

RIGHTS SABOTAGE WINDOW STRIKE

Attack Union Fighters, Defend A. F. of L.

By GILBERT LEWIS.

On October 16 the Window Cleaners went on strike for the 5-day, 40-hour week and 10 per cent wage raise, granted to all other building service unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. That these demands have not been won already is due largely to a disruptive right wing group playing the game of the bosses.

They have attacked all militant fighters for the union, and concealed the strike-breaking role of the bureaucratic leaders of the A. F. of L. shown in strikes all over the country. They not only conceal the many betrayals of striking workers by the A. F. of L., but they defend the A. F. of L. leaders with the same propaganda as is used by the capitalist press.

The right wing group spread the slander against Peter Dreck, one of the best militants on the Settlement Committee, that he was secretly demanding from the bosses more than the union demands. This slander was the work of the bosses

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to demoralize the strike, and the militants exposed it as such, with the result that the strikers twice voted to retain Darck. But this only made the bosses, and their spokesmen of the right wing in the union more vicious than ever, and many members not fully understanding how the bosses have their propaganda put over in unions, a week later the right wing managed to have Darck removed.

The bosses thought they had the strike spirit broken so they granted a conference. They were so sure the right wing had done the job of breaking the strike morale that they offered nothing but what could have been won without a strike. This opened the eyes of many, and the men not only unanimously rejected the terms of the bosses, but put back Darck on the Committee.

One of the tactics of the right wing which clearly exposed them as dominated by the bosses, was their attack on the union leaders for the leaders' attempt to spread the strike to the janitors, porters, scrub-women, etc., throughout New York. This would have strengthened the Window Cleaners enormously, and would have brought the bosses to terms, while helping to organize all the unorganized in the Building Maintenance trades.

But the right wing fought this, with such foolish assertions as that "women cannot be organized," that the leaders did not have the consent of the A. F. of L.—which never visited the strike and never contributed a cent. It never helped, but it did send a telegram the night the strike began, forbidding the men to strike, a part of the general sell-out that began six months before when the International officials corresponded with the bosses.

The right wing, which opposes even the idea that the strike is a part of the struggle of the whole working class against the whole capitalist class, and which calls the militant leaders "strike-breakers," are the same who two years ago split the union because they could not run it, and formed a scab union. They used to come to the union hall with the police of the "industrial squad" and points out workers, accusing them of attacking scabs.

These police informers are at their wits end, and it is expected that to help the bosses break the strike, they will call in the A. F. of L. officials to try to force the membership to expel the militants as Communists, and put over a lot of soft soap about what fine terms the union will get if it expels the militant leaders. Of course, after the militants are kicked out and the right wing given control by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats, the bosses will give the workers nothing.

The workers must be awake against such an attempt to sell-out their strike, and stick to their demands no matter who tries to kid them into giving them up or "postponing" them, no matter how hard the A. F. of L. misleaders beg them to "go back to work first and everything will be fixed." A strike is won by staying off the job. And the basic demand for a five-day, forty-hour week, must be held to by every

striker.