

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

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

VOL. 2, NO. 21

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 10, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

CITIZENS ALLIANCE RALLY FORCES AGAINST DRIVERS

WPA WORKERS STRIKE ENDS WEDNESDAY

Little Gains Made by Act
Are Laid to Hurried
Action

Organizational Advances
Made by Federal Work-
ers Section

Friday, September 4, all WPA projects in Hennepin county were closed down when a walkout of WPA workers took place. The strike, which originated on the airport project, where approximately 600 WPA workers are employed, rapidly spread to all other projects in the city and soon effected a complete shutdown of both Minneapolis and rural Hennepin county projects.

The strike, which was originally called by the Minnesota Workers Alliance formerly the United Relief Workers association, soon effected members of Federal Workers section, No. 544, who had not been consulted prior to the airport walkout. The Federal Workers section, although they had no part in planning the strike or in drawing up the demands, decided that the strike must be supported by their organization. As a result after a hurriedly called meeting Thursday night in General Drivers hall, a five-day holiday was voted. The holiday started Friday morning and continued until Tuesday night.

From the outset, the strike was characterized by the reckless and irresponsible manner in which it was called by the lack of clarity in regard to the demands and by the manner in which the strike was spread, effecting members of other organizations who had not been

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DON'T BUY SCAB GROCERIES!

Stay away from
National Tea Stores
C. Thomas Stores
Piggly Wiggly Stores

The General Drivers Union Local 544 is striking against the Grocery Wholesalers, who refuse to recognize the right of their employees to bargain collectively.

The Citizens Alliance backs the open shop bosses in a drive to smash the Union and the strike.

DON'T BUY SCAB!

Support Organized Labor. Help Win the Strike.
GENERAL DRIVERS LOCAL UNION 544

The Boot



Northern States Acts on Seniority

At a meeting with Mr. Robert Pack Tuesday morning, officials of Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, presented the company with an agreement covering seniority and its application at the Northern States Company. This agreement fully covers the rights of the workers in layoffs, transfers and promotions.

While no action has been taken by the Northern States Company on the proposed seniority agreement, Mr. Pack indicated that he saw nothing "objectionable" in its provisions.

Flour Strikers Close All Mills

Saturday in a surprising turn of events, Meyer Lewis, former personal representative of Wm. Green, was placed in charge of the flour and cereal workers strike and it was indicated that Mr. Lewis will represent the Flour and Cereal Workers Council in this part of the country.

The strike of the flour and cereal workers is one of the most significant events in local labor struggles. Owners of mills and terminal grain elevators rank as the financial giants of the northwest. The grain and flour milling business represents what is perhaps the nearest thing to a basic industry of which Minneapolis can boast. Mill and elevators owners are determined that no Union shall invade what they consider their sacred right to run their business on the "American Plan."

The need for Union organization in this industry is great. Wages are low, conditions of employment are bad.

Spokesmen for the Flour and Cereal Workers Union declare that the strike will continue until the mill employers agree to recognize their organization.

More Wholesale Grocery Firms Sign Agreements With Drivers Local 544

Firms That Have Signed Agreements With
544 Get Business from Retailers

Citizens Alliance Attempts to Hold Grocers
to Anti-Union Stand

As the strike of the wholesale grocery workers goes into the third week the powers of this organized group of employees of wholesale grocery firms is being demonstrated in a clear and vivid manner. Not one single grocery house which has been declared struck by members of General Drivers Union, Local 544, have been able to move their equipment or make any sort of deliveries. The ranks of the strikers are still unbroken and the workers involved are more determined than ever that no stone shall be left unturned in their effort to bring the strike to a successful conclusion. The last week has seen several new developments take place in the strike of the grocery workers that make it more certain than ever that the wholesale grocers cannot win in their struggle with General Drivers Union. Estimations of the importance of this strike, made by Union officials prior to the walkout, have been fully borne out. There is no doubt now that the Citizens Alliance has concentrated all its forces in this particular labor controversy in a desperate attempt to strike a body blow at Local 544, and through them, the whole trade union movement.

Gamble-Skogmo Co. Rejects 544 Contract

The Gamble-Skogmo Company, whose warehouse and headquarters is located on North Washington Ave. in Minneapolis and whose employees are members of General Drivers Union, had a Union contract submitted by Local 544 last week. A standard Union agreement was given to the company covering wages, hours and working conditions of the drivers, helpers and platform men.

This company's reluctance to enter into a Union agreement with General Drivers Union is indicative that they are being influenced by the Citizens Alliance. The workers there are determined that they shall work under a Union agreement.

In spite of the fact that potential profits, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars weekly, is being lost by owners and stockholders of wholesale grocery concerns, the anti-union forces behind the grocery employers have decreed that the struggle must go on.

That a huge financial jackpot has been raised by a certain section of Minneapolis employers is absolutely certain. Citizens Alliance bulletins, issued shortly before the wholesale grocery strike, desperately pleaded for funds for a purpose which they made plain. They spoke of "showdowns" with the labor movement. The Citizens Alliance bulletins said that the time had arrived when employers would have to decide whether they were going to be allowed to "run their own business or not."

Not a single anti-union maneuver that has ever been used by employers anywhere has been overlooked in this strike. Full-page newspaper ads, costing thousands of dollars, indignation meetings of "outraged citizens," intimidation threats and coercion against their employees and a desperate attempt to convince the public that a food shortage existed were weapons used by the wholesale employers in an attempt to break the ranks of the strikers and to whip up a public sentiment which would lead to a weakening of the Union's position. Failing in all their maneuvers the Citizens Alliance-led group of wholesale

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Liquor Drivers Will Hold Meet

Liquor, tobacco and wholesale drug drivers and platform men will meet in General Drivers Hall Monday, September 14, at 8 p. m. This meeting has been called for the purpose of discussing whether or not a Union agreement will be submitted to the employers in these industries prior to the termination of the grocery strike.

All drivers, helpers and platform men, Union and non-union who are employed in any of the above-named industries will be welcomed at the meeting.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Independent Truck Chatter

All those independents who were working for the State Highway Department in St. Louis Park have been transferred back to WPA. They seem to change from one thing to another just like the weather.

Those same boys are still waiting for a check to compensate them for the three weeks' work that was done under the shovels.

Morris Olson, member of this section, is ill and has been confined to the Swedish hospital. Visitors will be welcomed and appreciated.

All members of the Independent Truck Owners Section are urged to attend the next general membership meeting of the Union on Monday, September 14. A matter of great interest to every truck owner will be taken up and each member is advised to be present.

The section went on record supporting the five-day holiday declared by the Federal Workers Section in support of the striking WPA airport workers. It is expected that the matter will be settled in that time and that everyone will return to work.

Someone got a dime for a ticket the other day from Louie Groth, the gentleman of workhouse fame.

A report has been received that Art Karlen has a large vocabulary. It was time for him to go home one day and he got stuck in a pile of sand—and he was in a position that made it very difficult for anyone else to pull him out.

At a meeting held Tuesday night called by the Federal Workers Section, a crowd that filled the hall to capacity voted to return to work the following day and to continue negotiating for those demands for which the holiday was declared. This was in accord with the Independent Truck Owners who greatly favored the move.

Yellow Notes

Information has been received that the Blue and White Cab Drivers of St. Paul are stampeding to the protective arms of Local No. 120 for a betterment in their working conditions. At this writing approximately 97% have obtained their buttons. Watch for the fireworks when they present their bosses with a contract. They have plenty of grievances to correct.

We wonder if the party that bought "Broadway" Jack's shirt is the same one who bought Nordstrom's socks.

Talk about being up to date! The "Barker" at the State Fair grounds booth has been provided with a loud speaker and he can talk above a whisper after a day's work.

One of our washers learned to his sorrow, that the \$4.68 pay he received as a special deputy during the 1934 strike cost him a steady job.

Clairmon "The Chief" has something growing on his upper lip. It resembles the "soup strainer" Banjo Miller has been carrying around for several years.

Labor Picnic Under Way on Sunday, 13th

The Central Labor Union picnic, which was postponed by the untimely death of Governor Floyd B. Olson, will be held in Powderhorn park Sunday, September 13. The committee asserts that the picnic has not suffered by the postponement. On the contrary, many new features have been added which will add to the enjoyment of those who attend.

Besides the various amusement devices which have been provided there will be a splendid speaking program headed by Governor Hjalmar Petersen. Festivities will start at noon Sunday.

STRIKE NOTES By Pete

The writer spent a couple of days in Chicago, so haven't much to report.

Got a card from a couple of the boys down in Mississippi. Wonder who they are picketing down there or are they picking cotton.

While down in the Windy City I cut out an article from the Herald and Examiner about how tough they are in Seattle. Hell, we're a bunch of pansies compared to them.

Six companies have signed. All you merchants please call and we'll be more than glad to tell you who they are.

A bit of good cheer was passed out Friday and Saturday. Hope we'll have more of it.

The writer has appealed to all job stewards. Give until it hurts. We'll do the same for you some day.

Truck Owners

The Independent Truck Owners Section, which was affected by the strike of the WPA workers, cooperated splendidly with the Federal Workers and assisted them throughout the controversy. About 450 truck owners were affected by the WPA walkout which tied up all projects.

The independents seized this time to present their demands to the WPA administration for an increase to 75c per hour for WPA truck drivers. The state administration took the demand under advisement.

Resolution

Friends and Brothers: The following is offered in reverence of our departed friend and benefactor:

Whereas, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, has taken from our midst Honorable Floyd B. Olson, whose fellowship and sympathy was unlimited and ceaseless for the needy; and

Whereas, the nation and Minnesota especially has lost a champion with militant initiative, whose tenacious and verile stability was unlimited for the cause of the social crisis we are now passing through; and

Whereas, His decisions are shining satellites of precedence for legislators, executives, arbitrators, referees and conciliators to use as a guide for justice; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife, daughter and parents; and, be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be published in the Minnesota Union Advocate, the Minnesota Leader and the Northwest Organizer.

COMMITTEE

Arthur L. Boldt
Alexis D. Wasilesky
Roy E. Johnson
Harry R. Burton

Bill Brown Says—

Once again the leaders of the Workers Alliance—United Relief or what have you—have demonstrated their inability to lead workers. It is very easy to call strikes but the work starts when you organize workers and present demands to the employer. If they then refuse to meet to talk over the demands then you call the workers together and let them vote the strike. If Bean's way of calling a strike is correct then all of the members of 544 must be wrong. As an organizer, Bean is a real carpenter.



BILL BROWN
President of 544

News Guild Strike in Milwaukee Comes to an End With a Victory

Milwaukee, Wis.—The Six and one-half month old strike of editorial workers against the Hearst-owned Wisconsin News ended Wednesday. Strikers returned to their jobs under terms highly satisfactory to the Newspaper Guild which conducted the strike. to the individuals, to the labor officials who mediated.

The settlement provided a company statement of policy, signed by the management and members of the mediating committee, granting shorter hours, a minimum scale of pay, dismissal bonuses up to five weeks pay and other guarantees. The policy will be in effect for one year, until September 1, 1937.

While the Guild did not win a written contract, the terms of the settlement was hailed by the Guild officials as a notable advance. A number of the striking photographers returned to work with gained pay increases of \$10 and \$15.

Those on the committee who negotiated the settlement over the past week are Henry Ohl, Jr., president of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor; Herman Seide, general secretary of the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council; Jacob F. Friedrich, general organizer for the Trades Council, and Ben Dolnick, general organizer for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The statement of policy includes provision for a salary of \$40 a week consisting of five days of eight hours each for experienced editorial employes, and a salary of \$25 a week for employes with less than three years experience.

Jewelry Strikers Return to Work

Thursday, September 3, one of the many strikes affecting Minneapolis industries was settled by an agreement being reached between the employers and the striking workers. Wholesale jewelry workers, who have recently been organized under a Federal charter, returned to work Friday morning.

The basis on which the strike was settled was an agreement which calls for a wage scale ranging from fifty to ninety cents an hour, a forty hour week and time and one-third for overtime. The pay raises gained in this agreement bring an average wage increase of 7½% to the jewelry workers.

Laundry Workers Present Agreement

Friday the Cleaners, Drivers and Laundry Workers Union presented new Union agreements to the employers in the dry cleaning and laundry industry. These agreements will succeed the existing Union contracts held by the Union with the laundry employers.

The presentation of the new agreement brings to a climax an organizational drive by the laundry Workers Union which has brought hundreds of new members into the organization. The contract calls for substantial wage increases.

With the Laundry Workers Union

Laundry and dry cleaners drivers in the past few years have carried on their buttons the numbers of four different locals, and are now in the process of being transferred again. They will now display the number of the Laundry Drivers' Union Local 131.

These drivers originally belonged to Local 137 when this local passed out of existence they became members of Local 574. After the historic strike of 1934 they were transferred to Local 18005, then later they carried the button of Local 183, Cleaners and Laundry Workers Union.

In recommending the transfer of these drivers to Local 131 notwithstanding a strong prevailing sentiment for industrial unionism, the union took the position, considering the present setup in the driving crafts in Minneapolis, that the interest of the drivers of both locals could be furthered by the merger of these drivers in one local.

Two meetings between the negotiating committee of the Union and the employers' committee have taken place. It is certain that further negotiations will take place, and meanwhile, through organization we are constantly adding to our membership. Last week the union wound up an organizational campaign in one of the largest plants with a complete victory of 100% membership. Two months ago this plant did not contain a single union member. Union buttons worn by the girls attest to their militancy and pride in union membership, and that spirit is what it takes to make a real union.

Last week Rubin Latz and Clarence Mathews journeyed to Kansas City and while there they visited the Cleaners' Local. Their report on the conditions existing in that city in the industry was very interesting. Whether their entire time was confined to investigating the union conditions in that city is a matter yet to be determined.

Bosses have complained that organizers have been telling workers that if they didn't join the union they couldn't work. The organizers deny this accusation. However, they do contend that if they want to be sure of their jobs at union wages they MUST JOIN THE UNION.

Local 131 Will Get Organizer

Local 131, Laundry Drivers Union, at a meeting last week voted to subscribe to the Northwest Organizer for the organization.

As soon as a roster of the organization is completed all members of Laundry Drivers will receive the official organ of the Teamsters Joint Council.

Grocers Sign With Drivers

(Continued from page 1)
employers have settled back into a game of watchful waiting.

Employers Sign

While the majority group of grocery employers were busily engaged in conducting a campaign against the Union, other more clear-thinking wholesale grocers were signing agreements with the Union and thereby reaping the benefits of the existing tie-up of their competitors. During the past week six firms have entered into agreement with the Union covering the wages, hours and working conditions of their employees.

The most significant victory achieved by the Union in the past period was the signing of the Kincaid & May Brothers Co., a wholesale grocery firm located at 740 Washington Ave. N. The grocery house is one of the largest in the northwest and carries a full and complete line of food and provisions. Besides the Kincaid & May Brothers Co. the following wholesale firms have entered into a union contract with Local 544 and are now eligible to receive the patronage of any and all retail grocers:

- A. E. Knudsen, 114 So. Third St.
- W. A. Jacobson, 210 No. 5th St.
- W. & B., 604 Third Ave. N.
- N. W. Bakers and Confectioners Supply, Kedney Warehouse.
- Oken Bros., 1207 Washington Ave. S.
- Kincaid and May Bros. Co., 740 Washington Ave. N.

Grocery Bosses Make Proposal

First indications of weakness on the part of the Minneapolis wholesale grocery employers came Wednesday when a counter proposal was received by the Union coming from the struck group in this industry. This marks the first attempt on the part of the wholesale employers to adjust the difference that exists between them and Local No. 544.

Later in the afternoon Robert Mythan, U. S. Department of Labor conciliator, informed Union officials that a meeting between Union representatives and wholesale grocery employers had been arranged for 4:30 Wednesday. The counter proposal was far from the original proposition submitted by Local No. 544.

However, it was pointed out by Mythan that this would possibly prove the basis on which a settlement could be ultimately arranged.

Prize Story

The prize story of the week started out with a toy fox dog which was injured in the street in front of the Union headquarters. The Animal Rescue League was called to care for the little fellow.

After the driver had made the dog comfortable in the pick-up truck, he came up to the office window and wanted to know if it would not be possible to organize the dog catchers. You doggone right, Brother.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

- Local No. 160
- Tuesday, Sept. 8—Executive Board Meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 15—Executive Board Meeting and Stewards' Meeting
- Wednesday, Sept. 16—Regular Membership Meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 22—Executive Board Meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 29—Executive Board Meeting

WPA WORKERS STRIKE ENDS WEDNESDAY

(Continued from page 1)

consulted or notified prior to the strike action.

On Thursday, members of the Federal Workers section were approached by groups representing the Workers Alliance, who told project workers that their job was being struck. Nothing was said of the demands or the cause of the strike and no attempt was made by the Workers Alliance to consult or confer with the officers of Federal Workers Union. After a hurried meeting it was decided that a struggle between workers themselves on the job must be avoided at all costs. For that reason a supporting "holiday" was decided upon.

The demands of the Workers Alliance first were for 68 3/4 cents per hour with an 88 hour month. Immediately the Federal Workers got into conference with representatives of the Workers Alliance. They pointed out that the winning of such a demand would mean an hour loss and a wage reduction for all skilled workers on WPA projects. As soon as this became apparent, the demands were changed to a wage of 68 3/4 cents per hour and maintenance of the present 110 schedule.

Saturday morning a committee representing the Federal Workers section and the Workers Alliance called on Administrator Christgau in St. Paul to lay their demands before the State Administrator.

After a short conference the committee was bluntly told that there was no possibility of granting the demands. Christgau pleaded lack of authority to make such changes as were requested by the organization and said that in his opinion such authority would not be forthcoming from Administrator Hopkins. At this meeting arrangements were made that pay checks would be distributed at some central location Tuesday.

During the succeeding days in which almost constant conferences were held between representatives of the affected organization and state WPA officials, it developed that very little could be accomplished owing to the hurried calling of the strike, lack of preparation for it and the confusion that existed in regard to the demands.

Tuesday afternoon the joint committee of Federal Workers and Workers Alliance met to consider what further action, if any, was to be taken. At this meeting it was decided by representatives of both organizations that recommendations would be made that the strike be terminated Wednesday morning. Mass meetings of both organizations were called for Tuesday night to submit the recommendation to the vote of the membership.

The turnout of the Federal Workers meeting, which was held in General Drivers auditorium, was the largest ever held by that organization. After various officers of Federal Workers had taken the floor and spoke for the committee's recommendation and after the mistakes in strategy had been analyzed, the meeting voted unanimously to return to work Wednesday morning.

WPA Strike Analyzed on the Basis Of Gains Made by the Workers

The Minneapolis WPA demonstration holiday which was called by the Federal Workers Section Local 544 and made fully effective Friday, Sept. 4, came to an end Tuesday evening, Sept. 8. The workers returned to their jobs with a gain of a concentration of their hours into four work days a week instead of the former five days per week.

Great impetus was given to organization and Union consciousness throughout the County and State, but the greatest value will result in the far-reaching lessons which the workers in general have learned.

The Federal Workers Section was forced into the holiday by its only alternative of breaking an unannounced strike of the Airport (WPA) project called by the United Relief Workers top leadership now functioning as a local of the Workers Alliance. Despite many members of FWS and craft Unions on that project, there was not even the courtesy of a phone call advising their organizations in advance of the accomplished shut-down. Immediately the demand was made on all projects for immediate shut-down. The FWS sent sound trucks to all projects telling their members to sit tight for a mass meeting that evening to take rank-and-file democratic action, whereupon pickhandle battles were threatened and strike-breaking charges flew county-wide. Minneapolis workers were seriously endangered. A split into three antagonistic camps, the two unemployed groups and the skilled group, was imminent. Any action other than

that taken by the FWS would have brought disaster to the local Labor Movement.

The FWS, aided by the Independent Truck Owners, in four hours of mass work on many fronts brought order out of the chaos. Committees of action and full preparations to carry the fight on WPA to a finish were speedily perfected. Both the unemployed groups brought their negotiating committees together for dealing with the Government, on the unified demand for a minimum unskilled wage of 68 3/4 c per hour for a minimum of 110 hours per month, as against 55c being paid for a maximum of \$60.50 per 110 hour month.

The demand was wholly justified by increased living costs. The workers were ready to fight rather than continue working on a semi-starvation wage.

In negotiations, officials admitted inadequacy of pay, but said they were limited by Roosevelt's executive order to the \$60.50 monthly maximum. This was verified by Senator Elmer Benson, who presided over negotiations. He quoted his conversations with Hopkins and Roosevelt at the Des Moines Drouth Relief Conference of Sept. 4th. Possible settlements were sifted to two alternatives: the one accepted or prolonged struggle pending accumulation of nationwide pressure to induce modification of the executive order, which in turn would entail an earlier special session of Congress to replenish federal relief funds.

Existing conditions to be dealt with were mainly the lack of unified organization throughout the state with the only exception of Hennepin and Anoka counties. The struggle would have required much more advanced planning, preparation, co-ordination and mutual confidence than existed. The Federal Workers Section therefore decided to resume work at the end of its holiday and utilize the stimulated interest and labor consciousness for accelerated preparation for the real struggle for workers' needs at the earliest opportune time.

The lessons: Strikes, even the most justified, must not be called without (a) Proper organization. Not as a stampede. Airport workers had strikeworthy grievances, but these should have been taken up with other affected groups through existing channels before plunging into strike. Blame rests wholly on leadership which so irresponsibly dragged not only its followers, but the local Labor Movement into an unplanned situation whose possible bad consequences had not even been analyzed or discussed. Strike is properly the last resort of a Union, to be used only after all possible channels for peaceful settlement have been tried and found insufficient. Furthermore all labor groups directly affected by a given strike action must be brought together for their proportional parts at earliest stages. Every organized worker involved must be permitted reasonable opportunity to obtain and follow instructions from his own organization. Each of these principles was light-mindedly ignored in orders of Airport's top leadership.

The primary need for Minnesota still remains. Solid fighting organizations that will gain for the workers what they need, cannot be built on words, wishes and emotions, alone. More than "indignation" and "fighting spirit" and "big intentions" are needed. Fortunately the long record of successful strikes and settlements made by the General Drivers Union came to the rescue in this situation through the Federal Workers Section.

Notes to You by Kenn Harlan

STAGING—

Sunday, August 30, we dropped in the Palace's offering of Vodevill. Beside the usual run of singing, dancing and juggling, the Palace's own Carl Johnson tossed in a violin solo and encore. He was staged with a red spot footlight. The angle of the light threw a grotesque silhouette on the drawn curtain. A loop in the cord of the microphone before which Johnson stood became a realistic hangman's noose in silhouette. The noose hung just above Johnson's head. Had he been playing "They're Hangin' Danny Deaver," the staging would have been perfect. As it was the audience tittered at such a contrast to "Kiss Me Again." . . .

MAGIC—

Harpo Marx and his brothers Chico and Groucho cutting capers over the airways. . . Harpo silent save for his masterful harping. . . real magic. . . Shep Fields style of orchestrating. Always the same but always magically marvelous. . . Edwin C. Hill's unhurried mouthings of exciting news. . . his crisp clear diction. . . his sense of drama. . . his selection of the King's improved English (American). . . Eddie Duchin's pianoing of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes". . . Gracie Allen's laughter over a script mix-up concerning a pair of pants. . .

COLD FEET—

Perhaps it was the recent cool weather. Perhaps it was last winter's rigorous spell of cold. At any rate 574's baseball team suffered from cold feet. On Sunday, August 29, they failed to show up for a scheduled game with the Yellow Cab team. Well, at least those feet should be warm soon. The heat is on and the boys from down by the tracks will do a little foot-warming all by themselves. . .

ENTERTAINMENT—

To wile away the quiet boredom of a Sunday afternoon we dropped in at our local picher house. Not having paid attention to time we found ourselves early. The auditorium was nearly deserted. Up in the projection booth the operators were indulging in a game of Knock-Knock. They thought they could not be heard so they went on and on with their game, growing smuttier as it grew older. Any attempt to print their conversation would be censored, but this should go.

Knock Knock.
Who's there?
Popeye.
Popeye who?
Popeye think you're all wet.
Funny what one finds in the theatre these days. . . Well, Oh Reservoir. . .

Strike Donors

The following is a partial list of firms and individuals that have donated money and foodstuffs to maintain the Commissary of the striking grocery workers. The whole Union joins the grocery strikers in thanking the donors for making the maintenance of the Commissary possible.

- P. Neisen Stacy Dist.
- N. W. Fruit Rifkin Co.
- Eng Olson Morris Fruit
- American Fruit
- U. S. Fruit Weisman Co.
- W. and B. Co. Stillman Co.
- Belzer Fruit Cserpes Co.
- Standard Sausage Wonder Bakery
- Monahan Bakery Zinsmaster Bakery
- Lakeview Minneapolis Packing Co.
- Edstrom & Johnson Meat

Battery Workers Are on Strike In All Plants

Union of Battery Workers Demands Wage and Hour Reforms

Wednesday, September 9, workers in battery manufacturing firms, who have organized during the past few weeks, went on strike to enforce Union demands which had been presented to the employers about ten days ago.

The organizational activities of the battery workers has been in charge of John Janasco, president, Furniture Workers Union Local 1859. A two months' organizational campaign brought such results that two weeks prior to the walkout not a single unorganized battery worker remained in Minneapolis. Three firms were affected by the walkout and all three found themselves completely tied up an hour after the strike dead line.

The companies shut down by the strikers are the Grant Battery Co., Jordan Electric and the Mitchell Battery Co. Approximately 200 workers are involved in the strike and of that number about 40 are women who are employed on the production line in the various battery firms. The demands of the Union include an 8 hour day, 40 hour week, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays and holidays, seniority throughout the plant and various reforms in working conditions.

Wage demands of the striking battery workers are for wage increases approximating 25%. The agreement proposes wages ranging from a minimum of 65c per hour to 90c per hour for skilled workers.

This Union has not yet secured a charter from the American Federation of Labor, but negotiations are underway for a charter in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Electrical Workers International issues non-beneficial charters covering workers in electric production industry.

Wednesday noon a meeting of the strikers was addressed by Miles Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer. Great enthusiasm was displayed, which indicates that these workers will not settle far short of their original demands.

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"

S & S CAFE

633 THIRD AVE. S.
We feature Home Cooking
Try Our Sunday Chicken Dinners, They Are Delicious
35c up

Local 544 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 1: Block Men.
Thursday, Sept. 3: Independent Truck Owners
Friday, Sept. 4: Federal Workers.
Wednesday, Sept. 9: Market
Friday, Sept. 11: Local 544 Job Stewards
Monday, Sept. 14: Full Membership
Thursday, Sept. 17: Independent Truck Owners
Friday, Sept. 18: Federal Workers
Monday, Sept. 21: Coal Workers
Friday, Sept. 25: Local 544 Job Stewards
Monday, Sept. 28: Full Membership
Tuesday, Sept. 29: Taxi Drivers; Night Drivers, 1 p. m.; Day Drivers, 7 p. m.

NOTES:
Local 544 Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday at 8 p. m.
Local 544 Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.
Federal Workers Job Stewards meet each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Nelson Welding Co.

E. C. NELSON, Prop.
A Specialty of Truck Body Building
Present Location, 2520 Nicollet
Moving Soon—Watch for New Address

Communication to Trade Unionists

NOTICE To All Trade Unionists and Friends of Labor:

The following grocery firms are UNFAIR to organized labor in MINNEAPOLIS: Quality Food Co. (Piggly Wiggly) C. Thomas Stores Red Owl Products Red and White Products I. G. A. Products Hancock - Nelson (United Grocers) Jack Sprat (Western Grocers) Allied Grocers Jordan - Stevens (Time-O-Day) Wholesale Supply Co.

These firms have refused to recognize General Drivers Union, Local No. 544, of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Affiliated with the A. F. of L. or to deal with them in any way. In this stand they are backed by the Citizens Alliance who are making a determined effort to stamp out Union labor. This is a fight not only of the General Drivers but should be a fight of all organized labor, as your organization may be the next attacked by this labor-hating group.

Please publicize these firms by word or if possible circularize your community as this will help us in our fight for the right to organize and in doing this you help strengthen your own organization.

Fraternally yours,
GENERAL DRIVERS & HELPERS UNION NO. 544
By **WM. S. BROWN**

President

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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."

Labor's Rift

The long-promised split in the ranks of the American Federation of Labor is at last a fact. Sunday, September 6, the C. I. O. Unions, headed by John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, were officially placed on the suspended list by the American Federation of Labor executive council. The difference between the two groups which has smoldered since the San Francisco A. F. of L. convention broke into a near open fight during the summer when Lewis announced the formation of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

The formation of the committee by Lewis came about as a result of what he claimed was the refusal of the executive council to obey the mandates of the Frisco convention which placed the A. F. of L. on record for industrial form of Union organization in the basic industries of the United States. According to Lewis' contention that convention officially went on record for an active organizational campaign pointed toward unionizing workers in steel, rubber and auto into organizations similar to the set-up of the United Mine Workers Union.

In defense the executive council contended that they were bending every effort to bring about organization in these industries and so were carrying out the program adopted in San Francisco. The formation of the Committee for Industrial Organization, which comprised of ten large unions, attempted to function within the framework and structure of the American Federation of Labor. An active organizational campaign in steel and autos immediately got underway, financed by the C. I. O. The action of Lewis and his associates was taken by the executive council as a direct challenge to the authority vested with them.

From the outset one thing was sure. That is, that neither side would recede from its adopted position. A clash of authority was inevitable. The merits of the respective positions of the two groups must be judged by the results each accomplished. No one can question but that a more efficient form of union organization is needed to organize the country's basic industries than that which is afforded by craft unions. It is regrettable that labor's ranks must be split to bring such form of organization into being.

"Law and Order"

Minneapolis seems to have been selected as the battleground of Minnesota between the forces of progress and reaction.

The Citizens' Alliance and its Republican friends are determined to crush organized labor and for that reason they welcome strikes and labor disorders.

At the present time there are four strikes going on in Minneapolis, any one of which could be settled within an hour if the Citizens' Alliance would permit the individual firms to live up to agreements which they had previously made with labor unions.

In 1934 the truck drivers' general strike occurred because of opposition on the part of the reactionaries to organized labor. They thought that promoting the strike would be a smart thing politically. It would force the Governor to act and in acting it would antagonize union labor. Governor Olson acted in a manner which they had not foreseen.

At the present time the same people who caused the 1934 strike are trying to promote another one. There is a new man in the Governor's chair and they hope to embarrass him and the Farmer-Labor administration.

This week nearly 1,000 businessmen met in the Radisson hotel. They talked of law and order, but their actions were not orderly when they booed Mayor Latimer and their appeal to law was an appeal to the law of the jungle. What they actually asked the mayor for was permission to fight it out with the union. At present they are not allowed to import strikebreakers and to deputize thugs. They want legal protection and authority to do this.

Tent Maker Says No to Local 544

The C. J. Hoigard Co., makers of tents and awnings, last week refused a request of Local 544 that they enter into negotiations with the Union seeking to establish Union conditions for the workers employed there.

All workers there who come under the jurisdiction of General Drivers Union are members of that organization.

Thanks

Thanks of the strikers are transmitted through columns of the Northwest Organizer to the various job stewards who have been actively concerning themselves with collecting funds for the strikers' families.

All stewards are urged to immediately circulate lists in their places of employment asking their fellow workers for strike donations. Funds will be received at the Union office.

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

"General" Skogland is sporting a nice new suit of fall clothes. Very nifty.

The tobaccor, liquor and drug drivers will meet in the union hall Monday September 14.

The ORGANIZER appeared on the streets one day late this week. Like other workers, the Editor took Monday off to ponder over what he might have to be thankful for.

The strike of the Flour and Cereal Workers Union is still a draw at this writing.

Frank Miller has left the Latimer Employee-Employer Board flat.

V. Dunne and J. Smith could qualify for work in a telephone exchange after a solid week on the phones in the grocery strike headquarters.

The vacation fight of the office help is on full blast.

Hinkey Haines was a welcomed visitor in the Union office Wednesday morning. He lost 20 lbs. in his scuffle with old man rheumatism.

Bob Pack met Local 160 representatives on seniority Tuesday.

The mass meeting held by Federal Workers Section Tuesday night saw the largest crowd that ever jammed its way into the third floor auditorium.

Dick Atherton, banjo-playing truck driver delivered a load of hospital supplies Wednesday morning. On his way back he turned into a competing firm's dock just to see what the pickets would do. They did.

When the battery workers went on strike Wednesday morning and held their first strike meeting in Drivers hall, a delightful surprise was on tap for hardened organizers. About 40 of their members are beautiful girls.

L. A. Murphy Chicagoed during the weekend.

A brand new column will soon make its appearance in the Organizer. It will be devoted to local sports affairs and will be engineered by Kenn Harlan.

The Welfare Board met Wednesday morning to bury the Paupers' Oath.

Pete Harris is developing one of our sterling news gatherers. His strike notes appear elsewhere in this issue.

A committee of trade unionists called on the Governor Tuesday to protest the dismissal of Olson appointees. Brown and Corcoran represented the driving crafts.

"One Punch" Johnson scored a quick victory Tuesday night.

The Knuss Transfer Co. are rapidly becoming unionized at the Minneapolis end of their run. It's a Hawk victory.

Local 160 boasts a brand new blonde addition to their office force.

The Kincaid & May Bros. Co. really went to town after they signed the agreement with General Drivers Union. They are doing a land office business.

John Janasco, Furniture Workers' president, is guiding the destinies of the battery workers.

Pole yard strikers are still holding the fort.

Mrs. Rasmussen, 2019 Ewing Avenue, who got the nice Trib witeup for the blood donation to the Owatonna boy, is the wife of a Union member.

The grocery strikers maintain their Commissary, which serves very nice meals, almost entirely on donations from friendly merchants.

Curt Zander has found out that he is not an expert canoeist.

Rumor has it that the Employer-Employee Board is due for the morgue.

Three a. m. Wednesday morning saw every grocery picket on the streets. That's nice going.

Question

The little quip which appeared in the Keeping Step column in regard to the Midway Oil Station banner brought down an avalanche of protests on the head of the innocent editor.

The Petroleum Workers Union indignantly deny such a thing took place.

Our spies are investigating.

Goodbye, Frank.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

Boston news item: A two-day conference at the Chamber of Commerce next Monday and Tuesday will be the climax of a national peace campaign carried on in 300 cities during the past three weeks.

Why anyone should assume that Chambers of Commerce are friends of peace is hard to see—for their members are precisely the only ones who ever gain from war.

Crack headline of the week: Old Guard is Given Place in Party Affairs by Landon.

The Republican Old Guard is separated from Landon by about the same distance a Citizens Alliance is from a Law and Order League.

Washington news item: General Hugh Johnson Marks Anniversary of NRA With Roses.

A bouquet of tear gas bombs surrounded with riot guns would have been more appropriate.

Tacoma, Washington, points the way: The Non-Relief Unemployed Association is the name of an organization formed to help that large class that has succeeded in getting along without accepting relief. Supported by public-spirited citizens, the secretary is C. A. Payne, real estate operator.

New York: Profits of 1,799 corporations increased 50.2 per cent for 1935, according to an analysis by the Standard Statistics Co.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Co., who always advertises that it is "owned by the people," reveals in a report to the Federal Communications Commission, who "the people" are. Sun Life Assurance owns 124,550 shares; National City Bank owns 118,370; Chase National owns 78,035; J. P. Morgan and Co. ac-

All Local Mills Down by Strike

The strike of the Flour and Cereal Workers Union has gone into its second week as it finds a complete tie-up of all milling companies and terminal grain elevators in Minneapolis and vicinity.

Starting out as a strike of grain elevator workers, the movement spread to the various flour mills and soon caused a complete tie-up of the entire milling industry. Over 1,000 workers are affected.

The demands of the mill and elevator workers call for wage increases throughout the industry and for recognition of their Union as the bargaining agency for all flour and cereal workers.

Hat Workers Dump Phony Co. 'Union'

Philadelphia—Another company union went sour on the bosses when 2,500 workers at the Stetson Hat Company's Philadelphia plant deserted the "association" to join the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union.

count for 47,517. Al Jolson has quite a hunk—5,000 shares.

Senator D. Steward Cravee, Democrat of Salem, New Jersey, sez: Relief is no longer a paramount issue.

Good God, no. By this time the New Jersey unemployed must have more or less got out of the habit of eating.

Ambassador Caffery, Wall Street's representative to Cuba, sez: Diplomacy, as I see it, consists largely in co-operating with American business.

A precise definition—and maybe the workers will recall it when the next war gets going.

Father Coughlin sez: The new Union Party would receive support from agriculture, labor, Republicans, Democrats, independent merchants and industrialists.

In short, the workers and the bosses who oppress them—the farmers, and the wealthy who own their mortgages—will all be happy in Coughlin's new pre-Fascist alignment. That's what HE sez.

What a shameful thing to do—Americans turning out to be a group of scrubby scabs on French workers. No real American would ever scab on a fellow worker.

From an editorial in the Minneapolis Star: Americans may cherish the "freedom of the press" as their own unique possession, an agency which helped them to view the world as it is and not as some autocrat wants them to see it.

Yes—under American "freedom of the press," the capitalist editors have the freedom to lie as much as they please.

Cincinnati: Sheriff George Lutz was ordered today by Judge Mack "to fearlessly and impartially" remove all pickets from the RCA Norwood plant. A Remington-Rand attorney announced that the factory, closed for eleven weeks by a strike, would reopen tomorrow.

I suppose the sheriff will compromise by beating in the skulls of the pickets—and further demonstrate his neutrality by arresting the strike leaders. Ain't it great to be rich?

Vatican City: Catholic authorities instructed Italian churches to offer special prayers for the re-establishment of order and religion in Spain.—N. Y. World-Telegram,