

Where Are Millions of N R A Jobs Roosevelt Promised?

There Are No Figures and We Don't Need Any, Says Johnson

By I. AMTER

THE purpose of the National Recovery Act, they tell us, is to put the millions of unemployed back to work, to raise wages and to raise prices.

As to the millions who are "going back to work," this is all *poppycock*. General Johnson himself admits that there are no records, and they "don't need any. Anybody knows that the workers are returning." But this is untrue—to say the least.

In Youngstown, a blast furnace has closed down at the Republic mill and 200 workers were laid off. The capitalist papers state in one column that "steel production remains unchanged," and in the other "steel production tapers off." It is one or the other—and not both. The capitalist papers of Youngstown declared that production stood at 64 per cent last week and now is close to 50 per cent. That does not mean "unchanged," but decreasing—and the workers are being laid off.

Furthermore, increased or sustained production does not mean that more workers are working. In the Brier Mill plant of the Republic Steel and Iron, in Youngstown, a worker used to turn out 90,000 pieces—now he is forced to produce 160,000 pieces. "If we turn out less than 130,000, they tell us they cannot use us."

More interesting is the report in the New York Times of July 23rd, which stated that it had been hoped that 50,000 new textile workers would be put on in the South as a result of the cotton code. But what were the facts? Just the opposite. In Vir-

ginia, they put on a few workers. But the New York Times stated: "Virginia is not a textile state. The Carolinas are. In South Carolina there are more spindles in place than in any other state of the union. In North Carolina more spindles are in operation than in any other state. These states are not putting on any workers." (Emphasis ours.)

THE non-union coal operators declare that they will not hire any new men. But the purpose of the recovery act was supposedly to return the unemployed to employment!

There are even more shameless aspects that must be noted. The Libby, Owens and Ford Co., producers of the famous Libby cut glass, in Toledo, employs 1,300 workers. On Friday, Aug. 11, the Libby Company put the blue eagle into its window. It announced in screaming stories in all the Toledo papers that beginning Monday, Aug. 14, the 1,300 workers would henceforth work only 6 hours a day with 8 hours of pay. This was big-heartedness; This was real "getting behind the president and the recovery act." But on Saturday, Aug. 12, they fired 600 workers!

In Cleveland there is a small knitting mill. The wages were low, but the generous, patriotic employer accepted the code. He raised the pay—and then fired all the workers. He rehired part of the crew as apprentices, whom he will keep for seven weeks, and then fire them; then he will hire a new crew of apprentices! In the Clark restaurants in Cleveland the waitresses used to get \$7 a week. Then they got a raise according to the code—but they have to pay for their food, uniforms, laundry, lockers, etc., so that their actual wages are lower than before the blue

eagle went up in the Clark windows! At other restaurants, the same thing!

Will the A. F. of L. help the workers in this situation? The A. F. of L. leadership is part of the government machinery to force the workers to accept the act and the various codes. Green is member of the National Industrial Administration. Lewis and Hillman are members of the Advisory Board. In the towns, cities and states, the government is setting up similar boards, to carry on a ballyhoo campaign and to enforce the code. Thus the A. F. of L. officialdom is pledged and sworn to force

the workers to accept the provisions of the codes, whether the workers agree to them or not. On the basis of the strike situation in Western Pennsylvania, Roosevelt established a "general principle" of compulsory arbitration. The local, state and national labor boards will hear all grievances. General Johnson has the final word. Will William Green, John Lewis, Mike Tighe, Sidney Hillman and the rest of the labor fakers lead the workers in struggle against the recovery act and the codes? They CANNOT—they WILL NOT. Therefore the workers have no hope of improving their conditions by mass power through the A. F. of L., which has given up the right to strike.

AN example will make this clear. The auto code calls for 41 1/2c an hour in towns of less than 500,000 population. This applies to Toledo. At the Overland works, the workers have been put on this minimum scale. Some of the workers at the Overland are not satisfied. Through their lawyer they have written to Roosevelt, stating that they cannot live on 41 1/2c an hour and demanding 60c minimum scale. Of course Roosevelt will do nothing, for the code calls for

Fire Many When NRA Codes Are Applied in Many Plants

41 1/2c and that is the LAW. Will the A. F. of L., which is trying to organize the workers at the Overland, do anything but talk? It will not. If the workers wish to strike against the miserable conditions of the code, will the A. F. of L. help them? It will not, for it is sworn to uphold the code and to prevent strike?

The situation is not improving but steadily getting worse. The building of the militant industrial unions under rank and file control; the building up of the fighting Unemployed Councils and the uniting of them in struggle AGAINST the N I R A; the drawing in of the fighting poor and small farmers, who are feeling the "beneficial" effects of the N I R A are of basic importance.

In this sense, the Trade Union Conference in Cleveland on Aug. 26-27 is of vital significance. The purpose of this conference is for the mobilization of all forces in the country for the fight against the N I R A, for workers' rights, for the right to live! Groups of workers in the steel, auto, mining, rubber, railroad, textile, metal and all other shops and mills must elect their delegates to this conference. The workers in the militant, independent and A. F. of L. unions must not fail to elect their delegates. The A. F. of L. officials will oppose it. You must fight for it and elect your delegates whether the officials agree or not. If you can not get the whole local, have the minority elect its delegates.

On to Cleveland, Aug. 26! The battle is only starting!