, are needed.

The Only Road

Birmingham, Alabama, news item: "Charging their pay had been cut in half, several thousand relief workers employed by the works progress administration today walked out in what threatened to become a WPA strike involving the entire Birmingham district."

Washington news item: "The Blue Eagle was killed officially today by NRA. Acting Administrator L. J. Martin forbade further reproduction of any Blue Eagle insignia or emblem."

Which reminds us. Not so long ago, President William Green of the A. F. of L. was telling us that "the NRA is a new magna charta for labor." But then, Bill Green was never noted for his gray matter.

London item: "An experiment in mass migration is being undertaken by Britain's ministry of labor in an effort to find employment for 200,000 children. The children are to be sent in large groups to the more prosperous midlands and south country of Great Britain, from England's 'distressed areas!'"

James W. Girard, former U. S. ambassador to Germany: "Any move against Italy in the Ethiopian dispute would be an act of war that might start a swing toward Communism . . . People would say that the capitalistic system has failed, and would be read for communism."

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