

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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FIVE CENTS

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

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

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wis. Madison, Wis.

On the National Picket Line

Marvel Scholl

Two very interesting items appear in this week's press. The first, given page one display, deals with ex-president Hoover's pleas before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for legislation creating a fund of twenty million dollars for Polish relief.

Ex-president Hoover assured the Foreign Relations committee that setting up such a fund and an administrative body for its dispensation would in no way impinge on our "neutrality."

He said such humanitarian assistance embraces no threat of involvement in European wars.

How about 1931 and the Bonus Army, Mr. Hoover? Did you consider bullets and tear gas "humanitarianism" for our wounded veterans of the last war?

The Farm Security Administration has just issued a bulletin on conditions among the more than one million migratory workers who follow the crops from the South to the North on both coasts.

This bulletin deals with the 350,000 itinerant workers who migrate with the crops from Florida to New Jersey.

Educational and recreational facilities for the young children are completely lacking. In fact, in most cases the children are forced to toil alongside their parents in order that they may eat.

In Florida the housing conditions for the itinerants are described as follows: "Two to ten people live in each room in a fourteen-room shelter; each room renting for \$1.50 per week; a single open-pit toilet for from four to eight shelters."

Most of these workers have been "traced" off their own farms by (Continued on page 4)

WPA Prisoners At Sandstone Visited, All in Good Shape

Defense Attorney Visits Prison, Confers with Strikers—All Will Be Released Between May 2nd and August 23rd—Gives Rules for Visiting Hours—Defense Committee Helps Strikers' Families Save Furniture

"The thing that impressed me most about my visit with the WPA strikers in Sandstone was their extremely healthy appearance. All of the men looked good and all of them were contented except that most of them seemed worried about their families."

"The men advised me that they had each received the sum of \$2 when they left the county jail, and the sum of \$4 each since they have been at Sandstone. I discussed this question of money with the men and particularly with Max Goldman, and he advised me that they can use the sum of \$6 apiece each month for candy, cigarettes, tobacco and other miscellaneous articles, and \$2 per month each for subscriptions to newspapers, educational books, etc.

Met With All Strikers "The warden allowed me to have a group meeting with all of the twelve prisoners and afterwards I had a meeting with each individual in the presence of Mr. Gollaher, warden's assistant. Most of the prisoners had individual errands that they wanted me to perform when I got back to Minneapolis, and I am taking care of these matters.

"For your information I also give you the dates of the expiration of the term of imprisonment of each prisoner, with allowances for good behavior:

"Connell, Phillips, Eddie Alberts, Hurley and Stevens will be released on May 2nd. McLean on June 2nd. Riley and Totino on July 3rd. Grider, on July 29th. Wachter, Palmquist and Goldman, on August 23rd."

Visiting Rules "The first visiting days are Saturday and Sunday, March 9th and 10th, and the hours are from 8:30 to 11:30 a. m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p. m. It should be remembered that only blood relatives are allowed to visit the prisoners. There cannot be more than four persons visiting one prisoner at one time. Each prisoner is allowed one hour per month, or two 30-minute visiting periods, but if the prisoner takes two 30-minute visiting periods, they have to be a week apart.

"Previously I had been informed by the warden that children under the age of sixteen years would not be permitted to visit a prisoner. After my talk with the warden, however, I am satisfied that this rule regarding children is flexible, and that children of the prisoner will be allowed to see their father.

Directions to Prison "Persons desiring to visit the prisoners should make arrangements to go by a private automobile rather than by bus or train. The reformatory is approximately three miles south of Sandstone and there are no regular facilities for busses or taxicabs between the town and the reformatory. Private arrangements, however, can be made at Sandstone with some garage to take people to the reformatory. Sandstone is on Highway 61, the regular highway between the Twin Cities and Duluth. This highway does not go through the town of Sandstone but runs adjacent to the town. Persons driving by automobile should turn to the right on Highway 23 just before they reach Sandstone. After they arrive in Sandstone they should make inquiry in the town for directions to the reformatory.

"Upon expiration of their term,

each prisoner is furnished with transportation back to Minneapolis. It is not necessary that friends of families meet the prisoner at the gates of the reformatory at that time," Yaeger concluded.

Committee Aids Families Last Friday the Central Labor Union's WPA Defense Committee worked out arrangements with the board of public welfare whereby the Defense Committee will furnish funds to strikers' families to preserve equities in home furnishings brought on the installment plan. At the request of the Defense Committee, the welfare board will not deduct any such contributions from the relief allowances for the families.

Test Case Against Tenement Owners In District Court

Under pressure of the extensive popular demand for protection against fire hazards and for decent housing, city officials moved on two fronts this week against the fire traps that infest Minneapolis.

Wednesday morning the district court opened its hearing into the case being brought by the city health department against the owners of the tenement at 2600 Portland avenue. Dr. F. E. Harrington, city health commissioner, has reported the rooming house is "unfit for human habitation."

The city has ordered that the premises be vacated, on the grounds the house violates innumerable fire and housing laws. The building, originally designed as a one-family house and now housing ten families, is not of fire-proof construction; the walls and stairways are not fire-resistant; the barn is within six feet of the house; the roofs are of wood shingle.

A survey by the Northwest Organizer reveals that the house, containing seven apartments and six sleeping rooms, was investigated by the WPA fire hazard survey on March 29, 1939, when fire hazards were listed and recommendations made. No record is on file of these instructions having been followed. In the city planning commission's housing survey of 1934, yards and outbuildings at this address were declared even then as "in bad condition."

Interestingly, the property is owned by Muriel Ford Beery, wife of Charles Beery, vice-president of the Property Owners association, and by Rita Hellman, distant relative of Beery's. Beery is proprietor of the Wisconsin hotel, 1700 Portland avenue.

Should this test case be won in district court, the property owners will probably appeal to the state supreme court. If the case is won by public officials, the health and fire departments and the city building inspectors office claim they are ready to move against scores of other fire traps in the city.

St. Paul Booth Firm Is Unfair

The St. Paul branch of the Booth Cold Storage company, at Kellogg boulevard and St. Peter street, has been declared unfair to the St. Paul Warehouse Employees Union Local 503, and on Wednesday morning the union placed an "Unfair" banner before this establishment.

Three months ago the company discharged a worker for joining the union. At the time, the company denied the man was fired for union activity, and gave him a glowing recommendation as a capable worker. Local 503 has sought since then to have the man returned to his job but the company has consistently refused to comply and now tries to claim that the man was inefficient.

The action against the Booth Cold Storage company has been approved by the Policy Committee of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly.

Labor Demands President Pardon All WPA Strikers

Supported by broad sections of the local union movement, a drive got under way Tuesday to enlist labor's support for the demand upon President Roosevelt that he grant executive clemency to all convicted WPA strikers.

The executive committee of the Minneapolis Building Trades Council voted unanimously to wire the AFL's Building Trades Department, now meeting in special session in Washington, to support the campaign for a pardon to all Minneapolis WPA strikers.

Applications for the pardon have been mailed to Daniel M. Lyons, pardon attorney, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. All resolutions demanding pardons should be directed to President Roosevelt and mailed to Mr. Lyons.

The Minneapolis Central Labor Union has also wired to Washington, urging the Building Trades Department to aid the pardon drive.

Tuesday afternoon the WPA Defense Committee mapped out a campaign to spread the campaign for pardons. All unions will be called upon to adopt resolutions demanding the president pardon the convicted strikers. The Defense Committee also plans to circulate petitions throughout the union movement.

Policy Committee Supports Local 131 In Negotiations

977 Reports Progress in Negotiations

On Monday negotiations were held between the Filling Station Attendants Union Local 977 and the station owners for a new pact covering station attendants and lessees. Agreement was reached on all important points save the preferential shop which the union is demanding. Local 977 has notified the employers this is an issue which the union will fight to obtain.

544 Book Probe In Fifth Week

The examination of Local 544's books entered its fifth week Monday, with the end of the probe still out of sight. The fifth article on the series "Behind the 544 Suit" appears on page four.

Last Friday the Policy Committee of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union met with representatives of the Laundry Drivers Union Local 131 to examine the critical relations between the union and the industry. The Policy Committee decided to seek once again to bring together negotiators for the union and the industry, in the slim hope that a strike may yet be averted.

Under requirements of the Stassen Labor Law, a brief period of time must elapse before the union can declare a strike, should that become necessary.

If the drivers are forced by employers to resort to the strike weapon, the union will revert to its original demands rather than adhere to the compromise demands it has proposed in an effort to settle the dispute peaceably.

Both Local 131 and the St. Paul Laundry Drivers Union Local 319 have written the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, asking for strike sanction.

Unionists Testify To NSP Threats, Pact Violations

Nash Coffee Sales in Sharp Slump

As a result of the strike of the Ottumwa Drivers Union against the Nash Finch branch in Ottumwa, Iowa, sale of Nash Coffee and Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer has slumped tremendously throughout the area. Thousands of union workers, plus friendly merchants, are refusing to touch any of the fink products of the labor-hating Nash Finch company.

Last week negotiations between strikers and management were resumed for the first time since December 20th, but nothing much developed. Further talks may be resumed next week.

In an effort to prevent pickets from seeing where the strikebreakers are delivering produce, Nash Finch salesmen last week stalled their cars in front of picket cars.

At one time, the Nash Finch workers in Ottumwa were organized in the CIO. During that period, the company said it was for organized labor, but objected to the CIO. Now that the workers are in the AFL and are demanding decent wages and working conditions, the company has suddenly discovered that it is the AFL that is objectionable. Workers in Ottumwa are learning the lesson that, for the employers, it is always the union you belong to that is the wrong one, and the one you don't belong to is the one he loves.

All union men and women are asked to abstain from purchasing any products of Nash Finch—Pabst beer, Our Family and Golden Valley groceries, and Nash Coffee—until the company sees fit to deal with the Ottumwa Drivers Union.

Several Hundred NSP Workers Attend Hearings in State Capitol

With several hundred union members in attendance, hearings before the Stassen-appointed three-man commission in the dispute between the Northern States Power company and the Minneapolis and St. Paul Electrical Workers Unions were resumed Monday. Because of the heavy attendance by rank-and-file unionists from the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, the hearings are being held in the house chamber at the state capitol. Part of the overflow crowd was seated in the balcony.

In the early part of the week the main evidence presented dealt with violations by the company of its agreement with the St. Paul union. George Hale, business agent of Local 110, testified of numerous company violations of the union contract, and told of the stalling tactics pursued by the company in negotiations. Hale told of the wage differentials between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Stillwater for employees doing the same type of work.

The St. Paul union also reported on the numerous attempts by company representatives to intimidate union members and union officials. Several union representatives told of threats of firings at various times when the union sought to enforce the seniority clause of the contract.

John Goldie, well-known Minneapolis labor attorney, has been retained by the two unions to participate in the presentation of evidence.

Members of the three-man commission appointed by the Governor under the Stassen labor law are Frank Allen, Earl Lyons and A. J. Campmann. Messrs. Miller and Gleason represent the company in the hearings. Neil Cronin is the company lawyer.

Sharecroppers Week is Observed, Reveals 350,000 Homeless Families

(In commemoration of National Sharecroppers Week, now being observed throughout the nation, J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, has written the following message, "Labor and the Okies," presenting facts about the nine million sharecroppers of the United States and their significance for organized labor.)

After many years, the workingman and the farmer have finally both realized that what interests them together and that what benefits them together is that their mutual dependence is many; not the least of these is the prevalence of tenancy and migratory labor among the farmers, especially in the cotton country.

Sharecropping was a makeshift system instituted after the Civil War when the freed slaves found themselves without land or work and returned to their former masters on a sharecropping arrangement. But after proud King Cotton was dethroned and a tremendous cotton surplus jeopardized the very existence of cotton farmers, the real social change took place. Small farmers lost their lands and turned into renters; they became sharecroppers; finally, with the advent

of mechanized cotton production, especially the tractor and mechanical cotton chopper and picker, were forced from their homes to become day-laborers during the season and paupers out of season.

The Hungry Hordes Of the nine million sharecropper men, women and children, more than 2,000,000 were reduced to these circumstances during the past five years. Many of them, 350,000 families according to government statistics, are now wandering from state to state in a desperate effort to earn a living as migrant farm laborers. Unorganized, these hordes of hungry, naked, shelterless people are a menace to all organized labor; they are a threat to the American standard of living, potential toys for the demagogues and agitators of Fascism.

The one ray of hope for these disinherited is the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. Its record for the past six years, during which despite tremendous odds, it has established itself as a factor in the South, inspires confidence that it will do the job it has set out to do. At its sixth annual convention held in Arkansas early in 1940, the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union prepared for the organization of the homeless wanderers. "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air

have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head" is the slogan of the Migratory Workers local of the STFU. Organized in a strong union, these people will be able to obtain better wages and better living conditions through collective bargaining. Educated and trained in democratic principles of Unionism, they will cease to be a potential strike-breaking army and will not so easily fall victims of unscrupulous agitators who threaten the foundations of our democracy.

These people represent a challenge to America. They do not seek temporary relief or pure government handouts—but intelligent, directed help which will enable them to once more become self-respecting, useful citizens with a decent American standard of living. Such a program has been worked out by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; its principal plank calls for the expansion of the Farm Security Administration to provide homes for tenants and sharecroppers—the chief source from which these migrants come. For the migrants themselves, the Union proposes the establishment of cooperative communities and farms where they can begin their lives anew. The Union also seeks

to extend the benefits of the Wages-and-Hours Law to the agricultural regions by providing that any large landlords—planting a cash crop of 25 or more acres—receive no government benefits unless he pays laborers at least 25c an hour for a 10-hour day.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union calls upon the Organized Labor Movement to support this program in the interests of solidarity and because the success of this program is a guarantee that Organized Labor's wage scales will not be cut by runaway shops and unscrupulous employers who seek to dodge the responsibility of collective bargaining. The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union calls upon the Organized Labor Movement to support a program for the Union's goal—that of making occupancy and use the only valid title to land. The Union's 35,000 members are united regardless of race, creed or color, in a great cause. They have built a movement for social emancipation whose purpose it is to achieve economic and social security upon the land for those who till the soil, a share in the fulfillment and extension of our democracy and active participation in the reclamation of the soil and the rehabilitation of the people throughout the region.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

# Sioux City Bosses Try New Frame-up On Drivers' Heads

## Place Kidnaping Charge Against Fouts and Johnson, Demand Death Penalty—Bail Is Refused—Case Involves Chiseling Boss Who Seeks to Avoid Paying Union Wage Scale—Alleged Kidnaping "Victims" Are Union Drivers—Sioux City Example Illustrates Tendency of Bosses and National Administration to Hamstring Organized Labor, Tie Up Unions in Courts

Sioux City, Iowa—The campaign of the local Business Men's Association to discredit the Sioux City Drivers Union Local 383 reached new depths early last week when County Attorney M. E. Rawlings filed kidnaping charges against Howard Fouts and Ralph Johnson, union officials, and placed them in the county jail.

On the grounds that the charge of kidnaping carries a penalty of death, authorities refused to set bail for the two unionists. The case will come up shortly before the county grand jury.

The dirty and sinister game of the labor-hating Sioux City employers and the public officials whom they control is becoming breath-taking. Officials of Local 383 are now involved in no less than three law suits, all involving serious (and framed-up) charges. To top it off, the non-union coal companies in this city have obtained injunctions against the union.

The kidnaping charge is the outgrowth of an attempt by the Gibson trucking company to operate under non-union conditions. Gibson recently contracted to do the hauling for the Haley-Neeley fruit company. Some weeks ago Local 383 notified Gibson he would have to sign a union contract and pay the union wage scale. Early in February, Gibson agreed to comply, but continued to stall along without signing.

Two weeks ago, organizers from Local 383 notified the union members driving for Gibson that until the company signed with the union, they were not to haul produce for Haley-Neeley. The drivers readily agreed, as they were of course anxious to help straighten out the boss and obtain union conditions.

The drivers went up to the union hall to wait until Gibson signed up. Instead, the company called the police and charged the drivers had been "kidnaped," a charge that was no doubt cooked up in advance with the Business Men's Association and the county attorney. County Attorney Rawlings, who has shown himself to be a tool of the anti-labor interests, filed the kidnaping charges, jailed Fouts and Johnson and denied them bail.

Commenting on the case, the Des Moines Federationist stated in its February 29th issue:

**Iowa Labor Paper Demands Oppression Cease**

"It would seem clear to the Federationist that a cleaneat case of civil liberties is involved, and that the labor movement, not only of Iowa, but of the nation, should be rallied to the support of the three accused men (originally, a third unionist, Cunningham, was also charged with kidnaping, but the charges against Cunningham were subsequently dropped). . . The rights of labor have been flouted to the high seas in Sioux City. . . But this latest move by Charlie McCarthy Rawlings, opening his mouth to let out the anti-union venom of the B. M. A., has brought the oppression to a point that it must be stopped. The rights of labor definitely are in jeopardy when a pip-squeak lawyer who happens to have fallen into an official position can demand the life of union leaders because they were attempting to build up their organization.

"The time has come for not only the union movement, but everyone who is interested in civil rights of Americans, to act.

"Unless America has lost her respect for the rights of her citizens, a din of protest should go up that will send Pip-Squeak Rawlings running for the protective arms of his B. M. A. sponsors, and should send the B. M. A. itself fleeing to the hinterlands.

"We don't think Howard Fouts or Ralph Johnson need to fear for their lives. The workers of Iowa—and of America—won't let them down. Their enemies in Sioux City may seem powerful, but their

friends, everywhere, are legion."

### Are FBI Victims

Fouts and Johnson, together with four other Drivers Union leaders in Des Moines and Omaha, were arrested last September by FBI agents and charged with "conspiracy" for an alleged violation of the law growing out of the 1938 bakery drivers strike in Sioux City. FBI agents boasted they had spent a year on the case and were out to "get" the union officials.

The men were subsequently found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. The case is being appealed.

The latest kidnaping charge, cooked up by the Business Men's Association and the county attorney's office, signifies that the reactionaries in Sioux City are willing to go to any lengths to stop the Drivers Union, the spearhead of unionism in that area.

Here are labor's enemies demanding the death penalty for union organizers who are guilty of no illegal act whatever. If union officials are to be charged with such monstrous crimes as this while carrying out their routine and legal union duties, then it is high time organized labor calls the bluff of the bosses and their stooges in official positions and has a showdown.

The drivers went up to the union hall to wait until Gibson signed up. Instead, the company called the police and charged the drivers had been "kidnaped," a charge that was no doubt cooked up in advance with the Business Men's Association and the county attorney.

Next Meeting—Wholesale Drivers on Thursday afternoon, 4 p. m., March 14. I don't suppose I have to tell you that it is important that all wholesale members attend this meeting as there will no doubt be some information regarding contract negotiations.

Back from a two-week trip to Texas, Louisiana and other points is Harry DeBoer, all full of pep and stuff and ready to get down to serious business on the contract.

289 unemployed, attention! Please report to Joe O'Hare in our office and register for part-time work which is available from time to time. At any rate, come up and see Joe and he will explain it to you.

Wilson Pepworth, Excelsior, is going to take about a month off to go to the hospital. Hope you turn up bright and sparkling as usual, Pepworth.

The 289 bowling team lost one of their class A performers last week when Wally Borseth of Continental broke his ankle. Having no details on this accident as to how or where, I'll have to let it go till next week, when I have more dope.

The Zinsmasters bowling league is going into the final stretch with the Whites in possession of a full three-game lead over the second place 100 Per-Centers. The Swedish Ryes had quite a write-up in the newspapers, having rolled three consecutive scores of 719 each.

Watching the Zinsmasters bowl last Friday night was Ralph Anderson who hobbled in with the assistance of a cane in time to see his former team-mates, the 100 Per-Centers, lose two games to the Swedish Ryes.

The regular meeting of the general membership of the local will begin promptly at 9 p. m., Monday, March 11.

Congratulations of the members are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Proctor, who have a new nine-pound baby boy, born February 29th, which means that "papa" will have to stand a birthday party once every four years. Harry is employed in the Webb Oil plant.

The final proposal on the Working Agreement for the filling station attendants was delivered to the employers this week.

Newman Udlin, attendant at the Pure Oil service, 500 11th St. S., is sporting the benefits in a union wage scale. Newman now drives a new 1940 deluxe Dodge.

Any member who is not receiving the monthly magazine from the Teamsters International, should notify the office immediately.

Your columnist spotted Arnold Melander, steward at Firestone Tire, cleaning walks in front of the station; Art Johnson, new manager of the Plus Service, strolling across Lyndale Ave. for a lunch; and James Martin, steward at Petroleum Service, delivering a tank of gasoline, last Saturday afternoon.

By the way, if there are any news items floating around your section of the city, you will be doing a favor by calling the office to let us know.

### Signs of Spring

(Without the Robins)

The boys at Zinsmasters were being asked when they want their vacations. It won't be long now, and somehow or other these warm days always bring out plans for that first fishing trip.

To the Ladeez: Its' getting tougher and tougher to think up things for you gals, so how about sending me something signed or unsigned. I'll certainly put it in the paper with neatness, promptness and dispatch. I'll be waiting for you, I'll even send the stamps if you wish by return mail. Recipes, household hints, anything will do.

It's getting pretty tough, I guess, when a so-called columnist has to go around begging for his material, don't you think?

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Diapers and aspirin for Finland! Isn't that something? We think these good hearted people should be wearing them to match their mentality.

Perhaps there might be a fink diaper service to deliver them. Then to pick Herbie Hoover to feed them. Now, isn't he the great engineer that was lost in a fog about 1932?

This, my friends, is a Republican's idea of leading us out of war.

One of the excuses for not being in our union is, "I'm waiting to see what they do with 544's books." Why not come up to the union hall? You can find out all the information from any good 544 member.

No wonder Carl couldn't catch that sticup artist, he was a college track star. Boy! Isn't education a great asset?

There has been a nasty under-handed way of keeping members from meetings that has not gone unnoticed.

A food strike would put a lot of people in line. We know just how those pickets out at Northwestern Hospital feel.

It seems we have heard that remark before about not being able to picket a place that was not run for profit.

We expect to find some hot stuff from our box for column material.

Ray and Jack went out after a fink to find he was the town clown nights at Golden Valley. Think nothing of it, boys, most of finks on the hill are deputy sheriffs.

Watch for our new dance announcement. (A n y b o d y seen Pinky?)

Mr. Green says he is going to organize the whole South. We say fine! But don't forget the domestic help and farmers, Willie.

Ted Gardner's on his way South with a new car. That guy must live right.

Dope on the poor fink who had an accident out in California; he was trying to save the boss' money by not sleeping in hotels and fell asleep at the wheel. One Cadillac plus one under-paid driver with no sleep, divided by one telephone pole at Victorville equals \$250 tow charge to Pasadena. But then, some people must learn the hard way.

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GR. 5166  
Directors and Advisors!  
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CLIFFORD PETERSON

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## Mortuaries That Are Fair

The following funeral homes are classed as FAIR to organized labor and worthy of your patronage:

Anderson, Barney & Son, 3644 Chicago Ave.  
Anderson Bros., 1117 East Lake Street  
Anderson, Henry W., 1839 East Lake Street  
Anderson, W. A. (Ehrentstrom), 1825 Riverside Ave.  
Billman, Dan, 2518 Central Ave.  
Burr Funeral Home, 3040 Lyndale Ave. South  
Davis, Harvey, 4084 West Broadway (Robbinsdale)  
Enga Memorial, 1300 Lowry Ave. North  
Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway  
Kozlak, Peter Funeral Home, 1918 University Ave. N. E.  
Larson, O. E., 2301 Central Ave.  
Peterson Funeral Home, 1838 Central Ave.  
Sullivan, Frank D., 2617 Hennepin Ave.  
Swanson's Mortuary, 1610 Lowry Ave. North  
Sundeth Funeral Home, 2024 Lyndale Ave. North  
Elliott Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Johnson Undertaking Company, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Oakley, Otis H., Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Simpson, Kenneth, Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.

All others considered unfair until such time as their name appears on the above list.

## With the Limousines

By Home James

Diapers and aspirin for Finland! Isn't that something? We think these good hearted people should be wearing them to match their mentality.

Perhaps there might be a fink diaper service to deliver them. Then to pick Herbie Hoover to feed them. Now, isn't he the great engineer that was lost in a fog about 1932?

This, my friends, is a Republican's idea of leading us out of war.

One of the excuses for not being in our union is, "I'm waiting to see what they do with 544's books." Why not come up to the union hall? You can find out all the information from any good 544 member.

No wonder Carl couldn't catch that sticup artist, he was a college track star. Boy! Isn't education a great asset?

There has been a nasty under-handed way of keeping members from meetings that has not gone unnoticed.

A food strike would put a lot of people in line. We know just how those pickets out at Northwestern Hospital feel.

It seems we have heard that remark before about not being able to picket a place that was not run for profit.

We expect to find some hot stuff from our box for column material.

Ray and Jack went out after a fink to find he was the town clown nights at Golden Valley. Think nothing of it, boys, most of finks on the hill are deputy sheriffs.

Watch for our new dance announcement. (A n y b o d y seen Pinky?)

Mr. Green says he is going to organize the whole South. We say fine! But don't forget the domestic help and farmers, Willie.

Ted Gardner's on his way South with a new car. That guy must live right.

Dope on the poor fink who had an accident out in California; he was trying to save the boss' money by not sleeping in hotels and fell asleep at the wheel. One Cadillac plus one under-paid driver with no sleep, divided by one telephone pole at Victorville equals \$250 tow charge to Pasadena. But then, some people must learn the hard way.

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## New Bowling Alleys Open In St. Paul

A group of five union workers interested in sports has opened up a set of eight bowling alleys at 490½ South Hamline street in St. Paul. The alleys are brand new and the place is, of course, operated on a 100 per cent union basis.

Jim Bartlett, president of the Warehouse Union Local 359 and one of the five interested in the alleys, invites all members of organized labor to visit the place. At present there is open bowling exclusively. However, league reservations are now being accepted for next fall.

The tenderfoot saw the dealer of the poker game give himself four aces from the bottom of the deck. He whispered this fact in shocked surprise to a nearby citizen.

"What of it?" the citizen replied. "Ain't it his deal?"

Mr. Green says he is going to organize the whole South. We say fine! But don't forget the domestic help and farmers, Willie.

Ted Gardner's on his way South with a new car. That guy must live right.

Dope on the poor fink who had an accident out in California; he was trying to save the boss' money by not sleeping in hotels and fell asleep at the wheel. One Cadillac plus one under-paid driver with no sleep, divided by one telephone pole at Victorville equals \$250 tow charge to Pasadena. But then, some people must learn the hard way.

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### Omaha Relief Czar Ousted By Six-Week Picket Line

Omaha, Neb.—Following six weeks of courthouse picketing by the Omaha Federal Workers Section, the county board on Tuesday fired E. F. Magaret, county relief administrator notorious for his inhuman starvation policies.

The county board voted 3-2 to oust the hated Magaret. Even the two dissenters, the World-Herald records, "protested only mildly against the dismissal."

Seeking a face-saving formula to cover up the fact that the pressure of the labor movement forced Magaret's dismissal, the board said the county relief czar was removed because "it was feared his continuance in office would prevent the surplus commodity stamp plan from being introduced in Omaha. The truth is that the Federal Workers Section backed by the Omaha General Drivers Union and the Central Labor Union put so much heat on the board that it had to act as it did.

Immediately after the board had dumped Magaret, one of the board members asked Jim Powell, leader of the FWS: "Now will you get that picket line off?"

The FWS has maintained its picket line demanding decent relief standards and the ouster of Magaret, in the face of Nebraska's anti-picketing law which has been under constant attack by the General Drivers Union and by Nebraska labor generally.

The prestige of the FWS has risen even higher since it has Magaret's scalp dangling in its belt. One third of the FWS membership is colored.

**"The Better Element"**  
Magaret's reaction to his ouster was typical. "The better citizens of Omaha know what I have been trying to do," he stated.

All during his public life, this business man has drawn such a distinction between the "better citizens" and the majority of the city. He has often boasted that he administered relief in such a way as to please the "better people."

With Magaret out, the fight for decent relief standards will be intensified, FWS leaders stated.

#### Card of Thanks

To Local 544:  
Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for your kind expression of sympathy.  
MRS. LAMBERT J. HALLGRAIN  
MR. AND MRS. RALPH COX

**Fidelity State Bank**  
Place your Federal Housing Loans and Auto Finance with us. The only bank controlled by Labor and business men  
INDEPENDENT

**Western Badge & Novelty Company**  
Bro. John A. Lethert, Prop.  
ST. PAUL, MINN.  
90% of all the Union Buttons used in Minnesota are made by us. Tel. Enterprise 3650  
No telephone charge for Minneapolis customers.  
Call Enterprise 3650

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**FOR REAL COMFORT HEAT WITH GAS**  
**MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT COMPANY**  
TELEPHONE MAIN 8133

*Sparkling*  
**GRAIN BEER**  
**THE FRIENDLY BEER**

### Sunday Forum Is Postponed to Hear Sharecroppers

The Sunday Forum for March 10th has been postponed because of the meeting for that date arranged in observance of Sharecroppers Week at the Halle Q Brown House, 553 Aurora avenue, St. Paul.

D. A. Griffin, member of the executive committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, will speak at 4 p. m. Sunday under the auspices of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Workers Defense League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the St. Paul Urban League.

Those who have been in the habit of attending the Sunday Forum at 919 Marquette are invited and urged to attend the meeting Sunday at the Halle Q. Brown House.

### 544 Bowlers Back in Cellar

Local 289 won three games from Soft Drinks which puts the Coca-Cola boys in fourth place. M. Mickelson had 627; F. Stanley, 573. Meat Drivers also blanked Local 544 to put them in the cellar alone. E. Gillespie had 556; W. O'Connell, 536. Local 359 took the odd game from Kenizes. G. Turner led with 538; Carlson had 520. Oasis Bar took a pair from Local 221. E. Klein had 530.

Team	Won	Lost
Local 289	45	24
Kenizes	39	30
Oasis Bar	37	32
Soft Drinks	36	33
Meat Drivers	35	34
Local 359	33	36
Local 221	26	43
Local 544	25	44

#### Card of Thanks

To Local 544:  
Acknowledging with grateful appreciation your very kind and thoughtful expression of sympathy.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Moss  
Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Moss

New Jersey is now considering banning paupers from voting or holding public office.

A. N. J. relief committee after an eight months investigation recommends: Every male adult of sound mind with three continuous years of relief would be assigned to the paupers list and his name would be published as a pauper.

The committee also urges "an agreement" by the relief applicant to reimburse the municipality from property then or later owned by him. Also, banks would be required to give full data on any deposit or investment of an applicant, recipient or "legally" responsible relative within a year prior to application. (Will this make more jobs in New Jersey?)

In Chicago there are 200,000 needy people getting free milk. When you move or change your address, notify the union office at once or else give the new number to your stewards. Your co-operation will help keep the ledgers in perfect shape.

Wife (at upper window): Where have you been at this hour of the night?  
Husband: I've been at the union meeting, considering a strike.  
Wife: Well, you can stay down there and consider this lock-out.

**Dr. R. S. Maybury**  
Dentist  
Sixth Street at Nicollet Ave.  
628 SYNDICATE BUILDING  
Main 4017 Minneapolis

**LOANS**  
\$20 to \$300 loans are made to wage earners and salaried people to meet financial emergencies or to take advantage of business opportunities.  
**HOUSEHOLD LOAN COMPANY**  
Owned and Operated by Household Finance Corporation  
Licensed pursuant to Chapter 12, Laws of 1939 of the State of Minnesota.  
Household Loan Company maintains offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Hibbing, Menkato and Moorhead.

**With the Dairy Workers Local 471**  
By George Bergquist

Last week our secretary-treasurer had to perform a very unpleasant task again; that was to notify a sick Brother he would receive no benefit because his dues were two or three days late. Our International has ruled that dues are payable by the first of the month. To this, Local 471 has added a "Grace Period" which makes the fifteenth a deadline and we must deal with it as such. It seems tough that we cannot stretch the point for a couple of days to one member, a couple of weeks to help another, and possibly a month to some. Such a policy is unsound and absolutely out so let's get our dues in by the fifteenth; if your receipt is not dated on or before said day you will receive no Sick Benefit. Certain members pay their dues a year in advance to be on the safe side; others keep one month ahead just to be sure. Anyway, let's get ours in before the deadline so we can enjoy the benefits our union likes to see us have.

Congratulations to Cecil Fulks on the fine baby boy and thank you again for the Floyd Olson Cigars (Union made). Here is hoping the little fellow grows to be an ace bowler like his "old man."

For several months past we have had a milk driver in the City Council, Brother Syl Blosky, alderman of the First ward. On account of the WPA arrests and the hard boiled grand jury most of us have stayed out of the court house, so here is hoping Brother Blosky can come over some meeting night and tell us all about his new job; wonder if it is more pleasant than "peddling milk."

Local 471 received a card of thanks from Mrs. F. Snyder for flowers, etc. Also, the Franklin Co-operative Brothers are to be commended for their fine spirit and beautiful floral gift.

Senator Shipstead to Local 471: Complying with your request I appointed Ralph Holter to the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Ralph is a son of Brother Holter of North Franklin. We are proud of both father and son.

On sick list: Brothers Lange, Park Board; Freeman, Sanitation; Pearson, Park Board; Saba, Park Board; Super, Equipment.

Saw Brother Joe O'Hare Saturday and noticed a change in his

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Whenever you need \$10 to \$500 for any purpose you owe it to yourself to investigate TIME'S simpler, easier system of lending money. TIME'S service is designed to fit YOU—not your neighbor. You'll like it! NO FEES, DEDUCTIONS OR WAIVER ASSIGNMENTS. Call or phone today.

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**100% Minneapolis Owned!**  
**BLUE & WHITE LIBERTY CABS**  
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**BURN GENUINE FORD COKE**  
Lowest Price in Years  
CALL  
**REEVES COAL & DOCK CORP.**  
8TH AND MARQUETTE BR. 2251

### Union Sharecropper Speaks Sunday Eve

D. H. Griffin, official of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, will speak at the Catholic Worker forum Sunday, March 10, 8 p. m., at St. Benedict's house of hospitality, 105 East Hennepin.

Mr. Griffin, a former sharecropper, is here in the Twin Cities speaking during National Sharecroppers week, March 3-10. This forum will be the last one until after Easter.

**ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664**  
By Wally Raze

Some 150 members attended the B.P.C. special meeting last week and all those present agreed on the idea of appointing a delegation to meet and confer with the B.P.C. commissioners Wednesday, February 6, on the partial or total elimination of lay-offs of employees. The committee is sincerely convinced, after a close study of the B.P.C. budgets and yearly financial statements, that a more efficient planning of the various services would make unnecessary the hiring of extra crews and, thereby doing away with these lay-offs among the B.P.C. regulars. At long last, a constructive plan of concerted action is under way and I, for one, am optimistic as to the outcome.

The number of employees laid off has increased to about 110 which is 110 too many. We need and demand 100 per cent cooperation from all B.P.C. men and here's hoping we get it.

The Equipment Department employees are swooning with joy over their totally unexpected acquisition of a brand new 100 per cent fink dispatcher. And what a fink!

Brother Pete Super, Equipment, recently had his appendix removed at St. Barnabas hospital. He may be at home at 1819 4th St. N. E. as you read this and I know he would read a little visit from his pals.

The 12 new Diamond T's have proved very satisfactory according to the drivers who operate them. They claim these trucks are way out in front of anything for that job in many ways.

Brother Siefert, cat-skinner, doesn't like road patrols nor gals either and gave out with several reasons for justifying said distikes. Very entertaining, too.

Rumor has it that Brother Lindahl ran afoul of a John Law in the vicinity of Oak Knoll not so long ago. Sez the law: "Yuh can't drive like that around here, even if yuh are a cat-skinner." And straightaway Brother Godfrey was separated from several simoleons earned the hard way—cat-skining. Doggone, there ain't no justice. Only justice of the peace. Rumor has it he is going to separate from more—and QUICK.

Brother Mick Lanigan received an epistle (letter, to youse guys) from Stan Fischer a few days back. Stan sez that he's lookin' over the waterfront in Seattle with the idea of taking a run up to Alaska soon. Mick and I will endeavor to keep you informed on the wanderings of your local Marco Polo.

On sick list: Brothers Lange, Park Board; Freeman, Sanitation; Pearson, Park Board; Saba, Park Board; Super, Equipment.

**544-ITO BOWLING LEAGUE**  
Team Won Lost  
City 58 14  
Diesel 46 26  
Dragline 43 29  
Committee 40 32  
Gravellers 37 35  
Minnesota 35 37  
Muckers 22 50  
Al Fontana: 212-541  
Einar Dahl: 208-529

### Unfair Standard Oil Stations Listed by 977

Keep this list of unfair Standard stations in your car and refuse to patronize them:

- Standard Stations—Downtown  
12th and Harmon Place  
104 Glenwood Ave.  
7th and 2nd Ave. South  
4th St. and 2nd Ave. N.  
Standard Stations—South  
Minnehaha and Lake St.  
50th and France Ave. S.  
22nd and Hennepin Ave.  
54th and Nicollet Ave.  
45th and Nicollet Ave.  
Lave St. at Lake Calhoun  
50th and Xerxes Ave. S.  
50th and Penn Ave. S.  
44th and Morningside Ave.  
38th and Minnehaha Ave.  
32nd and Lyndale Ave. S.  
Garfield and Lake St.  
24th and Bloomington Ave.  
51st and Hiawatha  
River Road and E. Lake St.  
27th and Hennepin Ave.  
48th and Chicago Ave.  
38th and 2nd Ave. S.  
32nd and Hennepin Ave.  
46th and Nicollet Ave.  
46th and Bryant Ave. S.  
Excelsior and Minnetonka Blvd.  
26th and 1st Ave. S.  
14th and Lyndale Ave. S.  
38th and Chicago Ave.  
Holmes and Lake St.  
2nd and Cedar Ave.  
42nd and 28th Ave. S.  
Standard Stations—North  
7th and Lyndale Ave. N.  
Girard and Plymouth Ave. N.  
Penn and 6th Ave. N.  
Plymouth and Oliver Ave. N.  
37th and Fremont Ave. N.  
Broadway and Rockford Road

### Independent Truck Chatter

By R. F. Hornig

In spite of the fact that the long layoff this winter will necessarily force all of us to keep an eye on our own jobs all the time we are going to try to work out a plan whereby a little cooperation by each member will go a long way to stop any wage chiseling and give all of us the greatest possibilities for work through the union.

A very strong recommendation from the Ways and Means committee will be offered for your consideration at our March meeting this week Thursday. All other business will be postponed until a full discussion has taken place over these proposals. Violators of our wage scales will be subject to the most drastic penalties: 1. cash fine (\$25 minimum); 2. loss of job seniority where recommended by the grievance board; 3. loss of union seniority through our Thursday unemployment registration (minimum 90 days).

The 5-yard haulers are back to hand-loading again. The big hopper in Hedberg-Fredheim's pit froze up too often on cold mornings when moist sand was held over from the previous day. Some times the boys laid around almost until noon on the WPA time.

More and more of our men are becoming convinced that we must get away from the two yard limit on big dirt jobs with equipment loading, and also for hand loading on long haul jobs. If we had set up a three or four yard rate with the park board we might have had an excellent chance to get this sand hauling to the bathing beaches.

There might be a sweet piece of scandal for any government examiner to check up on the purchase and operating expense of appearance. It took me several minutes, however, to identify it. Nothing serious. Just a different shaped pipe.

Brother Clair Johnson is getting positively portly.

Brother Brick and the Ace Kid attracted our attention Saturday at headquarters on Plymouth Avenue. We were all in high spirits. If any of you brothers need your car frame or axle straightened or wheels aligned, and brakes adjusted give the Bendix Service company located on Second avenue south between Eleventh and Twelfth streets a try. This is a 100 per cent union shop with fine equipment. As to rates, talk to Mr. Wickers. You'll be surprised.

**Brown's BETTER VALUES**  
**MOLER BARBER COLLEGE**  
K. W. Krausmann  
215 NICOLLET AVE. At. 9364

**MINNEHAHA GREENHOUSE**  
4288 40th Ave. S.  
Flowers, Plants, Floral Designs  
Members of The Settlers and Truck Drivers Unions  
DRoyal 4402 DRoyal 0974

**Watt Notes**  
By Amps and Volts

Local 160's Auxiliary is fast becoming one of the most active and best known auxiliaries in the city. The ladies are to be congratulated.

Our membership meetings this month are Thursday, March 7th, and 21st. Both meetings should be well attended so that the members can keep up with the times and get their information first hand. Do not rely too much on what you read in the daily press.

The meeting of March 21st should be really interesting and a packed hall is anticipated.

We understand the river ice in North Minneapolis is becoming unsafe for pedestrians. What will it be like two weeks from now?

To Wally Raze of the City and Sanitary Drivers: "Thanks for the plug you gave us last week." Hope all of you organizations feel the same way about it. We know plenty of people who do, and we sincerely trust the N. S. P. Co. will not put any of you to any inconvenience.

Big business is said to be complaining of government interference—so is organized labor.

As soon as our present difficulties are out of the way, the Group Health committee will have a full report to make to the membership.

Heard all over the job in every department: "We did not know that thirty days could be so long, especially when we are ready, willing and anxious."

The Union mourns the death of Andrew Wojciak, who was killed in a fall from a scaffold at Sixth St. Substation on Monday. He was one of the best-loved members of the Construction Department, and known for his kindness. His good humor and genuine smile were welcome on every job and in any company. His many friends will hold sacred a spot in their hearts to the memory of Andrew. The funeral was held at 8:30 a. m. on Thursday from his home and at 9 a. m. at the Holy Cross church at 17th and University Ave. N. E. Interment was at St. Mary's.

St. Cloud branch was glad to welcome Chester Morfit and Clem whose silly contraptions called Dumpster Dumpsters. Now the latest rumor concerns a deal trading these fakes off for another branch called the Brugger load Lugger.

This column is running out of wind. It is even hard to find information on the union to pass along and becoming impossible to make up any more stories that will have any sense. Some jobs had better show up soon.

I guess we will have to concede that our City Contract bowling team is pretty good. They followed up their victory over the 544 team on our alleys with another two game triumph on Bill Ambrose' favorites at the Recreation alleys last Sunday. Ralph Mengelkoch and Kenny Corbett subdued for Dahl and Herby Paulson.

My life won't be safe around 257 Plymouth from now on if I fail to admit to the public that the famous team of Hansen, Hamel, Hork and Dubay captained by Rainbolt took our Minnesota team into camp for two games. However, right now I want to issue a challenge to anyone who wishes to challenge to these Organizer champs that our Committee team will have an open date the last Friday of the season on March 29, at 9:30 p. m. We want revenge!

House-holding business is good. Matt Kukar put one up this last summer on a lot he owned and claims he netted more on its sale than the truck returned all summer. John Moller is now engaged in building a swell place out in Edina.

Do you think war is very far away at present? Minneapolis-Moline is already making shells.

544-ITO BOWLING LEAGUE  
Team Won Lost  
City 58 14  
Diesel 46 26  
Dragline 43 29  
Committee 40 32  
Gravellers 37 35  
Minnesota 35 37  
Muckers 22 50  
Al Fontana: 212-541  
Einar Dahl: 208-529

**YELLOW TAXI CO.**  
Main 7171

### What Labor Can Expect in War

Here are two items indicating the fate of the labor movement in the "democracies" in times of war:

1. A United Press dispatch from Marseille, France, dated Feb. 28—"The government has crushed the first strike attempted in France since the war started, it was disclosed today. Severe 'sanctions' were applied to strikers in a national defense factory working on war orders. Foreign workers were arrested and ordered deported. French workers of military age were transferred to combat regiments and dispatched to the front regardless of their technical skill. Non-mobilized workers who were indicted for striking will be tried under a severe war-time decree, and may be jailed."
2. An item from London, dated March 3, appearing in the N. Y. Times—"Ten men and women were arrested in Hyde Park's soap-box row today while selling official publications of British Communist, Fascist and pacifist organizations. Among those arrested were members of the Peace Pledge Union who were selling the Peace News."

**7th Ward F-L Club Party March 9th**  
The Seventh Ward Farmer-Labor Club will give a card party Saturday, March 9th, 8 p. m., at the fire station, 42nd street and Cedar avenue. The public is invited.

Benson into the union. They took the obligation at the last meeting. The secretary also reports that considerable back dues have been paid up.

Some of the members of the Executive Board of the St. Cloud branch were interested listeners and silent boosters at the hearing before the governor's three-man commission at the State Capitol this week.

Brother Neuens, from St. Cloud, is in a quandary these days. He doesn't know whether he's glad or sorry he didn't go to Michigan to work.

The hearings before the three-man commission appointed by the governor and held at the State Capitol this week have been so well attended that it was necessary to hold them in the House Chambers. In order to find room a part of the crowd had to seat themselves in the gallery. Just before noon recess, on Monday, a remark by John Goldie (counsel for the Union) received such a hilarious round of applause that it was necessary for Earl Lyons, presiding chairman of the commission, to call for order. He reminded the bystanders that this was the same as a court of law, and that they would have to conduct themselves in the same manner they would if they were in church.

Now how about Neil Cronin's record on LABOR? Remember it at the polls, boys, if he ever decides to run for an elective office.

**ORGANIZER WANT ADS**  
(If you are a subscriber, your ad will be published here free of charge. Mail or phone the Northwest Organizer, 253 Plymouth Avenue North, Bridgeport 8741.)

**Sale Miscellaneous**  
1934 FORD 1 1/2-ton hydraulic dump truck, 3 yd. box, 1 1/2 shape. Bill Hansen, Du. 2521. 4056 30th Ave. S.  
BABY BED, 57 inches long. Dining room set, table, buffet, five chairs. Light oak. Good condition. DU. 578.  
LADY'S BEST QUALITY black plush coat. Fur collar and cuffs. Worn only few times. Size 42. Very reasonable if taken at once. GR. 9597.  
FOR SALE—Deluxe factory-built, two-wheel house tractor, 17 ft. Sleeps 4. Oil burner, elec. and gasoline stove, ice box. One year old. \$500. Call GE. 4691 for more information.  
CANARY BIRDS, all colors. Guaranteed. Also cages, 3509 Snelling Ave., Minneapolis.  
RUBBER MAT MACHINE, in very good condition. Reasonable. \$14. 1979.  
1939 CHEVROLET de luxe town sedan. Radio, heater, defrosters. 5,400 miles. Just like new. 1002 Thomas Ave. S., on Wayzata Blvd.  
FULL SIZE SIMMONS BED, deluxe spring and mattress, complete, like new, \$11. Colfax 2386, 2633 Pillsbury.  
TWO CROCHETED bed spreads. Crocheted scarves, dresser covers, table cloths. DU. 8166. 2733 29th Ave. S.  
BOYS DARK SUIT, zipper sweater, overshoes, shirts, slacks, hat. All in good condition. Size 12. Outgrown. 3400 Emerson Ave. S., Apt. 6.

Northwest Organizer

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EDITORIAL BOARD MILES DUNNE, Chairman GENE LARSON L. CLAIR JOHNSON HAROLD SEAVEY Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNNE

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.

Behind the 544 Suit

V.

(In the first four articles dealing with the fink suit against Local 544, we have shown the economic gains made by the drivers and by all organized labor since 1934, and revealed that these gains at the expense of the employers' profits constitute the real reason for the series of attacks on the General Drivers Union, including the book suit. We have examined the plaintiffs' document in the book suit, and shown it to be employer-inspired. We have presented, stage by stage, the history of the book suit, and have reviewed briefly the testimony of union members and of plaintiffs presented in January, 1930, before Judge Carroll. In the article below, we present the history of Local 544's Independent Truck Owners Section.)

History of ITO Section

Because of the city-wide organization of truck drivers following the 1934 strikes, it became necessary for the best interests of all members of the General Drivers Union to divide the organization into sections for each type of trucking operation. There grew to be approximately thirty sections. These sections were not established arbitrarily but evolved as the union grew. Each section has its own peculiar problems.

One of these sections is the Independent Truck Owners Section. The independent truck owners were practically the first members in the union. In the coal industry they constituted the overwhelming majority of the drivers who delivered coal to the public.

When the NIRA code for the coal industry was introduced in the early years of the first Roosevelt administration, it brought about a deep slash in the incomes of these drivers. Because they were unorganized, they were unable to secure a decent hourly wage rate, and the NIRA code simply shortened their hours, forcing their weekly earnings still lower. In order to protect their livelihood they were impelled to organize.

Each one of these men either owned or was buying a truck. They were at the beck and call of coal companies, or other employers. None of them had any regular employment, or any guaranteed minimum wage. They were accustomed to make deliveries whenever called upon, under piece-work rates established by the employers. When called upon to make a trip, they were told what would be paid for the trip. If the pay was very low, the only choice open to the driver was either to make the trip, or look elsewhere for work.

Were Backbone of Union

These independent truck owners from the very start were a mainstay of the union. The very first strike of the resurgent General Drivers Union—the coal strike of February, 1934—was conducted largely by independent truck owners. When the union had become well established, the ITO was an important section of the organization.

As the economic depression continued, a number of governmental agencies came into being, and ambitious construction projects were financed by the government. These public programs created a demand for large numbers of persons who owned and operated trucks. Such workers received a higher wage than those workers who owned no trucks or tools of their own.

This demand for trucks by governmental agencies, combined with high-pressure salesmanship on the part of truck salesmen, induced thousands of men on relief to borrow the down-payment on a used truck and go to work for the government as independent truck owners. Most of these men had no previous experience in the trucking business, nor in the trade union movement.

Confronted for the first time with the responsibility of maintaining expensive pieces of equipment and forced to earn a "nut" that would keep them going, these men flocked with little prompting into the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544, the only union in the field.

During this period, the economic depression continued and in 1937 once again was scraping along the bottom, creating vast unemployment in the trucking industry as in other industries.

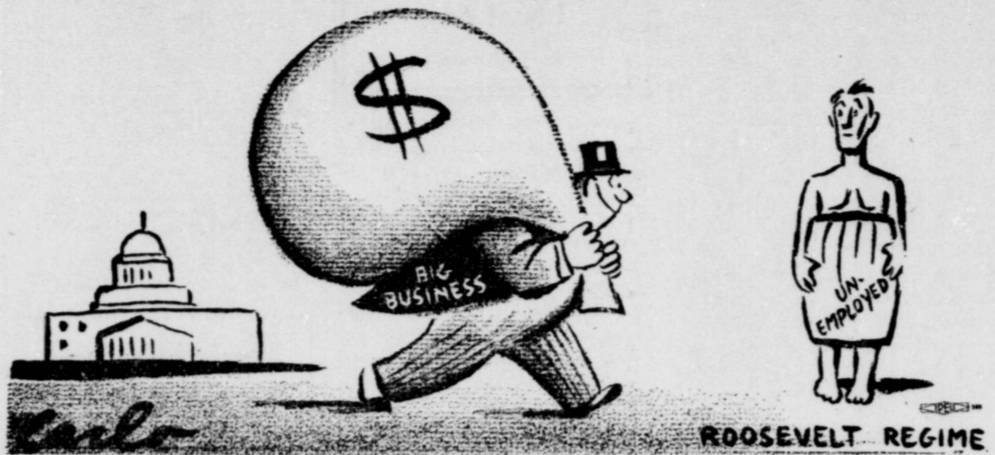
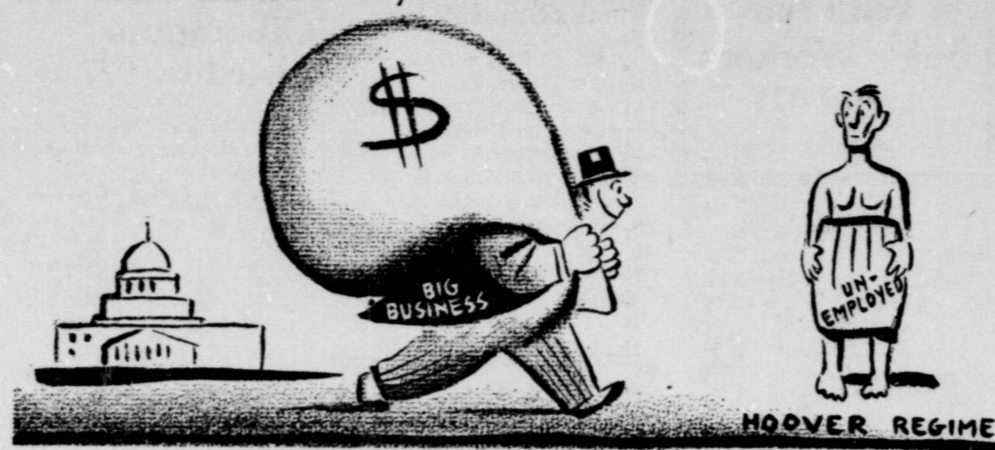
Government Hits Prevailing Scale

Then the WPA and PWA administrations, under pressure from the construction companies, began to change its policy of truck hiring. Instead of paying the prevailing (or union) scale of wages to independent truck owners and other workers, the government instituted the competitive bid system of hiring trucks whereby each truck owner would bid against every other truck owner. Wages were driven down and down, and there would always be found some truck owner who would bid still less on a government trucking job. This process, just as its instigators planned, worked havoc with the union wage scale among independent truck owners, threatening all the conditions of employment established by the union over a period of years. Reports began to come in from all parts of the country telling of the distressing conditions among the independent truckers, and of their protests.

More and more the government discriminated against contract truckers, giving preference to the man on relief who happened to own or to be able to get some sort of truck.

This change in government policy was reflected inside the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544. For the first time, one section of the ITO was

The Way It Looks to Us



This Is What It's All About

The war-makers in all countries are up against something tough in this war. IT COMES TOO SOON AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR WHICH WAS FAKED AS A "WAR FOR DEMOCRACY."

Too many millions of people still remember that the only people to gain from that war were the wealthy, that not democracy but tyranny came out of that war. And it certainly does no harm to remind the people again and again that this will be the case in the Second World War, now in its initial stages.

Next time any of you begin to be taken in by the fakers who yell about "saving democracy abroad," about "the rights of small nations," about "poor little Finland," read the excerpts below, from a circular just issued by a Canadian brokerage house.

"With the stage all set for Canada to enjoy a tremendous industrial boom as a result of war orders, you now have an opportunity to make your capital work as it never worked before."

"Indeed, you have a chance to become rich in this war boom, if you have sufficient funds for employment in a wide range of 'war babies.' But, irrespective of what may be the size of your present capital, if invested in the RIGHT stocks, it can be made to DOUBLE, TRIPLE AND QUADRUPLE within a comparatively short period of time."

"It's simply a question of knowing what war industries will prosper to the greatest extent and which 'war babies' in those respective industries are likely to have the biggest rise."

"Among the Canadian industries that should immediately receive full benefit of the demand for war material, munitions and supplies, are iron and steel, chemicals and explosives, aircraft and heavy manufacturing."

"Within these industries are numerous companies, 15 of which we have thoroughly analyzed for their potentialities as 'war babies' and upon becoming a 60-day trial subscriber to the Indicator's service, you will get analytical data covering these companies."

"You will also receive the complete details concerning a little-known company which produces a vitally-essential war material that will be in big demand by the Allies, along with information relative to the market-profit possibilities of its shares."

aligned against another section. As can be clearly seen, this conflict was not brought about through any actions of the union or its leaders, but was due solely to the new hiring policies of the government.

Union Takes Fight to Washington

In an attempt to mediate the clash of interests between the sections of the ITO, union leaders sought to reach an agreement with state officials of the governmental agencies. When it was discovered that the state and local officials had no authority to change the government's reactionary policy, the union voted to send some of its officials to Washington, in an attempt to thrash out the matter with federal officials and to reach a clear understanding of the situation. Local 544's committee went to Washington and was indeed successful to a degree in remedying the government's policy as it applied to Minneapolis.

During this controversy within the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544, a small group of relief truckers began to organize a rump organization, meeting in a hall at 27th and Lake. This rump grouping selected a committee to meet with government officials and union officers to discuss grievances.

In the meantime, Local 544's committee had reached agreement with the government on a series of proposals which cleared up in large measure the grievances of the relief truckers, most of whom ceased attending meetings of the rump organization and came back into the ITO.

The remaining rump members, among whom were the five plaintiffs who later brought the suit against Local 544, participated in the organization of a dual union, "Local Number One."

Irrespective of the original intentions of those who formed "Local One," this dual outfit immediately drew to itself all those elements hostile to Local 544, including the employers of Minneapolis, the Communist Party, etc.

Actually, the rump outfit was formed in the summer and fall of 1937, although it may be true that the organizational work did not culminate in "Local Number One" until February 4, 1938, at which time the group adopted its name.

Seeing the direction in which the dual organization was heading, and feeling the scorn of genuine union men for "Local One," most of the rump members were quickly drawn back to the bona fide union movement. The only drivers remaining with "Local One" were those most hostile to union principles and to the General Drivers Union. Among those who stayed with the dual outfit were the five plaintiffs who later initiated the fink suit. Remember, these plaintiffs swore in court and out of court that they were loyal and devoted members of Local 544.

To Be Continued

... the last word

By B. and C.

Our comments on the Gallup Poll last week brought forth the following remarks from—believe it or not—a male reader. Because we have no quarrel with what he has to say, we'll let him speak for himself:

Dear B. and C.:

In "the last word" a journalistic reserve for women exclusively? If so, then in writing to it, especially when the words are those of criticism, I am guilty, no doubt, not only of poaching but of the more heinous crime of attempting to get a last word in "the last word."

Your column, usually excellent, last week whooped it up for the Gallup Poll, maintaining it was honest, accurate and scientific. Much of what you said was true. But you erred grievously, I meekly insist, in what you omitted to say. It is not enough to point out that today the poll is an accurate barometer of public opinion. It is necessary to tell whose poll it is and who is paying for it.

The men who run the poll are tied in with the Wall Street interests in the no small matter of how they earn their dough. Their politics are boss politics to the core. Moreover, the poll is kept, if you please, by the boss press. Do you think the yellow press which attacks the labor movement at every turn in every way, distorts the news and lies on every page will permit a true expression of mass sentiment on crucial issues in times of crises? My instincts tell me emphatically, "No!" Don't you?

Even now, Gallup demonstrates his pro Big Business bias by the way his poll phrases its questions. Recently, for example, the poll asked: "Do you think labor unions should be regulated to a greater extent by the federal government?" An overwhelming majority replied "yes." Why didn't Gallup propose instead of an abstract and friendly concert of "regulation" specific concrete federal restrictions? Remember that the effect of this poll on this question helped to throw into high gear Roosevelt's criminal "anti-trust" drive against the unions.

Last April the institute wondered: "Do you think there are ANY persons on relief in your community who could get jobs in private industry if they tried?" 69 per cent said yes. That was dynamite for the anti-WPA and relief offensives. But suppose the word "any" had been "many"? Do you see the trickery?

The anti-war sentiment of the people is correctly registered by the poll. But tomorrow when the boss class prepares to plunge into war, conveniently another Lusitania or Panay or Athenia will happen along. The headlines of the same press that brings the poll's results will shriek the need to go to war. Nurtured all the while by the prostitute press, the virginal Gallup Poll, I predict, will discover "scientifically" that 99 and 44/100 per cent of the people are for war.

Let us pause a moment before we gush forth our approval for any boss-controlled

173 FUR COATS PRICED FOR A SELL-OUT \$68

Buy Now for Next Winter on Our Layaway TERMS TO SUIT YOU \$5 IS ALL YOU NEED

LOOK AT THESE VALUES

Table listing fur coats and jackets with prices, e.g., Mink Dyed Muskrats \$68, Skunk Jackets \$68, Silverton Muskrats 68, Dyed Skunk Greatcoats 68, Russian Ponies 68, Persian Lambs 68, Chinese Kid 68, Chekiang Caraculs 68, Black Kid Caraculs 68, Russian Marmots 68, Fox Jackets 68, Super Seal 68.

Complete line of Chubbies \$19.95 up

SHOP GUARANTEE COMPARE Every Lichterman Fur Coat carries a 2-year written service guarantee.

LICHTERMAN FURS 1920 Hennepin Ave.

On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)

the mortgage holding banks. They begin their northward trek during the winter in the vegetable fields of Florida, thence to the cotton fields and peach orchards of Georgia, to the Carolinas to pick strawberries, tobacco, and vegetables, next to thin apples in the Shenandoah valley, from there to the truck farms on the coasts of Delaware and Maryland. They end their travels in the cranberry marshes of New Jersey.

Interesting facts pertinent to the Ford Motor Company's attitude and actions against organized labor are being laid bare in the National Labor Relations Board hearing in Dallas, Texas. Several witnesses, formerly employed as company "guards" are testifying as to methods for keeping organization out of the Dallas plant.

For instance—one former guard told last week about being assigned to do nothing all day long for a period but follow the CIO attorney, Mr. W. J. Houston, and report on all of his comings and goings. For another period this same witness put in a "stretch" listening to all of the phone calls out of the Houston home. During June of 1937 Mr. Houston and a companion were severely beaten up as they left a downtown drug store. The men who beat them were arrested and immediately released to the custody of the general manager of the Ford plant. In fact, Mr. Houston testified that when he arrived at police headquarters to file his complaint, Mr. Moseley, the Ford company manager, was already there and knew all about the beating even before the prisoners had been brought in!

Another witness, Luda E. Shepard, assistant foreman of the Kansas City Ford plant, told of attempting to gain entry to the Dallas plant to visit. He was met at the gate and escorted out of town, released without a hearing only when he convinced his captors that he was "hostile to the CIO." He was warned not to join the union as "you may

medium. Let us examine the Gallup Poll more critically, warn our readers of its ultimate degeneration while we avail ourselves of what is valid in it today.

Do I get in . . . the last word? Masculinely, M. F.

Even though we relinquished the last word on that subject, we want to add here that next week we'll have some information about the new pre-fabricated house that was erected recently on 56th and Camden. We went out to see it the other day but only managed to peek through the windows because no one was there. We'll get in next time, even if we have to knock.

The society matron explained the necessity for immediate prison reform at the state penitentiary: "Nowadays with so many of our very best people being indicted and sent to prison, we really must make their surroundings more pleasant and elegant."

get what the rest of the boys got."

Another former "goon" in the employ of the Ford plant told of arrangements for breaking up a union mass meeting which was held in Fretz Park. He said one group of squads was assigned to "keeping the women and children out of the way and get the sound records being made of the meeting." Another group was to have seized the speaker and tar and feather him. The witness said the tarring and feathering fell through because when the gang arrived at the park an old man was speaking and "he didn't look like he could take it." So they concentrated their efforts on the moving picture operator.

Witnesses have also testi-

ified that special squads of "loyal employees" were assigned to spy upon and report any union talk to their superiors. Roaming squads kept sharp look-out for CIO organizers who might get into town and by special telephone arrangements, always had plenty of their fellows near at hand for beating up the suspected unionists.

Mr. Ford has always been foisted upon the public as a great philanthropist, one of those mythical Horatio Alger boys who rose from simple mechanic to one of the greatest tycoons of our time. His charities are given much publicity. Apparently his philanthropy doesn't extend to his employees! There is workers' blood on every Ford that rolls down the highways.

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

Table listing meeting schedules for various local unions. LOCAL 471: General Membership—First and third Tuesday each month, 7 p. m. LOCAL 160: General Membership—First and third Thursdays. LOCAL 221: Day Laborer Section—First Tuesday each month. LOCAL 1859: General Membership—March 6, 1940. LOCAL 958: Night Drivers—1 p. m., third Thursday each month. LOCAL 544: Wednesday, March 6—Sausage; Petroleum Thursday, March 7—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners Friday, March 8—Wholesale Grocery; Meat Drivers Monday, March 11—General Membership Tuesday, March 12—Lumber Wednesday, March 13—Market; Wholesale Paper, Wholesale Liquor Friday, March 15—Job Stewards Monday, March 18—Furniture; Coal Thursday, March 21—Tent & Awning; Newspaper 10 a.m.; Ways & Means ITO Friday, March 22—Cold Storage and Produce Monday, March 25—Spring Water Tuesday, March 26—Building Material Wednesday, March 27—Sand & Gravel & Excavating Thursday, March 28—Transfer & Warehouse; Wholesale Drug Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall 3. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local 544 office, first floor. The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 a. m. in the large hall on the first floor. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise indicated.