

Always Say HAVE IT DELIVERED--Help Put Hundreds of Men Back to Work

As from this hour You use your power, The World must follow you

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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

VOL. 6, NO. 43

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1941

FIVE CENT

## Burnquist Police Bill is Threat to All Unions

### Strike Move Spreads in Burlington

Majority of Workers at Leopold Desk Strike When Company Refuses To Bargain — NLRB Hearing February 17th on Union's Charges Against Starker

Burlington, Iowa—Faced by the high-handed refusal of the Leopold company to negotiate a contract with the Furniture Workers Union Local 1860, employees of the Leopold firm marched out on strike Saturday morning. About 110 of the 140 employees of the company have joined Local 1860. They are demanding union recognition, wage increases and seniority. Confronted with the refusal of the company to bargain, the workers had no other recourse but to use their last remaining weapon, the strike.

#### NLRB Hearing

A trial examiner of the National Labor Relations Board will conduct a public hearing on the complaint filed by the union against the Northwestern Cabinet company. The hearing will open February 17th in the assembly room of the city hall.

The union is charging the company with instigating the formation of the company union (which since has wrangled a charter from the Carpenters Union); with entering into an illegal contract with this company union; with performing unfair and illegal labor practices; with intimidating workers to join the company union; with refusal to bargain with the genuine union, local 1860.

### Local 259 Will Dance Saturday

The annual dance and card party of the Pulp and Sulphite Workers Union Local 259 will be held Saturday evening, February 8, at the Northside auditorium, 23rd and Washington avenue.

All members of organized labor and their friends are cordially invited to attend. A bang-up time is promised, and tickets are only 25c. A 5-piece orchestra will play, there will be a gorgeous floor show, and lunch and refreshments will be served. Dancing starts at 9 p. m. and lasts until ???

### Labor Temple Association Elects Board

The annual meeting of stockholders of the Minneapolis Labor Temple Association was held Monday night in the mayor's reception room. A new board for the coming year was chosen, consisting of Myrtle Harris, Bill Sinnott, Austin McInerney, Nels Anderson, Tom Jordan, J. B. Burmeister, Gust Wyndberg, L. Boerbach and T. D. Dynes. The last two named are new members of the board, the others being incumbents.

The meeting adopted a motion expressing condolences to the family of John Simcoe, for years active in advancing the program for a local labor temple.

Plans for a new labor temple to be constructed on the lot at Fourth avenue south owned by the association were submitted and placed in the hands of the new executive board.

### 664 Men Gain in Compromise With City Park Board

Annual Lay-off for Men in Lower Wage Brackets Is Cut Down to Maximum of Two Weeks — Employees in Maintenance Division Receive Allocation of \$14,000 More Yearly for Salaries

Last Friday at 2 p. m. the Minneapolis Park Board met to consider the request of the City & Sanitary Drivers Union Local 664 to increase the base rate of pay.

Following a discussion, the union proposal was rejected and a compromise reached which in effect arrives at the same conclusion sought by Local 664.

The union had sought a greater annual income for employees in the low-pay brackets. Union representatives pointed out that men in these brackets, while receiving the lowest wage, also received the greatest amount of lay-off during the year.

The Park Board in the compromise adopted, recognized the legitimacy of the union's position and moved to decrease the lay-off for junior and senior parkkeepers and laborers. Whereas such employees received lay-offs as long as ten weeks in the year, now they will receive only two.

#### What This Means

The solution reached will mean that many Park Board employees will now receive from one to two months' additional work during 1941. The spring layoff will not exceed two weeks, and there will be no fall lay-off.

An additional compromise on the union's request is that parkkeepers in charge of skating rinks during the winter will receive no reduction in wage rates. This compromise, while not meeting word for word the union request, is in fact more of a union victory than would have been the granting of the union's request. Had the union request been granted, it would have required an allocation of \$7,500 yearly to men in the maintenance service. The compromise will require the diversion of \$14,000 yearly, all of which will go to pay salaries of employees in the maintenance division.

### Sioux City Drivers Win Vote at Bekins

The Sioux City Drivers Union Local 383 won the NLRB election January 18, at the Bekins Van & Storage company, the NLRB has announced. Local 383 will be the sole collective bargaining agent for all drivers, helpers and warehousemen employed by Bekins. The union won by more than a 3 to 1 majority.

### Wisconsin Drivers Council to Launch Statewide Weekly Paper for Drivers

The Wisconsin State Drivers Council will shortly begin publication of a new weekly labor paper, to which members of all Drivers Union locals in the state will subscribe.

Support for the new union organ was voted last week-end at the regular monthly meeting of the State Drivers Council, held in Green Bay.

Editorial control of the paper will be vested in the executive board of the Drivers Council. Harold Newton, editor of the Kenosha Labor, outlined possibilities of the new paper. The paper will be printed in the plant owned by the Kenosha Labor.

A lengthy discussion was held on the need for a weekly statewide Drivers' paper. The general opinion held is that such an organ can perform an important function in binding together the state's Drivers Union, in keeping all unions and union members informed of local developments, and in publicizing the policies of the drivers' movement in Wisconsin.

#### Is Progressive Step

The Northwest Organizer hints the plan for a Wisconsin state drivers' paper. Unquestionably the

### Gravel Haulers for County Receive Low Yearly Wage

If the first actions of the newly organized "liberal" majority of the Board of County Commissioners are any indication of the future, sad days are in store for county gravel haulers. During the past week, Board Chairman Alexander has been quoted in the daily press as saying he favored some "adjustments" in gravel-hauling rates. He was further quoted as stating he understood that the union would make no objections to such "adjustments." The union DOES and WILL seriously object to any move to disturb the not more than adequate gravel-hauling rate.

#### 85 Days of Work

At the February 3rd board meeting a committee of county truckers headed by a union representative told the real story of the alleged "high" gravel rate. Milt Modson showed that the county provides only about 85 days work per year for gravel haulers. To secure the reasonable hauling provided by the county, truckers must make themselves and their equipment available during the whole spring, summer and fall seasons. The graveling is done on a piece-work basis only. No other work is provided for these men during the remainder of the year. Yearly earnings of these truckers are not up to the average truckers' wage standard in this locality.

At the same meeting, Commissioner Scott, now a minority member, said "If adjustments are made, I will not vote for a reduction."

He later introduced a resolution calling for a pay raise for common labor from 58 1/2 cents per hour to 85c per hour. The resolution passed.

### Seestrom Faction in Control Of State Farmer-Labor Group

About five hundred delegates, half of whom were from rural areas outside the three metropolitan districts, attended the convention of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association last Thursday and Friday at the German house in St. Paul.

### Dairy Bill Will Be Introduced

J. J. Leipzig, who has been representing the Farmer-Cooperative Labor Council in organization among farmers in the Duluth area, reported Wednesday that the farm bill to standardize price to the producers and distributors of milk will be introduced in the Minnesota legislature.

The farmers around Duluth, he said, are more responsive to organization and more sympathetic to organized labor than ever before. Mr. Leipzig attributed this to the fight the farmer is making for legislative beneficial to the dairymen, and to organized labor's agreement to aid the farmer by supporting such legislation.

The dairymen's bill, if passed by the legislature, will be effective only in those areas where the dairymen demand it. Dairy farmers would greatly better their condition were the prices of the production and distribution of milk standardized.

#### Results Unimportant

Few trade unionists expressed much interest in the convention. Only a handful of delegates attended the convention from the Minneapolis union movement, where only about a dozen AFL unions still maintain affiliation with the Hennepin County Farmer-Labor association, completely Stalinist controlled.

From a union viewpoint there was little to choose between the contesting groups in St. Paul. Both groups have shown themselves as unfriendly to the union movement; neither has shown any desire to give the unions their rightful place in control of the Farmer-Labor movement.

The late Floyd B. Olson, an astute politician, understood that to win elections in Minnesota the Farmer-Labor movement must win a large majority of votes from the three metropolitan areas in order

(Continued on page 4)

### Public Hearing On Labor Bill Monday Evening

Attention of all unions is called to the public hearing on the entire subject of a state labor relations bill, to be held next Monday evening, February 10, in the house chamber at the capitol. The hearing has been called by the Labor Committee of the state house. Leaders of the Minneapolis and Minnesota union movement will speak at the hearing.

### New Labor Bill Bars Injunction

The Labor Relations bill sponsored by the Minnesota State Federation, and introduced in the state senate last week by Senator Gerald T. Mullin, would repeal the present Labor Relations Act passed in 1939 by the Stassenites.

Among the features of the present law that would be abolished by labor's bill are those dealing with injunctions and with the 10-day waiting period before strikes.

As Senator Mullin explained when introducing the new labor bill, the present labor law would be repealed and set up in its stead a labor relations board, vested with definite authority to act either as a board of arbitrators or to appoint special arbitrators. Findings of such arbitrators could be enforced in court.

The proposed law would restore to labor the rights achieved under the 1933 anti-injunction act. The Federation of Labor bill is patterned in some respects after the Wagner act.

Representative Antilla has introduced the new bill in the house.

### 471 To Elect Business Agent To Replace Tom Ammerman

Tom Ammerman, business agent for the Milk Drivers Union Local 471, has resigned his job, effective March 4th, to take up his duties as one of the directors of the Franklin Cooperative Creamery. Ammerman will be manager of the ice cream department at the creamery.

Ernest (Jiggs) Douaghué has also resigned his post as recording secretary of Local 471 for the purpose of running for the business agent's post to be vacated by Ammerman.

Local 471 will hold nominations for the post of business agent at the meeting Tuesday, February 18. Elections will be held on March 4.

### 80% of U Students Vote NO to War

A survey last week by the University of Minnesota Daily showed that eighty per cent of the University students would vote to keep America out of the present war, if the power laid in their hands.

There was little difference between the opinions of the men and women students. Although overwhelmingly opposed to the coming war, the students, by 59 per cent, believe that America's entry into the war is inevitable. More than 41 per cent believe war will come within six months.

If those who are forced to fight the war were permitted to vote as to whether or not a nation was to go to war, it is probable that the world wars would never be fought.

### Many Bills Important To Labor Introduced Into Legislature

Burnquist Law Enforcement Measure Would Create Man on Horseback Far Removed from People, Aimed Directly at Trade Unions—Bud Gleason Introduces Measure to Aid Drivers—Railroad Bill Would Hit at Jobs of Oil Drivers—Pinkerton Spy Agency Again Asks for License

A number of legislative bills, of the greatest importance to the future of the citizens of this state, are being introduced in the Minnesota legislature. Some of the bills would benefit those who work for a living. Some of the bills would strike a deadly blow at the rights of the people.

By far the most dangerous piece of legislation to the labor movement is the Burnquist police bill which has been introduced by Senator O. J. Finstad. This bill has been carefully prepared by Attorney General J. A. A. Burnquist. Burnquist will be remembered as the war-time governor of this state during the First World War, when he set up the so-called Public Safety Commission which exercised a rigid dictatorship in this state.

The present Burnquist law enforcement bill is exactly the sort of measure one would expect from the man who created the Public Safety Commission.

The Burnquist proposal would set up a Man on Horseback, far removed from the people, at a lifetime job of \$6,000 a year, who would concentrate in his hands all police power in the state.

He would not be elected by the people nor responsible to the people; he would be appointed by conservative state board of law examiners, and could hold his job for life. If he or his friends were dissatisfied with law enforcement work any place in the state, he could send in his own agents to take over the duties of sheriff and prosecutor. For instance, in a labor dispute, the Burnquist bill would empower the police dictator to concentrate all law enforcement agencies in the state towards breaking the strike.

Backers of the police dictatorship bill seek to motivate it by pointing to the unfortunate Soltan case. They say that if the bill becomes law, such activities as Soltan engaged in would be stopped. Such talk is merely a cover-up for the

New Bill Hits Oil Drivers  
Another bill backed by the railroads would prohibit gasoline trucks equipped to carry more than 3,000 gallons from Minnesota highways. The effect of this bill would be to force many drivers of oil trucks onto the relief rolls. The bill has no justification save the greed of the railroad interests, and the teamsters' movement will seek its defeat.

Would Ban Married Women  
A reactionary bill to ban employment of married women on state, county or local payrolls may also come before the state legislature. The bill has the backing of Owen Cunningham. It is being opposed by labor and by the Minnesota Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The whole idea of placing the burden of lack of jobs upon the backs of married women, or any other section of the working population, is reactionary to the core.

News of the labor bill backed by the Minnesota State Federation of Labor is contained elsewhere in this issue. A public hearing on the matter will be held next Monday evening in the house chamber. Various reactionary interests are general lobbying for a sales tax, and several such bills are said to be ready for introduction.

Wednesday afternoon a public hearing was to be held in Governor Stassen's office on the application of the Pinkerton detective agency for a state license. In recent years the Pinkertons have been denied licenses on the grounds they engage in labor espionage and stool pigeon work. Last week the Northwest Organizer cited a bit of the Pinkerton record. It is hoped their application for a license to practice their labor spy profession in Minnesota will again be rejected.

### O'Donnell Heads St. Paul Assemblies

Gerald O'Donnell has been unanimously elected to succeed William Brennan as president of the St. Paul Trades & Labor Assembly, at the annual election of officers January 24. Others named are A. J. Alberg, vice-president; E. D. McKinnon, secretary; Raymond Greengard, treasurer; William Kohler, sergeant-at-arms; Fred Lutz, John Kyle and Elmer Meinz, trustees.

President O'Donnell is business representative of the Steamfitters Union.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town



### GAS LOG

By Bob Fitzsimmons

Attention! All Stewards and Executive Board Members: Regular Board meeting Tuesday next at DeSota Hall, February 11, 7:30 p. m. Be sure to attend. . . . Armin Sommer, cadet engineer in the Street, has been transferred to the Works and Armon Walters, also a cadet engineer in the Street, has transferred to the Office Workers' Union. Howard C. Baier of Utilization, has resigned to go to work for General Motors in Detroit, Michigan. . . . They tell me that Ed Chase, who is a service man in Utilization, not only gets new tip prospects, but has, after making quite regular calls at "address unknown," finally sold the finest prospect he has ever come across on taking the name of CHASE and was busy passing out cigars the other morning. Congratulations to you and your new Mrs. . . . THE BOWLERS' BAZOO—Who Will Hit 600 First? This week's honor roll shows Earl Pierce with 537; LeRoy Johnson, 530; DeLloyd Mielke, 500; Einar Fahner, 496, and Red Dymoke with 485, with Home Appliance, Hermetol Liners, Lee's Broiler and Collins Electric taking three each from Murray's Red Feather, Bryant Gas Heat, Minneapolis Gas Heating Co. and Gas Heat Equipment respectively. Don Cartwright, from Meter Reading, broke into the league with a powerful 327—for three games. Is that right, Don? Gil Burton and Ray Martinson from the Gas League qualified and will bowl with Tuttle's Booster team in the forthcoming A.B.C. tournament.

James Brown and Art Moxness from Meter Reading were home a few days with a touch of the flu but are now back at work and Utilization reports Red Hanson, Ralph Jerabek and Earl Thompson also marked time with the flu. Ralph Jerabek's wife was sick at the same time he was, but according to reports, as sick as she was, Ralph refused to send her to the hospital. The boys wonder why. . . . The grapevine says that the Street department is going to keep right up with the service buildings in new family additions. If you fellows in the street department have wondered why Tom Gallagher looks so concerned, you will get

the answer in about three weeks when the stork makes the anxiously expected delivery at the home of the Gallaghers, which will be his first stop there. Here's wishing them the best of luck. . . . Buck Emerson of Meter Repair, after hearing the night-after summary every Tuesday morning, thinks they ought to broadcast the bowling games each Monday night. Paul Mileck isn't fooling anyone after talking about a new car for some time and then coming down with the old one repainted. It seems these boys in Meter Repair sure have excitement with neighbors in the vicinity of the John Burke home. It was reported a hatchet man was running wild as John ran all over the district trying to recover the second of two ducks which were being prepared for the table. One got away from his boy while John was beheading No. 1.

Harry Kaess of Utilization is either starting a new fad or his wife will have to make his soup less lumpy because Harry is sprouting an upperlip tickler and strainer. Ben Gagnelius, also of Utilization, has his recreation room about completed and will hold open house for all PAID UP members real soon. End of quote. . . . Claude Schauf has been carrying quite a load of worry for some time as his wife has been ill for some time and we are glad to report that she has been operated on successfully and is now getting along fine. . . . TO THE LADIES: Have you written your representative or state senator, asking them to support the bill now before the legislature to prevent the sale of fireworks in the state? Consider your children and do it now. . . . Thought for the week: If you live in a glass house, don't throw stones, and have you filed your income tax yet? March 15 is the deadline.

### Mrs. Murphy Is New Cook at Rex Bar

The restaurant in the Rex Bar at Plymouth and Washington avenues is now run by Mrs. Jim Murphy, who prepares food as you like it. Rex features dancing each night in the week. Every Monday evening there is a wrestling match. An amateur night entertainment is presented each Thursday evening.

Man is certainly stark mad; he cannot make a worm, and yet he will be making gods by the dozens. —Montaigne.

### 'The Secret Weapon To Stop Hitler' Is Forum Subject

"The Secret Weapon That Can Defeat Hitler" will be the subject of a talk at 3:30 p. m. February 9 at the regular Sunday Forum, 919 Marquette avenue. Speaker is Carlos Hudson. Admission is 10c.

### Gassing With 977

IMPORTANT NOTICE to all members of Local 977. In the future, all dues will have to be paid on or before the last day of the month to avoid the payment of a fine. Those who mail in their dues, should plan to have the money in the office by the last day of the month. In plain language—dues paid on the first day of the month for the month just ended, will include the 50c fine. . . . All members are requested to notify the office of the Local immediately, of a change of address. The mailing list for the membership must be kept correct, if the members want their weekly paper, monthly magazine, and other notices to reach them in record time. . . . Bro. Al Arneson (Phillips, 620 E. Hennepin Ave.) was laid off this week because of lack of work. Al came to the office and took a withdrawal, and informed us he plans to go to Los Angeles during his lay-off, and look into the aeronautical training situation on the West Coast.

We urge all members to cooperate with organized labor and your fellow trade union members at Miller's Cafeteria, by not trading there until the employer is willing to pay union wages and operate under union working conditions. . . . Bro. Eugene Dunklee (Standard, 3551 Lyndale Ave. S.) has resigned from his position at the station, to become salesman for the Atwood Coffee Co. The Local extends best wishes to Eugene in his new work.

It is better to have loved and lost—much better.

**CY'S PLACE**  
5th and Plymouth  
CHOICE LIQUORS  
C. Putz, Prop. HY. 9968

### Firms That Are Unfair

To Laundry, Linen & Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131

Dydes Wash, 718 Washington Ave. N.  
Star Valet Cleaners, 2744 Lyndale Ave. S.  
Bridges 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.

### With the Limousines

By Home James

The schools of Minneapolis that are trying to make our young men take up electric welding so they can get jobs at the Northern Pump company are falling down. They work one week and then comes the Blitzkrieg and they get laid off. Our impression is that this must be a racket. We believe that our dear friend, Westbrook Pegler, should investigate this racket. But I don't think he will, because of "sick industry." . . . Board say, he who laugh last giggle longest. . . . All members please take note on and after this date. Please pay your dues at the office or at meetings of Local 912. Make a habit of attending one meeting a month during 1941 and be rewarded by

### HARRY'S CAFE

NICOLLET AT 11TH  
PRIVATE ROOMS  
For Private Parties  
(No Charge)  
Serving its best  
65c Noonday Meal

your own conscience. In emergency only, pay at 1210 LaSalle avenue, the D-X chauffeur spot of Minneapolis. . . . We heard one from Dumb Dora, the lady's maid from Lowry Hill. She still thinks the A.S.C.A.P. is a new kind of girdle. . . . The grapevine tells us that our next meeting should tell us what the coming year has for us. . . . The Entertainment Committee has gone to town again, we hear. They have plans all laid for our Annual Dance on May 24. . . . Our friend, Wendell, will be back to tell us how to lick Hitler.

"What a wonderful thing is youth" gushed the young woman who had drawn George Bernard Shaw as her dinner companion. "Yes, and what a crime to waste it on children," Shaw replied.

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CHOW MEIN  
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Free Delivery Within 25 Blocks  
Prompt Service  
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100% UNION

### BERT'S LUNCH

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249 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.  
Delicious Home Made Fresh Baked Pies, Doughnuts and Cake  
BERT ACKERMAN, Prop'r.  
MEMBER NO. 544

### The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogrea

Next meeting will be the Wholesale Drivers on Thursday afternoon, February 13, at 4 p. m. . . . I would like to correct a statement I made last week about the Axel Solfields expecting. The baby has already been born. Both Mrs. Solfield and the baby are doing fine. Sorry. . . . Some of the Retail men told me they would very much like to get a job in the wholesale business, as they've seen a few of the boys hauling young ladies around with them. Yeh, nice work, if you can get it, or get away with it. . . . The contract proposal for 1941 was ratified at a special meeting held last Monday night and is now in the hands of the negotiators.

Kenneth Aagord, Hostess Cake, has heard the call and will, after the 15th, be a soldier boy for one year, as he has been summoned in the draft. Well, good luck, Kenny, and your job will be waiting for you when you get back, we hope. . . . A thought just struck me that if you will send me the names of 289 members who are drafted and will be serving a year in the army, I will take it upon myself to see that they receive the Organizer, provided, of course, that our office

### REX BAR

Plymouth and Wash. N.  
DINE - DANCE - EVERY NITE  
Wrestling Match every Monday Nite  
Amateur Nite every Thursday Nite  
Restaurant Run by  
MRS. JIM MURPHY  
Food as you like it  
We serve the finest liquor and beer in town and the price is right  
Rex Hamilton, Prop.



is furnished with the correct address. . . . Joe Munson, Purity South Plant, is back on the job after a week of tussling with old man flu. . . . Chuck Graves, Regan's, is "high-hatting" the boys these days in his new snooty torpedo type Oldsmobile. Hot dog, what a car! But Cliff Bodali, of Independent, is not to be outdone. He went out and bought himself a new Olds, also, and just as snooty.

Just as a matter of record, it's pretty nice at the meetings, since the anti-smoking law was passed. You can see at least ten feet ahead now. . . . The stewards have been given more instructions as to checking time in all plants, particularly starting time and pulling in time. So, checking time on all plants will continue indefinitely. Let's all co-operate and arrange our routes so we will not be brought before the Grievance Board for breaking these contract rules. . . . Another new car: Edward Helin of Excelsior recently purchased a brand new Chevrolet.

### 12th Ward FLP Backs Ed Hudson

The 12th Ward Farmer-Labor Club by a unanimous vote has endorsed Alderman Edwin I. Hudson for re-election. John Sollie is secretary of the club.

I guess old Eddie couldn't go fast enough in his old Terraplane, as he was tagged doing sixty with it. I suppose when he gets pinched for seventy or eighty, and not a measly sixty. How about it, Ed? . . . To the Ladies: It's about time to begin saving for that new Easter bonnet, and when you get it Have It Delivered!

### Fidelity State Bank

Place your Federal Housing Loans and Auto Finance with us. The only bank controlled by Labor and business men  
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Commercial Hauling and Moving  
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Near Third Street Since 1903  
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Personal Attention to Every Service  
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**DRINK MODERATELY**  
MINNESOTA WINE AND SPIRITS INSTITUTE, Inc.  
(Comprised of Minnesota Wholesale Wine and Liquor Dealers)

**YOUR GAS RATE GOES . . . . . DOWN AGAIN!**

OCTOBER 1937  
DOWN 2c

OCTOBER 1938  
DOWN 2c

FEBRUARY 1939  
DOWN 2c

OCTOBER 1939  
DOWN 2c

JULY 1940  
DOWN 5c

FEBRUARY 1941  
DOWN 2c

6th rate cut since October, 1937

### SAVES CITIZENS \$420,000 A YEAR

Due to recent action by The Minneapolis City Council, another drop in your household gas rate becomes effective on gas bills issued February 1st and thereafter.

This is the 6th rate cut since October, 1937—a total saving of \$420,000 per year to gas users.

The February 1st reduction of 2 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas means a saving annually of \$56,000.

You now can enjoy the best gas service in the city's history—at the lowest rate.

As you know, more than 95% of Minneapolis homes use gas for important household tasks because modern gas appliances are far superior to other domestic appliances.

Look at this performance record:

Beautiful new gas ranges now are backed by a 20-year burner guarantee.

New Servel gas refrigerators also are backed by a 10-year guarantee—the only refrigerator so safeguarded.

When you install a new Ruud automatic water heater, with the Monel Metal tank, you get a 20-year guarantee of clean rust-free water—6 gallons for less than 1 cent.

Before you invest in any new appliance, learn why you can do it better, and cheaper, with gas.

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**NOW.. More than ever before use GAS the Modern Fuel for Cooking, Water Heating, Refrigeration, House Heating**



**With the Dairy Workers Local 471**  
By George Bergquist

Reports reaching here indicate that England has no intention of rationing milk. Lord Woolton, minister of food, in a statement last week, declared that an ample supply of milk is available. The statement has considerable credence, inasmuch as dairy stock is being given priority where "feedstuffs" are concerned. While farmers are urged to exercise rigid economy in feeding, dairy cattle will receive about 70 per cent of their pre-war requirements, while beef cattle and sheep are receiving about half of their normal supply and pigs and poultry a third. The government claims that reserves of meat and dairy cattle have been substantially increased during the past year. Robert Hudson, minister of agriculture, stated that Great Britain runs no risk of famine or of food shortage, regardless of developments in the coming months. He declared that food stocks had increased rapidly within the past year, because farmers had plowed up two million acres of fallow land. According to his statement, cereals which could be used to feed either animals or humans have been greatly increased, while dairy herds and meat on the hoof

are also reported to be more plentiful than when the war broke out.

Hats off this week to Brother Aage Koldberg who speared a twelve pound Northern in Medicine Lake and had enough confidence in his fellow workers, to permit the "critter" to hang alongside the plant all day. Medicine Lake has possibilities and if our Brother keeps trying he may see a four cylinder Dodge come rolling into his decoy. . . With apple flavored ice cream coming on the market, the sales of vanilla may get another adjustment. Previous surveys disclosed that in 1925, 55 per cent of all ice cream sales were vanilla, while in 1931 that percentage had dropped to 48 per cent. In 1938 vanilla sales had risen to 52 per cent of the total. Chocolate ice cream sales have shown a steady up from 10 per cent in 1925 to 16 per cent during the last year. Drug stores continue to be the largest source of sales, accounting for 29 per cent of the total. Restaurants have made by far the greatest increase in ice cream sales, coming up to 18 per cent from 13 per cent in 1925.

Our famous dairy paper, Moo, has a story not within its covers. As you pass the issue out and wonder whether this customer and that have children who will appreciate the paper, you begin to realize that there is a shortage of children. The seriousness of the situation is borne out by the records of the 1940 census: we are short almost one child to a family. Local 471 could do its bit by organizing a committee and Brother C. C. Pearson would naturally be the chairman. . . We were glad to see Brother Sammy Podany come through with a score of 704 but after all, other people's feelings are to be considered also and one Brother has been given an awful "let down."

**Clearance!**  
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**TAXI TOPICS**

By F. H. Lunde

The sympathy of our Local is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gesino at the death of their triplet daughters a few hours after birth. . . Lee Labo got a broken rib while untangling bumpers. He's all wound up like a mummy so don't "goose" him in the ribs for a while. . . Howie Miller (the lucky man) and his fiancée will exchange "I do's" in the very very near future—it is rumored. . . Frankie Miles has a big following that are demanding just how short, (or long) one's hirsute adorning may be to insure comfort and likewise satisfy the esthetic tastes of those that count. We nominate W. "Curly" Goodnough as tonsorial judge.

Want to make money? All Local No. 958 members are eligible to enter this contest. Write your suggestions on how to boost attendance at union meetings, use white paper, write neatly and sign your papers, turn them in to your committee man or leave them in the garage grievance box on or before noon, February 15. First prize \$5.00, second prize \$3.00, and seven prizes of \$1 each. The members of the entertainment committee will be judges and their decision is final. . . Caught cruising. . . Denver, Colorado, is enforcing an ordinance forbidding getting out of a vehicle on the street side. . . Miles Dann after two tries picked his north side special as usual at the G. N. Depot. . . F. Ebner getting help from Officer Perry to make his whistle tout louder. . . Marty Stirrup bought a piano. . . Pat "Man Mountain" Hurley took No. 99 for a sidewalk waltz one slippery day. . . Have you figured out your income tax?

Short runs of the week: Perry Richard pulled a load from Seventh and Hennepin to the Radisson. . . Ernie Hoffman took a pick-up-load from Seventh and

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Anderson Bros., 1117 East Lake Street  
Anderson, Henry W., 1839 East Lake Street  
Anderson, W. A. (Ehrenstrom), 1825 Riverside Ave.  
Billman, Dan, 2518 Central Ave.  
Burr Funeral Home, 3040 Lyndale Ave. South  
Davis, Harvey, 4084 West Broadway (Robbinsdale)  
Enger Memorial, 1300 Lowry Ave. North  
Enger Funeral Home, Grant at Park Ave.  
Elliott Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Heinrichs Funeral Home, 902 West Broadway  
Johnson Undertaking Company, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Kozlak, Peter Funeral Home, 1918 University Ave. N. E.  
Kapala, Stanley, 230 13th Ave. N. E.  
Larson, O. E., 2301 Central Ave.  
Oakley, Otis H., Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Peterson Funeral Home, 1838 Central Ave.  
Simpson, Kenneth, Mortuary, 1900 Hennepin Ave.  
Sullivan, Frank D., 2617 Hennepin Ave.  
Sundseth Funeral Home, 2024 Lyndale Ave. North  
Swanson's Mortuary, 1610 Lowry Ave. North

Nicollet to the La Salle building. Now it isn't the drivers idea to gouge somebody needlessly for a quarter run, in fact we hate to pull off a cab-stand for two-bits but they do want to ride and if they toss in a "cumshaw" (tip or scale to you) we're more happy about the whole thing.

Ernest "Pete" Delano and James "Fireball" Edholm are back on the treadmill. Glad to see you back, boys. . . Life's little irony: A gun being raffled off on a punch board went to Vern Falk who was the only one in the odd hundred that is on his way to the army where he can get lots of guns for free. . . The quaint little village down river is painting a fleet of cabs with the exact colors of the Minneapolis circus wagons. Oh, well, to copy is to flatter they say, and people look for yellow cabs in every town and they don't want to disappoint them. . . A shortage of skilled men has forced big plants to hire men formerly turned down on account of age. What these same men will need in a comparatively short time is a militant union to aid them in keeping their jobs.

After all, there is but one race—humanity.—George Moore.

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3%  
Current Dividend  
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Money invested here on or before February 10th earns dividends from February 1st. Start your account now with any amount.  
**Twin City Federal Savings & Loan Association**  
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**ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664**

By Wally Raze

According to the Star-Journal, the employees of the Park department will be offered a typical "compromise" by the commission in the near future, so be prepared for anything, brothers. And in the meantime, give thought to the compromise which you accepted four years ago and which still holds your wages way below the city scale. Give the matter a good think while you are at it. . . The new Ford trucks have been delivered to 38th and Bryant south and we are glad to say goodbye to the White and Federal. May their bones get more rest than they ever gave mine! . . . Brother Hans Halvorsen is laid up with the flu. Also Brother Jeske. Take it easy, boys. Brother Chris Jensen figures on being back on the job this spring. More power to you, Chris. . . Brother Ray Clark, so I hear, has recently acquired a new V-8. Hows bouta look, Ray?

It behooves every city employee to contact his representative in the capitol (St. Paul) demanding support of the \$2 per year per month pension plan which comes up next session. This plan, if made law, will provide something which, at least, approaches a pension. The one in effect at present is an insult. It also behooves us to contact our representatives and senators in Washington, asking their opposition to the proposed scheme of dragging all civil service employees in the nation under social security.

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**Union Sports Council, Men's Bowling Classic, \$100 1st Prize**

The Annual Men's Handicap Bowling Classic sponsored by the Minneapolis Union Sports Council will be held the week ends of February 15-16 and February 22-23. First prize money is \$100. Handicaps are based on 190 pin scratch not to exceed 25 pins per game. Four games will be rolled across eight alleys; entry fee is \$3.00 including bowling. The tournament will be held at the Lincoln recreation alleys, 721 Hennepin avenue. Phone in entries to Main 9656; A. R. Lidholm, secretary.

As I understand it, the maximum pension to which you are entitled after 25 or 30 weeks of service, is less than \$35. Art Johnson is scheduled to speak on this matter February 21, so make it a point to be at that meeting and get the correct dope from him. . . Brother "Ham" Martin and the press engaged in a slight orgy of cat-killing recently on account of the felines' growing dissatisfaction with merely snoozing on the rug (accent on "snoozing"). . . Brother Marv Giving really put up a battle in his last cribbage game with the press who still has the evil eye on him. Brother P. Larson has it on the press. . . Brother Mynek and wife entertained the missus and me last week. Brother Al and I enjoyed ourselves immensely at "500". . . Brother Andrew Paulson, Camden, has been threatening all and sundry the past couple weeks, proving he's feeling himself again. Haven't had a blast from Brother Carl Erickson, Glenwood, all winter. Wasss matta, Carl?

I hold no brief for snoopers like Soltau but his conviction for perjury brings to my mind grave doubts as to the efficacy of Minneapolis courts in dispensing "justice." As an example, I submit the case of Fredlund who became involved in three minor and one major auto accidents in one day. The last one killed a mother and a small boy, mutilated the father and daughter and wrecked the victims' car. His two trials cost the county over \$200,000 dollars; his misdeeds cost two lives and untold sorrow to two others. Yet he was acquitted on admittedly perjured testimony, was then convicted of careless driving and sentenced to a year in the workhouse. The perjurers, two farm girls from around Shakopee, admitted their guilt and named two men who were connected with the defense, to their coaches. All four were indicted, yet no trial ever resulted and to my knowledge, no public disposition of this perjury case was ever made. Blindness is only one of the physical defects which afflict justice in Minneapolis, judging by the comparison of these two cases. . . Brothers, you can't afford to overlook the Organizer's answer to Pegler's charges of universal racketeering in the labor unions. Brother Carlos Hudson is doing a fine job of showing up pickle-puss Pegler and his backers for what they really are—a bunch of wealthy, un-American inhuman schemers and a literary prostitute, engaged in an underhanded attempt to destroy that which is the one and only hope of the common people the world over. This bunch of economic royalists constitute the real fifth column in our country and are a much greater menace to the future of American democracy than any number Hitler can sneak in here. . . See you tonight.

**Unfair Standard Oil Stations Listed by 977**  
Keep this list of unfair Standard stations in your car and refuse to patronize them:

**Sears-Roebuck Station**  
Elliot and Lake Streets  
Standard Stations—Downtown  
18th and Harmon Place  
7th and 3rd Ave. South  
Standard Stations—South  
50th and France Ave. S.  
22nd and Hennepin Ave.  
54th and Nicollet Ave.  
Lake St. at Lake Calhoun  
50th and Excelsior Ave. S.  
44th and Morningstar Ave.  
32nd and Lyndale Ave. S.  
32nd and Lyndale Ave. S.  
32nd and Hennepin Ave.  
40th and Nicollet Ave.  
Excelsior and Minnetonka Blvd.  
54th and Lyndale Ave. S.  
Holmes and Lake St.  
Standard Stations—North  
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\$20 TO \$300 loans are made to wage earners and salaried people to meet financial emergencies or to take advantage of business opportunities.  
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Resources over \$13,500,000

**Watt Notes**  
By Amps & Volts

**Workers FORUM**

WANTS STATE LABOR PAPER

Just a few lines to express our appreciation for the bundle of Northwest Organizers that find their way into our union each week. We are particularly interested in your stand against war, news of the Burlington strike with its exposure of the labor fakery, and the series on Westbrook Pegler, who is putting on a front for the real racketeers who are out to destroy labor.

All in all you have a great labor paper. There are some who think I am too radical when I say labor should have an official organ for the state of Minnesota. Those of you who live in the large cities may not know the real value of inspiring the workers who live in small towns and cities. Their bit of news does not reach the outside world.

In closing I am wishing you a lot of success. More power to you with your forward slant on labor news.

Fraternally yours,  
Oscar Jepsen, Business Rep.  
Albert Lea General Drivers  
Union 845

To All Trade Union Members

So many workers applying for unemployment insurance or relief have been rejected through their own negligence and misunderstanding of the law, despite the fact they are clearly eligible to receive such aid, that the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 has set up a special department to deal with this problem.

All workers seeking unemployment insurance or relief are asked to get in touch with Ed Palmquist before applying for aid. Palmquist is in the office of the FWS from 9 a. m. to noon, Monday through Friday each week. The office is on the second floor, 257 Plymouth avenue north.

The thought that comes to my mind is: What's going to happen when the artificial prosperity of non-productive defense work is over, and we start paying for these things? What will another depression, that as far as we can see will be of far greater severity than the last one, do to our democracy and our form of government? What will individual persons do in the way of preparation for the future hard times, spend it on silk shirts and cars or slap it in the sock? And what could individuals do anyway? Experience has taught us that if you save, the government takes it in the form of taxes, the bankers' advice is unsound, stocks are traps set by manipulators, and bonds can become so much wall paper. We are organized now for economic security, but when hard times come, our need for organization is going to be many times greater than it is at the present time. What we can do now as individuals is to help others organize and assist them in their struggles, thus making firmer the foundation of unionism that will be our first and last line of defense in future depressions. . . The Ladies' Auxiliary is throwing a card party and supper, which also includes a play, at 257 Plymouth Avenue North, on March 22. Have your two bits ready when the lady calls with the ticket.

A little in one's own pocket is better than much in another man's pocket.—Cervantes.

WANTED to rent, small home on outskirts of Minneapolis, not over \$20 a month, some furniture. Call Ed Palmquist, Ge. 4691, 9-12 a. m.

**Sale Miscellaneous**  
1931 BUICK sedan, \$50. 1314 23rd Ave. N.  
GREY and white porcelain combination range, perfect condition, seal cheap. Hy. 6415.  
8-TUBE radio, \$5. Two 50-gal. fuel tanks, \$1.50 each. Lo. 7705.  
GIRL'S banker grey wool suit, slightly worn, size 16. Cost \$12, will sell for \$5. Side arm gas heater, \$2; pedigreed black cocker female, four pedigreed pups. 5253 37th Ave. S. DR. 2622.  
TWO storm sash, 20x24. Blue jacket, size 38. Du. 1282.  
LIKE new, all-wool navy flannel double-breasted girl's reefer, satin lined, hat and scarf to match, size 12-14. Ch. 9556.  
SOLID oak dining room table and buffet. Single bed with spring. L. C. Smith typewriter. Ch. 9204.  
TWO new tires for sale, 750x20 and 32x6, ten ply. Ch. 9951.  
UNIVERSAL combination range. Hot water front. Good condition. Cheap. Co. 5593.  
\$500 down, \$25 per month buys 4025 N. Mississippi Drive home, modern but heat. 3 rooms and bath. \$2,500. Owner drafee forced to sell. Hy. 8852.  
VERY good building lot, 50x120 at 53rd and Knox Ave. N. \$150. \$25 down, \$10 per month. Can build when you please. Drafee bargain. Hy. 8852.  
DRAFTEE forced to sell '33 Ford coupe. Good tires, battery, '41 plates. \$75 cash. Hy. 8852.  
BOY'S 24-inch bicycle. Good tires. Bargain at \$8.50. Hy. 8852.  
MOHAIR chair and davenport set. Shows very little wear. \$30. Ch. 7400.  
8-PIECE dining room set. Very good condition. Not quite year old. \$70 cash. Ch. 7468, 2931 Penn Ave. N.  
LADY'S black coat, size 38, \$5. Dresses, skirts and blouse, size 12-14. Green winter coat, size 14, \$3. Bundle of clothes for 3-year-old girl, 50¢. 3100 11th Ave. S., Parker 2324.



# Northwest Organizer

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**Preamble of Constitution of American Federation of Labor**  
"Whereas, a struggle is going on in all the nations of the civilized world between the oppressors and the oppressed of all countries, a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer, which grows in intensity from year to year, and will work disastrous results to the toiling millions if they are not combined for mutual protection and benefit.  
"It, therefore, behooves the representatives of the Trade and Labor Unions of America, in convention assembled, to adopt such measures and disseminate such principles among the mechanics and laborers of our country as will permanently unite them to secure the recognition of rights to which they are justly entitled.  
"We, therefore, declare ourselves in favor of the formation of a thorough Federation, embracing every trade and labor organization in America, organized under the Trade Union System."

## Defense in Rockwell Case Ready to Present Evidence

Hearings on the ouster of Commissioner of Education John G. Rockwell continued this week before Referee Foley, with the board of education expected to complete its case Wednesday morning, after which attorney Benjamin Drake will begin placing witnesses on the stand.

Testimony presented by the board of education continued to be of a rather piddling nature, with few facts brought forward about the nature of the state educational system under the administration of Dr. Rockwell.

Tuesday Miss Kathryn Munro, Rockwell's secretary, testified the latter had occasional fits of anger when dealing with subordinates. Last week Miss Aura Keever, supervisor of home economics education, testified she refused to approve a course at St. Catherine's college because it "did not meet federal regulations." Rockwell, she said, reprimanded her.

**Dean Melby Testifies**  
A special session was held last Saturday morning to take the testimony of Dr. Ernest Melby, dean of the Northwestern University school of education, and graduate of St. Olaf college and the University of Minnesota. Melby told of the high regard in which Rockwell is held by the Northwestern University staff and by the country's leading educators. He referred to Rockwell as "a brilliant research scholar, one of the two or three best teachers I have known."

"There is a wide demand that Dr. Rockwell return to Northwestern this summer to teach," Melby said.  
Discussing Rockwell's abilities, he said that Rockwell had a philosophy of school administration which encourages local initiative in school matters rather than a rigid centralized control. Minnesota has made outstanding progress in education under Rockwell's administration, he said. Melby praised the project system of teaching criticized earlier by some witnesses.

When testimony concerning Rockwell's alleged use of occasional profanity was brought up, Melby said, "If the use of profanity were a disqualification, most University officers and deans would lose their jobs."  
**Might Be Justified**  
When Pierce Butler asked if he approved of profanity, Melby replied, "I have known teachers to be so treated by politicians that profanity was justified." Butler objected to the answer.

Melby's testimony on the state of public education was quite interesting. He pointed out that there is a great deal of authoritarianism in the average education system and that this anti-democratic tendency derives from the fact that education borrowed many ideas from the organization of American industry, which in turn copied ideas of army organization.

When questioned as to Rockwell's alleged "communism," Melby said he had known Rockwell for 15 years and considered him the "most honest advocate of democracy I know."  
Another out-of-town witness testifying was the Rev. Holger Strandkov, pastor of the Danish Lutheran Church at Tyler, Minnesota, who told gratefully how Rockwell had helped to obtain SERA funds in 1936, 1937 and 1940 to aid in support of the Danish folk school, a 50-year-old educational institution at Tyler.

**Foley Denies Request**  
Referee Foley refused Attorney Drake's request that he invite department of education employees to testify in the ouster proceeding. Confronted with Foley's refusal, Drake will ask employees of the department of education to testify on their own under Dr.

# THE DEBATE

## Labor Versus Westbrook Pegler

V.

For all his bombast, for all his charge that the proportion of racketeers in organized labor is higher than in any other group, Pegler hasn't been able to point to even a score of men and women in organized labor whom even HE dares try to pin the label of crook. He takes those few unionists whom he considers vulnerable to attack, and chews them up over and over again in public, chewing with his mouth open. In this chapter we mean to examine one or two of Pegler's examples of "union crookedness."

Pegler has perhaps shouted loudest of all about William Bioff, West Coast head of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. The job that Pegler did on Bioff endeared him to bosses throughout the country, and boosted Pegler to the journalistic forefront of the Open Shop drive against the trade unions. Fair enough, let us have a closer look at the Bioff case.

William Bioff was appointed international union representative in 1934. He was placed in charge of organization on the West Coast. A strike in 1933 had left the unions in the movie studios at a low ebb. The AFL studio crafts could muster only 159 members when Bioff took over. Under Bioff's guidance the AFL increased its membership a hundred-fold and more. The union was able to win wage increase after increase from the studios. Through union strength, studio workers are today averaging about \$6,000,000 more than in 1934. Hours are shorter. Working conditions are better.

Let Pat Casey, attorney for the big movie studios, describe what kind of union the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees was under Bioff's guidance: "I will say in all fairness that the International Alliance has made more fights for their men than any other labor organization in the world. They have moved in and got money . . . You are talking about labor getting as much as \$1.41 an hour. Does that happen anywhere else in the United States? No, but it happens here in the studios. There is not a minute in the day when they (the union) are not on our necks for something for their men" (From an anti-labor article on Bioff in the Saturday Evening Post, written by Florabel Muir, in the issue of January 27, 1940.)

In November, 1939, says this Post article, "Under threat of crippling business with a nationwide strike, Willie coerced another ten per cent raise for a group of the toilers under his rule . . . He has never stopped trying to band all film workers into 'one big union'."

This was the situation in the movie industry when Pegler came out on the West Coast. The movie bosses through their agents tipped off Pegler. Pegler went to Chicago and spent several days in police headquarters. Chicago was Bioff's home town. With the aid of the cops Pegler found that eighteen years before, in 1922, William Bioff had as a youth been convicted of a pandering charge. He had served eight days of his jail term, and then was freed on appeal. The Appellate Court later affirmed the verdict, but Bioff never went back to jail. This was the only black mark that could be found on Bioff's record.

It was enough for a man like Pegler, it was enough for the moguls of the motion picture industry. Pegler wrote up in his lurid moralistic style the story about the slip Bioff had made in his youth. The studio industry and the boss press and the cops picked it up. Bioff went back to jail to serve the unexpired sentence for a misdeed committed eighteen years previously.

Pegler's crying jag about William Bioff is a fake from beginning to end.

### Labor Attitude Towards Bioff

Now neither we nor any other group of good union men and women will condone Bioff for his misstep in Chicago. Insofar as Bioff deviated from trade unionism, insofar as he left the line of working in the interests of his union membership, we do not support him.

But insofar as Bioff functioned in the interests of his union membership, insofar as he worked faithfully to make the union more effective, insofar as he helped the union membership to win better wages and hours and conditions, we endorse Bioff.

**AND MAKE NO MISTAKE. IT WAS BECAUSE BIOFF WAS EFFECTIVE IN WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE THEATRICAL TRADES WORKERS THAT THE EMPLOYERS WERE ANXIOUS TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE SCENE.** It was for THIS, and not because William Bioff some twenty years ago had fallen from the path, that Hollywood was eager to get rid of Bioff.

As is well known, the people controlling the motion picture industry are recognized the world over for their Puritanical morals, for the cloistered ascetic lives they live.

We can just imagine the fat Hollywood moguls in the meeting when word comes that Pegler has discovered that the union negotiator who, as spokesman for the studio workers, had forced many a wage increase from them, had strayed from the straight and narrow path some twenty years ago in Chicago, and was thus liable to removal from his union post.

How the very mention of such an episode must have shocked these stainless citizens. I can see the blushes mount in the whiskey-stained cheeks of those Hollywood bosses, their embarrassment at the mere mention of moral transgression, their eyelids fluttering modestly downward over their bloodshot orbs.

Ah, what sickening hypocrisy coats this whole Bioff incident.

There are so very many examples of union racketeering lying close to Westbrook Pegler's hand, don't you see, that he had to go back two score years in the life of a West Coast unionist, spend days combing the police records of Chicago, to find one illegal episode in the life of an efficient union organizer. Then how our poison pen artist huffed and puffed to blow up that episode to the proportions of the crime of the century, to smear organized labor.

### Principles They Symbolize

Why, William Bioff behind the bars is a better man than Westbrook Pegler, as far as the workers of this nation are concerned. Because Bioff—at certain periods in his life, in his own way, according to his understanding and ability—acted to improve the conditions of those who toil. Bioff, you see, stood for a principle. He stood for the principle that workers should get higher wages and shorter hours and better working conditions and job security. Pegler, too, stands for a principle. Pegler is the symbol of the Open Shop, of low wages, of long hours, of industrial slavery.

Of his own moral transgression, Bioff had said: "I was a younger man at the time, I never had proper

## Independent Truck Chatter

By R. F. Hornig

The most that can be said for the ITO these days is that the hall is being used plenty as a clubhouse. . . . Our airport program has been leveled off, permanently, it seems, at only ten trucks. . . . The state's work has been shrunk to 15 or 16 trucks, and it's not certain how many of our men are on their payroll. . . . This year the ice hauling was mostly fizzle. Three days only for the city boys. . . . Almost two centuries ago there was some form of union organization among the early trades workers on the east coast. Down through all these years labor history has been one of continuous struggle, with every setback experienced by the unions mainly favored by dissension from within. Petty jealousies, political ambition, disagreement as to policy all had a hand in weakening both old and new organizations to the point where very little energy was left for progressive action. That is our story today. It even holds true for our little group. We are squabbling over a few jobs and wasting valuable time that should be spent in making contact for our members on some of these vast defense projects in the making.

Last week's Star carried a story attacking the wages paid on the county work. It must be a crime to own a truck and have a good job these days. Granting even this, the article in question had to offer just enough untruths and insinuations to paint a thoroughly bad picture. And commissioner Alexander, who is supposed to be a labor man, put himself out on a limb, saying that the union was not opposed to a reduction in rates. Since when did 544 okay a cut in pay? . . . That beautiful orange monster parked

bringing up. I knew no better. This whole story was fished up by people that are off me because I'm fighting the battle of the little fellow here in Hollywood, trying to get justice for my boys."

The Post article mentioned above said that the Los Angeles Central Labor Union passed a resolution defending William Bioff. We don't know if this is true, but hope that it is. Against vultures like Pegler, labor should defend the Bioffs a hundred times over.

### The Case of Petrillo

Another labor leader whom Pegler regularly castigates in his column is James Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians and of the Chicago local of that organization. Whenever our pickle-pussed columnist finds himself at the end of his rope, he trots out Petrillo. Petrillo is a dictator. Petrillo wears expensive clothes. Petrillo drives late model cars. Petrillo gets almost as much a year as Westbrook Pegler, etc.

Indeed, Pegler will tell you all the gossip about James Petrillo. But he will NEVER divulge such facts as these:

That in 1922 when Petrillo became a leader of the American Federation of Musicians it had 4,000 members, and that today it has 158,000 members;

That in 1910 when Petrillo was an orchestra member, musicians in Chicago received \$2 an evening for playing and that today they get \$21;

That musicians in the theatre pit who used to average \$12 a week now receive \$99;

That members of the Chicago Federation of Labor receive a \$1,000 death benefit;

That each of the 750 locals of the Musicians Union has autonomy in governing the conduct of its members, and in determining wage scales;

That players in the best public school bands in Chicago are awarded free memberships in the Chicago Federation of Musicians, etc., etc.

And yet it is exactly THESE achievements that cause the bosses and their front man, Pegler, to try to smear Petrillo.

We are not acquainted with Petrillo or Bioff, nor do we pretend to know intimately the problems of their industry, or how the unions are meeting these problems. It is quite possible that the union methods of Petrillo and Bioff are not our methods.

We would differ, for instance, on the score of high salaries for union officials. We oppose the idea of union officials receiving salaries of the dimensions of Pegler's \$60,000-a-year stipend—not because these same union leaders couldn't command the same or much higher monetary rewards outside the union movement, not because the men might not be worth their salaries in value to the union, but because we think the whole idea of trying to measure a man's value to unionism in dollars and cents is dead wrong. And because we believe that wages paid union officials should approximate the wages paid workers in the trade. Such a rule, we believe, gives the union official a constant incentive to better the wage scale of those workers he represents, and keeps him close to their problems and outlook.

But against Pegler we will defend even the high salaries of those few union officials in the higher brackets. We will do this because we know the enemy hates these unionists, not for their salaries, but because they are effective instruments of their union membership in defending and advancing the cause of unionism.

Had we but the space, we should like nothing better than to take each one of Pegler's claims of "union racketeering" and show to our readers the joker in Pegler's arguments.

Pegler is at his most grotesque when, in one and the same breath, he will charge William Green or some other union figure with being a dictator—and then froth at the mouth because Green or the AFL executive council has no dictatorial power to interfere in the autonomy of the AFL affiliates and remove some union official whom Pegler dislikes. You can't have it both ways, Mr. Pegler. You can't charge that the union movement is a dictatorship, and then bitterly complain at the absence of dictatorial powers within the union structure.

Concluding installment next week: The mystery of Pegler's typewriter ribbon.

## Labor in Minot Shows Progress

The Minot Central Labor Union reports considerable gains made in 1940. The building trades were successful in keeping nearly all construction work 100 per cent union, with some gains in membership. Among the new unions organized in Minot are three railroad unions, the fire fighters, the retail clerks, and the reorganized painters local with greatly increased membership. New Central Labor Union affiliates include the Machinists, the Carmen and the Bus Drivers. H. C. Kiehn is president of the Minot central labor body.

On Plymouth these days belongs to Gib Pomerleau. Cail it a GMC. . . . Joe Faustgen wants to go souper-douper but figures to wait till the boys settle their arguments over the new deal. Let's hope they don't keep Joe waiting beyond the start of the gravel season.

The airport low-bidders are complaining. The competition is rolling the wheels off 'em. . . . Buchanan took one out the other day. . . . Bob Mack offered a '40 diesel demonstrator for sale last Sunday. . . . I wonder if Chet finds it hard to answer all the questions the Belt Liners want to know about how he does it. . . . Mike Myrane is popping. . . . Finance and Commerce is out now but the Star scooped me on the story. . . . Anyhow, with two new commissioners you can bet the county will heave and boil all summer long. . . . If you are smart the new box will be two on the side and five in back. . . . FINANCIAL PROBLEM—Buy a big old goat for \$500 and go to work for \$2.50 per hour and everybody thinks you're worth it. Buy you a new ton-and-a-half for \$1,400 and work on the same job, and you will hear all around that you are getting too much money. . . . Even the Mighty McCue twisted one off the other day.

## LOCAL 1859 Knots to You

By Richard B. Gilmore

The bells tolled for Brother John Peterson and Eleanor Bunting last Saturday at 6 o'clock. The boys in the warehouse gave an electric iron for a wedding gift. Our best wishes for a happy married life to Mr. and Mrs. J. Peterson. Pee Ess: Fred Bunting, the bride's father, in a special statement for the press sez, "In reply to several inquiries, I wish to state that I have no more daughters left." Both of Brother Bunting's daughters are married to 1859 members. . . . Anton Olson, Trustee of Local 1859, has been on the sick list for two weeks. Hank Lunde is still out and John Lohse was laid up for one day with a bad cold. . . . For the past week and one half, the J. R. Clark plant has been operating nine hours a day and six hours on Saturday. . . . Local 1859, Upholsters' International, is preparing for a vigorous drive to organize furniture and woodware workers throughout the low wage areas which lie to the north, south, east and west. Objective: to solidify and entrench the union better than it has been in the past by bringing to more and more of the woodware and furniture industry the benefits that members of Local 1859 are now receiving. The security of a wage level depends on the number of workers benefited by it, since the number that will fight to hold and improve it. Certainly, no one would expect a 30c man to lose any sleep if a 52 1/2c man got cut. But show that 30c man how to raise his pay and you have a friend for life. Local 1859 is out to make a lot of friends in 1941.

Here is something we ran across that looks good enough to pass on. Isolation: When you see a couple of gangsters in a gunfight and you run in the house and lock the door. Neutrality: When you run in the house and get your shot gun to give to one of the gangsters while you tell the other one you don't care who gets shot. Intervention only when you take pot shots at one gangster to help the other one. Well, maybe so. But it ain't the way we heered it on the radio! . . . We can put two and two together and get four, but how do you figure this one? Newspapers report that Air Marshall Herman Goering, Hitler's righthand man, will get a large slice of the 199 per cent profits of U. S. Steel for 1940 for being a sizeable stockholder. It is also said he has heavy investments in Cities Service, Pennsylvania and Illinois Central Railroad. Looks like a good set-up for the F. M.—playing both ends against the middle.

## 11th Ward FLP Backs Finseth For Re-election

Alderman Herbert Finseth, labor alderman from the 11th ward, was unanimously endorsed for re-election by the 11th Ward Farmer-Labor club at its January meeting. Finseth's clean record in supporting all labor measures in the city council won him the whole-hearted backing of the ward club.

## Schoenecker and Simmer to Head St. Paul TJC

The St. Paul Teamsters Joint Council held its annual election of officers January 21, naming the following to office: Bernie Simmer, president; Russell Faber, vice-president; Arnold Schoenecker, secretary-treasurer; S. J. Juett, recording secretary; George Leier, Earl Manning and Jack Bray, trustees.

President Simmer announced the Council will immediately proceed to reorganize the southern part of the state. The St. Paul Council embraces all drivers in St. Paul, Winona, Wadena, Rochester, Austin, Albert Lea, Faribault, Red Wing and Mankato.

## 1,500 Drivers Strike In Dayton, Ohio

About 1,500 members of the Drivers Union in Dayton, Ohio, struck last Saturday, demanding a one-year agreement with a 10c hourly wage increase from the Dayton Transportation club, employers' association.

Trucking in the area slowed to a trickle as the strike took effect. All freight deliveries and local cartage, except for perishable and emergency materials, was halted, according to union officials.

## Women's Co-op Guild Valentine Dance

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Cooperative Guild will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday, February 12, at the Franklin creamery auditorium.

On the following Saturday, February 15th, the Guild will hold a Valentine costume ball and basket social, with music furnished by Paulson's orchestra. Prizes will be given for the best costumes.

A philosopher is a man who can look at an empty bottle and smile.

## UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

<b>Furniture Workers Union Local 1859</b> February 9 — American Excelsior, 10:30 a. m. February 10 — Stewards, 8 p. m. February 14 — Casket Section, 8 p. m. February 21 — Box Section, 8 p. m. February 24 — Stewards, 8 p. m. February 25 — Kozekar and Travelers, 8 p. m. Executive Board — Every Friday night, 8 p. m.	<b>Private Chauffeurs Union Local 912</b> The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
<b>Milk Drivers Union Local 471</b> General Membership—First and third Tuesday each month, 7 p. m. Girls' Section—Second Tuesday each month (7:30 p. m.) Milk Haulers—Fourth Tuesday, 8:30	<b>Warehouse Employees Union Local 359</b> Stewards—Fourth Thursday Executive Board—First and third Mondays General Membership—Second Tuesday.
<b>Laundry Drivers Union Local 131</b> Second Thursday each month, 8 p. m., third floor.	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Drivers Union Local 275</b> Tea and Coffee Drivers, Local 275, meet the first Friday of every month.
<b>Taxi Drivers Union Local 958</b> Night Drivers—1 p. m., third Thursday each month. Day Drivers—7 p. m., third Thursday each month.	<b>Utility Workers Union Local B-160</b> General Membership—First and third Thursdays Stewards — Second and Fourth Thursdays Seniority Board—Every Monday. Executive Board—Every Tuesday.
<b>City &amp; Sanitary Drivers Union Local 664</b> General Membership—First and third Fridays. Park Board Grievance Committee—Monday night preceding last meeting of month.	<b>Ice Drivers Union Local 221</b> Day Laborers Section—First Tuesday each month. Independent Truck Owners Section—Second Tuesday each month.
<b>Petroleum Drivers Locals 544 and 977 and Warehousemen</b> Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	<b>Pulp &amp; Sulphite Workers Union Local 259</b> Second Monday of each month, 8 p. m.
<b>Petroleum Workers Union Local 977</b> General Membership—Second Monday each month, 9 p. m. Executive Board—Each Monday, 8 p. m. Casual Section—Third Wednesday, 9 p. m.	<b>General Drivers Union Local 544</b> Monday, Feb. 3—Package Delivery; Department Store. Wednesday, Feb. 5—Sausage; Petroleum. Thursday, Feb. 6—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners. Friday, Feb. 7—Job Stewards. Sunday, Feb. 9—City Pickups, Dockmen and Road Drivers who come under area contract. Monday, Feb. 10—General Membership. Tuesday, Feb. 11—Lumber. Wednesday, Feb. 12 — Market; Wholesale Liquor. Friday, Feb. 14—Wholesale Grocery. Monday, Feb. 17—Furniture Stores; Lodi; Paper and Printing. Thursday, Feb. 20—Tent & Awning; Newspaper 10 a. m.; Ways and Means Committee TJC. Friday, Feb. 21—Job Stewards. Monday, Feb. 24—Spring Water. Tuesday, Feb. 25—Building Material. Wednesday, Feb. 26 — Sand and Gravel and Excavating. Thursday, Feb. 27—Wholesale Drug; Transfer & Warehouse. Friday, Feb. 28—Cold Storage & Produce. Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall 3. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Local No. 544 office, first floor. The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 a. m. in the large hall on the first floor. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise indicated.
<b>Federal Workers Section Local 544</b> Regular Membership—Second Friday each month, 8 p. m. Stewards—First and third Wednesdays.	<b>Bakery Drivers Union Local 289</b> Retail Drivers—First Thursday. Wholesale Drivers — Second Thursday. Year Drivers—Third Tuesday. Cake and Pie—Third Thursday. General Membership—Fourth Thursday. Inside Workers—Last Saturday, 3 p. m.
<b>Jewelry Workers Union Local 103</b> Regular Membership Meeting—Second Monday of each month. Executive Committee Meeting on call.	