

Workers' Mass Effort Must Force Roosevelt To Fulfill His Promise of Jobs

Civil Works Program Tries to Cover Up N.R.A. Failure

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following article by I. Amter, national secretary of the Unemployed Councils, exposes the Public Works and Civil Works program of the Roosevelt administration as an attack on the working class of the United States. The article analyzes Roosevelt's program, gives the demands of the unemployed and employed workers in combatting unemployment, and the organizational steps necessary in achieving these demands. The

Central Committee of the Communist Party calls on all workers to read the article carefully for the correct line in the struggle against unemployment.

By I. AMTER

The Roosevelt administration, through its appropriation of \$400,000,000 for the so-called civil works program, is endeavoring to conceal the disastrous collapse of the "New Deal" and the continuous deepening of the crisis.

Production in all important industries is declining, with a resulting increase in unemployment and part-time work. The occasional flare-ups

in single industries which Roosevelt attempts to interpret as "recovery" do not alter the basically downward trend of the crisis.

N.R.A. A Miserable Failure

The N.R.A., with its promise of 5,000,000 jobs, of shorter hours, of higher wages, has miserably failed. The Administration's public works program, with the exception of the military and naval expenditures, is still paralyzed by bureaucratic red tape. Official spokesmen now postpone the launching of the public works program at least until spring, thereby openly abandoning the very plans which were to provide the promised jobs to the unemployed.

In the meantime the discontent among the workers rapidly grows. The widespread strike struggles which have swept the country, involving hundreds of thousands of workers

and tens of thousands of poor farmers, show every sign of growing over into still more determined struggles of the masses of the toilers, Negro and white, workers and poor farmers, against the increased misery and suffering brought on by the deepening crisis and the collapse of Roosevelt's starvation program.

The strike struggles of recent months, the mass actions of the unemployed, the fear of still greater struggles this winter—all these are

A Job or Relief for Every Worker, Is Demand

haunting the Roosevelt regime. It is these facts—the combined mass pressure of the toilers—that now causes Roosevelt to come forward with his so-called civil works program, his appropriation of \$400,000,000 for immediate civic odd-jobs with the promise of jobs for 2,000,000 workers at wages ranging from 50 cents to \$1.20 an hour. This partial victory of the

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workers indicates what real gains can be won through greater organization and struggle.

But the workers must have no illusions with regard to this C.W.A., this new civil works program. This is so far just another Rooseveltian promise. In practice it will lead to new attacks on the workers' living standards UNLESS the workers, through their organized mass effort, make this impossible.

Roosevelt, through this new manoeuvre, hopes to dull the fighting spirit of the toilers; he hopes to create division between skilled and unskilled workers, between the few given jobs and the mass of the unemployed; he hopes to give jobs to a few as a cover for his plans to cut millions off the relief lists; he hopes to add universal forced labor to his already established citizen's conservation camps and transient camps. In short, under the guise of helping the unemployed, Roosevelt hopes to reduce the cost of maintaining the unemployed. Under the guise of his civil works program, Roosevelt wishes to reduce the tax burden on the rich, abandon real public works, avoid unemployment insurance, and place all the burdens of unemployment on the workers themselves.

Already the forced labor character of the C.W.A. is evident: long hours of waiting in the cold at the registration offices, the bullying of bureaucratic officials and foremen, threats of no further relief for families and assignment to transient camps as vagrants, etc. Furthermore, it is already clear that at the registration bureaus efforts are being made to force workers to leave militant trade unions—T.U.U.L. and independent unions—and to join A.F. of L. unions dominated by a reactionary, corrupt, bureaucratic leadership which works hand and glove with the Roosevelt starvation regime.

A Job Or Relief

To sum up: Roosevelt's C.W.A. program is brought forward in an effort to counteract the growing mass discontent and the mass struggles against the effects of deepening crisis. As in the past he will endeavor to make the C.W.A. a new weapon against the workers.

The appropriation of \$400,000,000 shows that by struggle the masses can gain even more. By organizing the masses for the broadest struggle, we can compel the government to secure further funds to prevent further starvation. There is plenty of money in the country in the hands of the corporations and banks, which have increased their profits and dividends during the past years. Our task is now to raise demands that will compel the government through well organized, militant struggles to

"find" these funds.

We must demand:

1. A job or relief for every worker, whether married or single, white or Negro, native or non-citizen.

2) A guaranteed 30 hour week with four full weeks work each month. The abolition of wage differentials between North, South and West. The enforcement of the minimum wage set on every job, with standard trade union wages as the minimum for all skilled workers. Increases in wages to meet higher prices.

Right Of Negroes To Jobs

3. Workmen's compensation on all jobs. The government has announced that workmen's compensation does not apply to relief jobs.

4. Right to organize recognition of the job committees; right to belong to any union of the worker's own choosing.

5. Right of Negroes to jobs of any grades or categories, with equal pay for equal work.

6. Against every form of discrimination against single workers and non-citizens.

7. Suitable clothing, shoes, boots, etc., for every worker.

8. Transportation to and from the jobs and no docking for time lost through stormy weather, sickness, etc.

9. Free rent, gas and coal, free milk, clothing and shoes for children of the unemployed.

10. Workers' control of registration.

Organizational Steps

In order to build up organization to carry on the struggles on the relief jobs, the following steps should be taken:

1. Immediate registration of all unemployed members of the Party, YCL, unions, Unemployed Council and sympathetic organizations. All unemployed Party and YCL members should immediately register for these jobs since there is no more important work for them at this time than building up organization of the relief workers.

2. Utilization of these contacts for building up organization on the job, for electing job committees comprising workers belonging to unions and unorganized workers. Such organizations as committees, associations, (or Protective Union or any other name the workers select) should be brought forward.

3. Organization of meetings in the various sections of the city for the purpose of setting up the union.

4. Linking up of the job committees through delegates into a Relief Workers Council which will be able to take action on various jobs.

T.U.U.L. Must Be Active

The unions of the Trade Union Unity League must be very active in building these organizations, for recruitment into their ranks and for building and strengthening the opposition in the reformist unions. At the same time, Party fractions must be formed on each job and active recruiting into the Party and YCL be carried on.

Wherever possible and provided it will not narrow down the limits of the organization, the Relief Workers Protective Union should be linked up with the Unemployed Council through delegates.

While carrying on the organizational work, mass agitation must be conducted—at the registration bureaus, on the jobs, in the neighborhood etc. Good results can be obtained if proper attention is paid to this very important task.

This is a most important task for every District and Section Committee, which must immediately get on the job. Great flexibility must be shown both in demands and form of organization, since experience will teach us the best lessons.

Yonkers' Employees, Unpaid for 15 Weeks Again Refused Pay

YONKERS, N. Y.—With school teachers, firemen and other city employees unpaid since Aug. 15, the city of Yonkers today refused to meet its current payroll of \$350,000. This amount will bring the total arrears in city payrolls to \$1,500,000.

Westchester County, in which Yonkers is located, has announced the sale of tax anticipation warrants for \$1,500,000 in order to meet payments to a group of ten Wall Street banks headed by the Morgan Chase National Bank.