

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

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

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574 LAUNCHES FERA FEDERAL WORKERS UNIT

Welfare Board Announcement Gives Little Help to Workers

574 Will Lead Fight for Improved Living Standards on Relief

The June 18 issue of the Minneapolis Daily Star carries two news items on relief. One telling that the welfare board will propose a five per cent increase in food allowances for relief workers with small concessions for rent and gas and electric bills. The other tells that the salaries of M. U. S. Kjolraug and Dr. A. C. Tingdale have been increased \$600 per year.

There is a very poor proportion between these two sets of figures and the workers are on the short end.

Local 574 is preparing the answer to this problem. A new section, the Federal Workers Section, has been organized in 574 to take up the problem of the relief workers and fight for a better standard of living. Meetings of this section will be held each Friday night during the organizing period.

Students Strike at Hearst Propaganda

A movement, initiated by university students, is under way to boycott the Hearst-Metrotone News which William Randolph Hearst uses as a medium for militaristic and reactionary propaganda. This movement started at Williams college where the Williams Record, student paper, circulated a petition demanding that the manager of the local theater stop showing this feature upon his screen. The manager voluntarily complied before the petition was presented to him. Immediately pressure was applied by various Hearst agents, by the son of the editor of Liberty, and by a representative of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer interests. Since the manager of the theater depended for patronage almost entirely upon the students he refused to reconsider his decision.

At this point the Association of College Editors mailed copies of the petition to eighty-nine affiliated college papers. Protests have begun to come from Princeton, Wesleyan, Amherst, Dartmouth, Harvard and Yale, with indications that the movement will spread even farther.

The insidious Hearst-Metrotone News is being shown by many northwest theaters. Progressives in the labor movement will do well to follow the students' lead.

Strike Victories To Be Celebrated

The First Annual Labor Progress Exposition sponsored by Local 574 and the Laundry and Dry Cleaners Local 18005 is moving along in good style. The committee in charge reports this is to be the big trade union event of the summer.

One of the features of the exposition is the chance to win a new 1935 Plymouth sedan on a ten-cent admission ticket. The car is on display every day at 7th and Hennepin. All members and friends are asked to take a book of tickets and do their bit to make the exposition the biggest success we know of.

The exposition marks the first anniversary of the July-August strike of last year and is to be a yearly event. In keeping with the record of the strike, it must be a big event. Every member and friend of 574 is asked to do their bit.

As an added inducement to ticket sales the committee has arranged a discount on tickets to anyone selling a book. For complete details call or see Oscar Coover, committee chairman, who has opened an office at the new headquarters of 574 at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. At. 3773.

IUAW DEFEATS BOSS EFFORTS TO CUT WAGES

Union Blocks Attempts to Reduce Standards of Workers

Local 1 at Austin Reshapes Structure to Better Serve Members

Word comes from the Independent Union of All Workers at Austin, Albert Lea, Faribault and other points that with the passing of the NRA there have been concerted efforts by the employers to lengthen hours and reduce wages. When the workers belong to the union their attempts have not succeeded. Unorganized workers not having fared so well are now coming into the union.

The IUAW at Austin is now in the process of reshaping its organizational structure so that the union may better serve its members, and we can look for a new hum of activity from these workers.

All workers into the unions; all unions into the struggle.

Labor at the Cross Roads

The Organizer has called attention to the shortcomings of the craft unions. To repeat would be nothing new, but the desperate situation that confronts the American workers warrants our calling especial attention to the wasted efforts of the past lest we repeat them.

Under craft organizations we spent our efforts in helping build up our employers' business and not in the building of militant working class movements to protect and improve the working conditions of the workers. This under the false theory of class collaboration, believing that the welfare of the employer would also mean the welfare of the worker.

The plumbers' union many years ago helped the employers pass and enforce a law requiring a master plumber's license to obtain permits to do work on a job, even though this made it difficult for the unemployed worker to do work on his own time. In exchange the boss plumber's gave the workers a wage agreement.

Electricians likewise entered in support of the master's license barring the journeyman from the right of taking contracts of his own. Some unions made this grounds for expulsion from the union.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers, a left wing union, went into the banking field and loaned the friendly employer money to conduct his business with. This was hailed as a means of bringing the new day of co-operation. Railroad Brotherhoods went into the banking game, as matters later proved, much to the cost and sorrow of the membership all over the country.

The barbers' union was used to sell the labor movement the boss barbers' desire for more money on the plea that the only way wages of these low paid union men could be raised would be for all union men to help pay the increase, only small portion of which came back to the union members.

The milk drivers like the barbers were used to sell the public the increase in milk costs. Railway clerks, and especially the company unions of the railroads were used to fight the coming of truck competition.

Street car employees were used in the Twin Cities recently to oppose rate benefits to the public on the grounds that the loss to the company would be carried into their wage envelopes.

Tobacco workers have furnished another shining example of class collaboration as a source of revenue to the employer at the expense of the labor movement.

These examples all show that the craft unions have in a large measure been used to exploit the labor movement and the public without in any marked degree reducing the profits of the employer.

SKELLET CO. IS BANNERED BY LOCAL 574

Members Rally to Support of Union in Fight With Tobin

New Contracts Signed With National Tea and Westerdahl

As a direct answer to D. J. Tobin, the truck drivers, helpers and inside workers are responding splendidly to the call to arms. New members are coming in fast and the present members are bringing their dues up to date and paying them in advance. With such help as this 574 will have ample finances to fight the battle.

The agreement with the National Tea company has been renewed with new provisions which bring real benefits to the men. A closed shop contract has been signed with the Westerdahl Contracting company.

At the American Fruit company, \$40 in back wages has been collected for Ben Shapiro. The Skellet Transfer company is being bannered because of discrimination against a union member.

574 is hitting its stride.

General Drivers To Have Club Rooms, Library

Activity at Local 574's new headquarters is rapidly increasing in tempo. This week the carpenters are making some changes to provide for an adequate office which will be complete by the end of the week. In preparation for the grand opening ball to be held on Saturday, June 29, the changes in the clubrooms will be completed by the middle of next week.

With these changes Local 574 will have one of the finest if not the very finest union headquarters in the northwest. There will be two medium sized meeting halls besides the large third floor hall, together with office, conference or board room, library and club rooms.

The public has not been altogether indifferent to this fact, it constitutes one of the barriers to further organization along the old line.

The present economic depression and the complete washout of the NRA makes it highly improbable that the craft union will ever be able to stage any great measure of comeback. At least we may be sure that labor cannot keep abreast of the industrial development with the craft unions of today.

HOW HONEST IS LIFE INSURANCE?

Editor's Note: This article is a reprint, in part, of a most frank and honest discussion of life insurance. Life insurance plays a large part in our present economic system. Every present holder and every prospective policy holder should be fully informed on this subject.

Reprinted from *The Nation*

By MORT and E. A. GILBERT

When a life-insurance company sells you expensive insurance, its most vital concern is that you keep it and continue to pay for it. The companies are greatly perturbed by the fact that thousands of policy-holders have successfully cut their insurance costs and that thousands more contemplate doing so. The method followed in most cases, the only practical method, has been to rewrite, that is, to buy new protection at a lower cost and cancel the old expensive insurance. This rewriting is known in insurance circles as "twisting."

As policy-holders drop old policies they automatically cancel all policy loans—on which they have been paying a six per cent annual interest charge; at the same time they automatically retrieve the cash still in the policies. When the cash is retrieved, it cannot be confiscated by the company at the death of the insured. . . . And to add to the company's chagrin, most of the rewritten insurance is in lower-premium contracts. . . .

So the companies have begun a war on "twisting and rewriting." . . . Once they get wind of your intention to "twist," a substitution

(Continued on page 2)

Grand Opening Ball Saturday, June 29

On Saturday, June 8, the opening dance at Local 574's new headquarters was held. A good crowd inspected the headquarters and enjoyed the evening to the tune of a six-piece orchestra together with several other features of entertainment. Souvenirs to the kiddies were distributed. This housewarming party marked the first of a series of regular entertainment and social affairs that are scheduled. The next event is the grand opening ball to be held on Saturday, June 29.

After a year and a half of steady work and progress, 574 is ready to sit back on occasions and enjoy some of its efforts. All friends and sympathizers are cordially invited to participate in these events. All members and friends are urged to make up a party now to participate in the grand opening ball.

Watch next week's Organizer for final details of the grand opening ball.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"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."

A Union for the Workers

Tobin's demands on Local 574 show very clearly what a beggarly conception of the needs of the workers such men as he hold. He asks that the union purify itself of all semblance of ability to fight for the workers.

It appears very plainly that his idea of a labor organization is a very select group of men who make no demands on the bosses and who salaam before Tobin three times daily as the Arabs of old prostrated themselves before the rising sun.

Local 574 is not and will not be such a mutual admiration society as that. We fight for what is right, and we are organized so that we can fight. Our motto is: A union for the workers, for the workers, and FOR THE WORKERS!

Kind Mr. Ford

"I'll make a million cars next year if they just let the police run the country," said Henry Ford on June 14, the day that Omaha police fired into a crowd of unarmed strikers, killing one and wounding fifty.

What Mr. Ford means is that if he can have a local police official who will murder workers who object to starvation wages he will be happy.

Labor Looks at the Press

"If what the Democrats are giving us is recovery, we want a relapse. But not with Dr. Hoover's kind of medicine."—Wisconsin LEADER.

The Parting Shot

"There will be no permanent ill effects from the false fear created by the fall in stock prices."—Irving Fisher, March, 1930.

"The growing conviction that the depression is nearing its end is justified."—Irving Fisher, May, 1935.

In a Nutshell

"An evicted share-cropper with his pallid wife, rickety children and meager pile of furniture was seen standing by the roadside near Shreveport, La. All were wearing "EVERY MAN A KING" buttons."—Bill Reich in the NEW MILITANT.

Ford Restores \$6 Daily Wage—headline.

Of course, the General Motors strike didn't scare him into it.

Now We're Getting Somewhere. "President William Green of the A. F. of L. appealed to labor to follow the leadership of Roosevelt and struck at the recent statements of former President Hoover."

The way that guy juggles with rotten apples.

Sign o' the Times

"Lombard C. Jones, managing editor of the AMERICAN MERCURY, announced that he had resigned out of sympathy for eight striking office employees of the magazine. The strikers are demanding higher wages, vacations and the right to bargain collectively."—News item.

Thought for Today

"The \$90,000,000 that the government "loaned" Charles Dawes (and which will never be repaid) would take care of Illinois relief needs for nearly a year.

One for the Books

"It is plain that what the opponents of the Child Labor Amendment don't like is that it stretches the long arm of Uncle Sam into the home to tell parents what they may do with their children."—Lowell Thomas.

The opponents of the Amendment favor the "long arm" of tragically low wages which makes it necessary for the children to work to help support the family.

Baccalaureate, 1935

"If you find a girl with a steady job, marry her," Dr. Holmes told 759 graduates of the University of Nebraska on Sunday."

Hollywood Hot-Shots

"Within a short period of time, Gary Cooper, Victor McLaglen and George Brent have promoted three successful fascist units: the Hollywood Hussars, the Light Horse Cavalry and the California Esquadron. . . These groups have all volunteered their services to the authorities in case of trouble."—THE NATION.

Boycott all movies in which these enemies of labor appear.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Monday, June 24: Full Membership.
 Tuesday, June 25: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
 Friday, June 28: Federal Workers Section.
 Saturday, June 29: Grand Opening Ball.

Life Insurance Sales Practice

(Continued from page 1)

is almost impossible. They can reject your application on physical, moral, or financial grounds. . . . And when one company rejects you, the information is promptly broadcast to the other companies. . . . They influenced legislatures in many states to pass laws making it a criminal offense for an agent to advise you to change your policy.

These "anti-twisting" laws cannot be enforced. . . . A story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch shows how an early anti-twisting case ended:

Circuit Judge W. S. Stillwell of Cole County has issued a "permanent" mandamus directing the State Insurance Department to license Ray P. Prewitt of St. Louis, Missouri, who was denied a license to write life insurance on the ground that he had violated a rule on "twisting." The Insurance Department admitted that Mr. Prewitt spoke the truth in his dealing with policy-holders. Judge Stillwell said: "Violated a ruling?—It was nothing more than a frame-up on the public."

. . . The Metropolitan, for example, formulated a "No Credit—No Commission" ruling. This provides that if, after an agent sells a man insurance, the insured within six months surrenders any amount of insurance he had in force, in any company, prior to the purchase of new insurance, the agent will receive no commissions for the equivalent of the amount dropped. . . .

The companies strike at the policy-holder by making it profitless for any agent to give him honest service. . . . Therefore the agent is not only prevented from giving you honest advice, advice that will promote your best interests, but is prompted in self-defense to give you deliberately dishonest advice. . . .

Chiseling Firm Has To Pay Back Wages

(Reprint)

The River Terminal Coal & Coke company and J. P. Dudley were ordered by the NRA Code Compliance Board to pay \$231 back wages to four members of the General Drivers' union, Local No. 120, following complaint of Robert Fleming, business agent of the local, to Annie Dickie Olesen, compliance director.

In addition to the award made last week by the code authorities, there is pending in district court a case undertaken by the Employers' Committee to compel the River Terminal Coal & Coke company and J. P. Dudley to live up to the agreement made last year with Local Union No. 120 relatives to wage scales, hours and other conditions of employment.

Chiseling Firm

"The River Terminal Coal & Coke company has been chiseling against the agreements made with us at the time of the general drivers' strike ever since the stipulations were completed," said Bob Fleming. "This firm agreed to pay 55 cents per ton to its drivers, but instead of paying the agreed scale, it paid 35 cents and some of the drivers were compelled to pay half of the cost of gas, oil and storage."

"This firm first gained some notoriety when it underbid all other coal and coke companies in St. Paul to supply the Welfare Board. None of the other dealers could understand how this firm and Dudley could quote the price offered the Welfare Board. It remained for some of the union drivers to reveal just how it was possible to shave down the price of fuel by taking the difference out of the pay checks of the drivers and helpers."

Important Meeting

On Monday, June 24, Local 574 will hold its next regular full membership meeting. This will be one of the most important meetings in the history of the union. All members are urged to be present, both those who are now working and those who are out on withdrawal cards. Our enemies are conniving against us. Rally to the banner of fighting 574.

Racine Workers Oppose Thuggery

Racine, Wis. (reprint)

In a one-day strike, some 6,000 Racine workers recently made their sentiment perfectly clear to business men and industrialists who had been threatening to organize vigilantes and take over the city's law enforcement.

Led by the Wisconsin Industrial Union, an independent organization, 4,500 workers marched through the streets in a display of their power and opposition to fascism. Following the parade, demonstrators assembled on the lake front to listen to speakers.

During the parade 1,500 members of American Federation of Labor unions jammed the city hall to assure Mayor Swoboda of their support of his policy in strikes not to allow police interference with peaceful picketing. The A. F. of L. members then joined the demonstration at the lake front.

A Call to Action

With Tobin and his clique proposing a fight against 574 on the basis of demands which would amount to almost the complete dissolution of the union, it is up to every member to pitch into the fight to defeat this attack. One of the things which will be needed the most is finances. To provide funds Local 574 is staging jointly with Local 18005 a carnival to be held at 29th and Nicollet from July 27 to August 4. All members and sympathizers who can spare an hour or a day report to Coover at the 574 headquarters for assignment to help make the carnival a success.

Three Certainties On Social Security

With the passing away of first the Railroad Retirement Act and then the Mortgage Moratorium and NRA as attended by the "nine old men in black" of the U. S. Supreme Court bench, the workers can lay down some fundamental facts. All thinking persons will readily agree to the following three:

First, that Social Security will never be gained by going on tiptoe, hat in hand, to the legislative chambers. Secondly, that what progressive trade unionists have been saying for years is absolutely true. Namely, that the only way the workers will ever improve their conditions is by mass struggle against the employers, and not by spending millions in lobbying around state capitols and the

The Man Without a Card

"I ought to get a large reward For never owning a union card; I've never grumbled, I've never struck, I've never mixed with union truck, But I must be going my way to win, So open St. Peter, and let me in." St. Peter sat and stroked his staff, Despite his high office he had to laugh.

Said he, with a fiery gleam in his eye,

"Who is tending this gate, you or I?

I've heard of you and your gift of gab;

You are what is known on earth as a scab."

Thereupon he arose on his stature tall

And pressed a button upon the wall,

And said to the imp who answered the bell,

"Escort this fellow around to hell!"

"Tell Satan to give him a seat alone

On a red hot griddle up near the throne.

But stay, even the devil can't stand the smell

Of a cooking scab on a griddle in hell;

It would cause a revolt, a strike, I know,

If I sent you down to the imps below.

Go back to your master on earth and tell

That they don't even want scabs in hell."

"Di-plomacy has become a philanthropic pursoot like shopkeepin', but politics, me lords, is still th' same ol' spoort iv highway robbery."—Mr. Dooley.

"Many politicians of our time are in the habit of laying it down as a self evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever."—Macauley.

"To argue with a man who has renounced his reason is like giving medicine to the dead."—Thomas Paine.

"To hear some men talk of the government, you would suppose that Congress was the law of gravitation, and kept the planets in their places."—Wendell Philips.

"The law does not require a man to cease to be a man, and act without regard to consequences, when he becomes a juror."—Ly-sander Spooner.

"Rich or poor, white or black, great or small, wise or foolish, in season or out of season, in the right or in the wrong, whosoever will speak, let him speak, and whosoever will hear, let him hear."—J. A. Andrews.

White House. Thirdly, that capitalism is incapable of even the sketchy and inadequate planning as embodied in the Recovery Act.

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