

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Local 544, CIO
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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!

VOL. 7, NO. 9

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1941

FIVE CENTS

Local 544 Revolts Against Dictator Tobin; Huge Meeting Votes to Lead Move into CIO

Plain Talk to the Minneapolis Bosses

Gentlemen:

Six weeks and more have passed since the General Drivers Union Local 544 presented contracts to all the major employers' groups in the city. Like all Local 544 contracts that have ever been presented, these contracts have been drawn up and ratified by the members of the various union sections. Though in all cases the men have been unanimous in demanding increased wages to meet the rising cost of living during the coming year, in no case have their demands been unreasonable or unrealistic or out of line with similar adjustments achieved by millions of workers from coast to coast.

Yet for six weeks you employers of Minneapolis have stalled negotiations with Local 544. You have delayed, played for time, joked—and refused to get down to cases and talk to the point with serious men representing six thousand other serious men.

As a matter of cold fact, YOU HOPED THE DAY HAD COME WHEN YOU NO LONGER HAD TO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE GENERAL DRIVERS UNION LOCAL 544 AND ITS LEADERSHIP.

A few months ago you saw the Committee of 99 and other committees being formed in Local 544, attracting a handful of disgruntled people, and carrying out your program in the union. You became jubilant. You mistook a corporal's guard for the main army. You permitted the Associated Industries to hop you up over the picture of freeing yourself forever from the union's insistence that you pay decent wages, concede decent conditions, live up to the spirit and the very letter of the union agreements.

You figured that with the aid of Stassen and his man, Blair, you could surely confuse and demoralize the ranks of Local 544. You chuckled when Stassen ordered Blair to declare the bulk of the union's strike notices "invalid"—though you knew just as we know that these strike notices were absolutely legal and were identical with hundreds and hundreds of other strike notices served by scores of unions in the past, and accepted without question.

When President Daniel J. Tobin of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL, came to your aid by publicly attacking the leadership of the General Drivers Union, you had the local daily papers play up the attack. With Tobin and Stassen on your side, you thought your little game was won, that after seven years the Open Shop would again reign in this city.

You danced when in collaboration with Governor Stassen you got in direct touch with Tobin and instigated negotiations on contracts, negotiations carried on behind the backs of Local 544's membership and negotiators. (Yes, we have been tipped off about this sweet little game.)

In an expensive effort to demoralize Local 544's membership you threw plenty of blue chips into Kline's campaign fund, in return for which he trumpeted the hoary red-baiting charges against the General Drivers Union and the teamsters' movement of Minneapolis.

Right up to Monday night, you thought everything was set to spring the trap. It seemed to you that you'd thought of and prepared for every contingency.

And then your whole campaign collapsed. You had miscalculated after all.

You had forgotten the lesson we taught you in 1934, the calibre of our union and its members and leaders, their devotion to unionism, their fierce determination to defend union democracy and the honor of the General Drivers Union.

By voting to disaffiliate from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and to accept the proffered charter in the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Local 544 has dynamited your trap just when you were prepared to spring it.

All right, gentlemen. We start anew. The time is drawing short. If you want to re-establish peaceful relations with Local 544, our door is open, our negotiators and our membership are ready.

But if you should prefer a test of strength, if you should fall for the propaganda of the Associated Industries and the banks, the six thousand members of Local 544 are ready for that, too. Our friends are ready.

We needn't remind you that since Monday there has been a change to our advantage. Should you choose to fight, we would not enter the fight with a tyrannical and dictatorial Dan Tobin at our backs, ready to knife us at the moment most opportune for you. No, if it comes to a fight, the Minneapolis General Drivers Union Local 544, CIO, can count upon not only the local labor movement that has learned to love and respect this union for its effective aid and its accomplishments and spirit; if it comes to a fight, Local 544 will have at its back the powerful

544 Meeting Votes to Go CIO



Part of the huge 544 membership meeting Monday night that enthusiastically accepted the invitation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to join that progressive labor body.

Three Telegrams

FROM A. D. LEWIS TO LOCAL 544

Miles B. Dunne, President
Local 544

IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF TODAY THE UNITED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE WILL BE HAPPY TO CHARTER A LOCAL UNION OF TRUCK DRIVERS AND HELPERS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE PROGRESSIVE TRUCK DRIVERS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA WILL MOVE AT THEIR MEETING TONIGHT TO APPLY TO OUR ORGANIZATION FOR A CHARTER. WE VISUALIZE THIS MOVE ON THE PART OF THE TRUCK DRIVERS IN MINNEAPOLIS INTO OUR ORGANIZATION AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE COMPLETE ORGANIZATION OF ALL TRUCK DRIVERS IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE CIO.

KINDLY EXPRESS MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE MEETING AND ASSURE THEM THAT IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE CIO AND OUR ORGANIZATION TO BUILD AN ORGANIZATION OF WHICH ALL MEMBERS CAN BE PROUD.

KINDLY EXPRESS TO THEM ALSO THE HOPE THAT I MAY AT SOME FUTURE DATE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING WITH THE MEMBERSHIP IN MINNEAPOLIS PERSONALLY. WITH KIND REGARDS I AM FRATERNALLY YOURS,

A. D. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN

FROM LOCAL 544 TO A. D. LEWIS

A. D. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
UNITED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE CIO, WASHINGTON, D. C.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF GENERAL DRIVERS UNION LOCAL 544 HELD THIS EVENING, JUNE 9TH VOTED BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY TO DISAFFILIATE FROM THE IBT AND THE AFL AND TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO BECOME PART OF THE CIO. WRITTEN REPORT AND FORMAL APPLICATION FOR CHARTER FOLLOW BY MAIL.

GENERAL DRIVERS UNION LOCAL 544
MILES B. DUNNE, PRESIDENT
KELLY POSTAL, SEC.-TREAS.

FROM THE CIO TO LOCAL 544

Miles Dunne, President
Local 544:

YOUR WIRE ADVISING OF TRANSFER OF GENERAL DRIVERS UNION LOCAL 544 FROM AFL TO UCWOC, A CIO AFFILIATE, I AM GRATIFIED AT THE ACTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL IN TRANSFERRING THEIR AFFILIATION AND BELIEVE THAT THIS PROGRESSIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE DRIVERS OF MINNEAPOLIS IS A FORERUNNER OF ACTION ON THE PART OF MANY OTHER TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY REQUESTING AFFILIATION FROM THE CIO ON AN INDUSTRIAL UNION BASIS. AM ASKING BARNHARDT TO PROCEED TO MINNEAPOLIS IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST YOU IN MAKING TRANSFER.

A. D. LEWIS

resources of the great new labor movement that today dominates the industrial scene of America—the CIO.

Dictator Tobin and his local Quislings have been knocked out of the picture. The encircled have become the encircled.

Peace or war! The time is short. Make up your minds.

Signed: EXECUTIVE BOARD
Local 544, CIO

Locals B-160, B-23 to Meet Jointly

A special joint membership meeting of the Minneapolis Utility Workers Union Local B-160 and the St. Paul Utility Workers Union Local B-23 will be held Monday, June 16th at 8 p. m. at the Hippodrome in the state fair grounds.

This is a joint meeting of the two locals for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the proposed 1941-42 agreement with the company.

Enthusiastic Membership Votes Overwhelmingly to Leave Tobin's Union, Join CIO — Union Move Blasts Trap Laid by Tobin, Stassen and Bosses — CIO Welcomes Local 544 Into Fold, Launches Nationwide Campaign to Organize Motor Transport Drivers — Tobin Had Proposed Local 544 Admit Phony Charges Against Them Were True and Ask IBT for Dictator-Receiver — Tobin and Local Quislings Asked for Fight, Local 544 Will Finish It

Resolution Approved Monday Evening, June 9th, by Membership of General Drivers Union Local 544

In view of the unwarranted attacks directed against our union by President Daniel J. Tobin, and his arbitrary and dictatorial threats and actions which have been prejudicial to the interests of our membership, and giving aid and comfort to the employers in their refusal to renew our contracts, it becomes necessary for General Drivers Union, Local No. 544 to end this intolerable situation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by General Drivers Union, Local No. 544, in regular membership meeting assembled, that we hereby disaffiliate from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, and Helpers, A. F. L., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we accept the invitation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) to become a constituent part of that great progressive body of labor, and we do hereby so affiliate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of General Drivers Union, Local 544 is hereby instructed to take all necessary measures accordingly.

Labor Vote Defeats Police Amendment, Elects Labor Men

Labor Control of City Council Is Seen — Fitzsimmons Makes Great Race in 10th Ward — Blanchard and Cunningham Elected — Central Labor Union Waged Great Campaign, Laid Basis for Future Labor Political Victories

Rallied by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union's Political Committee, labor went to the polls Monday in sufficient numbers to elect the bulk of the labor slate of candidates. Of particular significance was the defeat labor handed the bosses' attempt to saddle the city with the Police Dictator Amendment Number Nine.

As in 1937 when a similar amendment was submitted, labor conducted a hard-hitting educational campaign against the program for a life-time police dictator and then marshalled just enough votes to defeat the proposal. The margin Monday was but 441 votes.

Of the aldermanic candidates, labor elected Harold Kauth in the 1st ward, Henry Bank in the 3rd, Walter Murphy in the 5th, Edwin Hendricks in the 6th, Eric Hoyer in the 9th, Herbert Finseth in the 11th, and Edwin Hudson in the 12th.

Bob Fitzsimmons, labor candidate in the 10th, ran a spectacular race, running up 6,642 votes to 8,054 for his reactionary opponent, Lund. Al Johnson received over two thousand labor votes in the 2nd ward, losing out to the incumbent, Van Cleave.

Labor to Control Council
With all aldermanic incumbents re-elected, the 13-13 deadlock in the city council is broken through Kline's ascendancy to the mayor's chair, leaving the laborites a 13-12 edge and the right to name a labor man as Kline's successor in the 8th ward.

T. A. Eide, bearing the endorsement of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, lost the mayoralty race to Marvin Kline, boss candidate, by a margin of 5,862 votes. Kline polled 80,359 to Eide's 74,497. Eide tossed away the election in the final weeks of the campaign by his cowardly and contemptible attitude towards Local 544.

Eide permitted Kline and the boss press to stampede him into a repudiation of the most progressive section of the labor movement, and thus gave offense not only to the 6,000 members of the General Drivers Union, but to their families and friends. Eide's political cowardice in the face of reaction lost him the race, his second defeat in two years, and wrote "finis" to his political career.

Let the defeat of Eide be a lesson to future labor aspirants to office. You cannot ask for and receive labor's endorsement, and then kick labor in the face during the campaign, and expect anything

Local 1859 Strike at Mobash Shade

Following the firing of a worker for union activity, the Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 on Wednesday called a strike against the Mobash Window Shade-National Window Shade concern. The union is demanding reinstatement of the victimized worker, with back pay, the closed shop and wage increases. The strike has the approval of the Central Labor Union policy committee.

Local 1859 has also served strike notice on the Protective Products company. Stassen's man, Blair, repeated his trick of rejecting a union's strike notice, turning down 1859's notice on some flimsy technicality. The union immediately shot in another notice.

Important To Delinquent 544 Members and To The Unorganized

Having completed the move from the AFL into the CIO, the Minneapolis Local 544, CIO, wishes to start off with a clean slate.

The union executive board therefore has moved to accept for reinstatement into Local 544, CIO, all members who have become delinquent in dues under the old set-up. Reinstatement can be affected by the payment of the current month's dues of \$2.00.

Drivers and allied workers not hitherto members of Local 544 may also join Local 544, CIO, simply by paying the current month's dues of \$2.00. Until further notice this decision will remain in effect.

FLASH!

Local 221 Votes To Join 544, CIO

Tuesday the Day Labor Section of the Ice Drivers Union Local 221 voted unanimously, without one dissenting vote, to join the General Drivers Union Local 544, CIO, and become a part of the industrial union set-up for motor transport drivers and allied workers in this vicinity.

The resolution calls for immediate disaffiliation from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and that "we join General Drivers Union Local 544, CIO, and accept their invitation to become a party of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, CIO." Local 221's executive board is instructed "to take all necessary measures accordingly."

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

... the last word

By B. G.

Since I wrote in this column about the sufferings of both Chinese and Japanese women in the war I have seen an article in the daily press which states that the war in China and Japan is a "hoon to women," that since China went to war with Japan the "Chinese fair sex gets freedom."

And while on the subject of women in the Orient, it is a little known but easily substantiated fact that Japan is the only country in which all the best writers are women.

According to an army doctor at Fort Lewis, Washington, "super men" could be created through scientific diet supervision.

The problem of slums is one that is apt to be passed over lightly, especially if one is fortunate enough to live in a decent home.

To permit tenement houses and apartment houses that are fire traps and breeders of all sorts of crimes and diseases to exist is to be inefficient, wasteful and is a worse crime than any of those committed by tenement house dwellers.

Movie Review of Buck Private: This pictures a rosy life for draftees. Everybody is on equal terms and poor down-trodden fellows get a chance to punch their enemies in the snoot.

Revive the Spirit of 1934! The action of Local 544 in accepting the invitation of A. D. Lewis, chairman of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, to join the ranks of the CIO produced varied reactions.

Little Man, What Now?

The action of Local 544 in accepting the invitation of A. D. Lewis, chairman of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, to join the ranks of the CIO produced varied reactions.

We have never met the gentleman with the removal complex, but we advise him, before he sounds off any further, to get in touch with Daniel J. Tobin and ask him how he is feeling after his ill-starred attempt to "remove" the duly elected officials of Local 544.

Unions that are "run democratically" are unions which select their own leaders and permit no one else to interfere. Local 544 is such a union.

LOCAL 1859 Knots to You

By Richard B. Gilmore

At the J. R. Clark section meeting last Friday, the vote was two to one for starting work at 7 a. m. However, the turnout was not as heavy as was expected.

Brother John Janosco reported on the Death Benefit fund and was requested by the membership to obtain more definite information than was obtainable at the time.

(1) The membership wants to know the status of workers laid off;

(2) Definition of what constitutes good standing before the benefit board.

Brother Janosco will have this information at our next meeting.

Members of 1859, attention: Every member who wants to vote on the Death Benefit fund must produce his due book at the next general membership meeting.

Brother Norman Hartman took the holy bonds of matrimony last Saturday with a pompous ceremony which set the little village of Osseo all agog.

Sister Tony Lux of Traveler reported on the picnic committee at the last meeting. The date is August 10th at Eagle Lake.

There are thousands of unorganized people who would appreciate our side of the story... if they KNEW IT. Pass your Northwest Organizer along to them.

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Pittsburgh Drivers Still Out

The strike of over 2,000 members of the Pittsburgh Drivers Union Local 249 went into its second week Monday, with no settlement in sight.

With the Limousines By Home James

My dear Mr. Home James: I'd like you to put the following in your column, if you will. I have been handed a copy of the letter of President Roosevelt from our International President Dan Tobin taken from the New York Times dated June 6, 1941.

"We feel that it would be selfish, inhuman, cowardly and un-American to follow the doctrines advocated by a few American citizens, of preserving our own skins at the price of the destruction of the democratic nations and peoples of the world; and we add that such expressions on the part of the very few citizens who advocate such selfish procedure do not represent the feelings and beliefs of the multitude of the working men and women throughout our nation.

"We again repeat that we hereby pledge ourselves and solemnly promise to follow your leadership and that of your associates in this dark and fateful hour which confronts us and endangers the civilization of the world; and we further promise that — come what may—we and our people, those whom we represent, are prepared to make any sacrifice demanded of us for the preservation and continuance of this freedom."

Mr. Tobin takes the liberty that he speaks for each of us. As one who put two years in the last mess, I speak for myself and I hope you all do. A right to vote on laws as to conscription in peace time or declaration of war, when it comes. No Dan Tobin, Senator Ball or any other self-appointed dictator whether politician or laborite may represent my views until I give them my permission, and I am sure thousands of others in all unions feel the same way. So speak up.

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Firms That Are Unfair

to Laundry, Linen and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131

Dyde Wash, 718 Washington Ave. N. Star Valet Cleaners, 2744 Lyndale Ave. S. Bridge Cleaners, 1510 4th St. S. E. Don's Campus Cleaners, 1300 4th St. S. E. Edina Cleaners and Tailors, 4952 France Ave. S. Joe Glass Cleaners and Dyers, 3304 W. 44th St. Gopher Cleaners and Dyers, 811 4th St. S. E. Hennepin Ave. Tailors and Cleaners, 2015 Hennepin Lunow Hennepin Cleaners and Tailors, 2015 Hennepin Lake Dale Cleaners, 622 W. Lake McKee Cleaners, 2858 Chicago Ave. New Deal Tailors and Cleaners, 1512 E. Franklin Plaza Cleaners and Dyers, 1418 3rd Ave. S. Rosedale Cleaners and Dyers, 9 West 43rd St. Rustic Lodge Tailors and Cleaners, 4811 Nicollet Sir Knights Cleaners and Dyers, 2403 Lyndale Ave. S. Busy Bee Cleaners, 4752 Grand Ave. Penguin Cleaners, 714 W. Lake St.

Note: Some of the drivers at the Liberty Cleaning and Dyeing company are UNFAIR TO LAUNDRY, LINEN AND DRY CLEANING DRIVERS LOCAL 131. If you patronize this firm be sure to ask the driver for his union book or button.

How Commodity Prices Have Risen Here During Past Year

Employers' organizations and government bureaus have put out so many misleading "statistics" with the purpose of playing down and minimizing the swift rise in commodity prices that it is imperative for the labor movement itself to check up on the rising cost of living.

Table with 4 columns: Commodity, Price, May 1941 Price, Increase in Cents, Percent Increase. Rows include Eggs, Butter, Bacon, Sugar, Lard, Pork Chops, Flour, Round Steak.

GAS LOG

By James Mooney

The diamondball team lost its first game of the season to the Minneapolis Moline team by a score of 7 to 5. The Gas company got off to a flying start by scoring four scores in the first inning but loose play in the final innings turned apparent victory into defeat.

Al Holtz of the Utilization who has been on sick leave for a long

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TAXI TOPICS

By Carly

The Y. C. Twins have taken on a new member, making it triplets. Ed Harlan, George Taylor and Wally Larson, when they're "right dress," the equator line is 100 per cent where their fallen chests are held in by their respective belts.

Local 958 continued its winning ways and defeated a strong Columbia Heights nine last Sunday, 12 to 9. Though the opposing team got four runs in the first inning our team came back strong and in the fifth inning went on a scoring spree themselves, garnering eight runs to salt the game.

ON BOSSES The lust of gold, unfeeling and remorseless, the last corruption of degenerate man. — SAMUEL JOHNSON.

A man never speaks of himself but at a loss; his accusations of himself are always believed, his prizes, never. — MONTAIGNE.

citizenry has spoken and as good citizens we are glad to heed the voice of the majority.

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AFL Accepts Roosevelt Blow at Unemployed, CIO Protests

When President Roosevelt on May 20th asked Congress to throw 300,000 workers off WPA and to slash the WPA appropriation to \$886,000,000 for the coming fiscal year, it was not unexpected.

But when the executive council of the American Federation of Labor now comes forward to endorse Roosevelt's blow against the unemployed, labor has a right to stand on its hind legs and protest at such callous submission.

While admitting that the latest AFL estimates show there are still 7,000,000 unemployed, the AFL tops say the Federation "approves President Roosevelt's recommendation to Congress that WPA appropriations for the coming fiscal year be cut by \$109,000,000."

"It would be dangerous and fool-hardy, however, to slash the appropriations more drastically," says the AFL. Why, the President's proposed slash is so drastic that not even the most hardened figure in Congress has suggested making it worse.

The AFL's attitude towards the WPA cut can be characterized as nothing but complete capitulation, and a desertion of the interests of the unemployed.

The CIO, on the other hand, has put up somewhat more of a fight for the unemployed. Estimating the number of unemployed in March to be over 9,000,000, CIO secretary James B. Carey told the House appropriation committee that the WPA budget figure for the coming year is far below the needed amount.

"The CIO urges that you appropriate at least enough to care for the 3,000,000 needy unemployed. This can be done with no less than \$2,500,000,000. It is beginning to appear that we are being blinded to the plight of this large segment of our population by the pressure for increased defense production."

44% Cut Roosevelt's proposal, if passed by Congress (as seems likely), will mean that 44% of those now on WPA will be cut off before the summer is over.

Tens of billions for munitions and ships and tanks and dive bombers, but not even one billion to make existence possible for millions of unemployed—that is what the political servants of the wealthy of Washington mean by "national defense."

Knox Gelatin Claims False

Knox Gelatin may taste good, but about every other advertising claim made for it is false, the Federal Trade Commission has announced.

The government has ordered the Knox company to quit representing that: "Knox gelatin increases vim and vitality, lessens fatigue, increases staying power, restores vigor or stores energy; enables a person to sleep better, lessens the seriousness of athletic injuries, increases muscular work capacity 100 percent, or is an amazing discovery."

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That Way.

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