

# Trade Union Unity League Calls for Fight on R.R. Cut

The shameless sellout of the railroad workers by the American Federation of Labor officials with whose aid the railroad magnates were able to put over a ten per cent wage cut has called forth bitter protest. In an appeal to the railroad workers to organize and fight against this wage cut, the Trade Union Unity League, through its National Secretary, William Z. Foster, issued the following statement:

The A.F.L. and Railroad Brotherhood chiefs have accepted a ten per cent wage cut for the 1,500,000 railroad workers. By this cut in wages, the union leaders make a present to the railroad corporations of about \$215,000,000 for the next year. This money, coming out of the pockets of the already impoverished mass of railroad workers, will go to fatten the dividends of the railroad overlords, the great Morgan, Vanderbilt, Van Sweringen and other railroad interests. Thus is consummated one of the most brazen and shameless betrayals in the history of the American labor movement.

This betrayal registers another step in the joint wage cutting policy of the government, the employers and the American Federation of Labor. The gigantic cut in wages will in turn be used as a justification of further onslaught upon the wages and living standards of the American working class.

In agreeing to the wage cut demanded by the railroad corporations, the railroad union leaders acted en-

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# TRADE UNION UNITY LEAGUE

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tirely upon their own initiative and responsibility. They did not consult the mass of workers before they accepted the cut, nor will they do so now, if the matter is left in their hands. These misleaders, with their \$5,000 to \$20,000 a year salaries, could easily agree to cut the wages of the rank and file, their own salaries remaining intact. If the railroad workers had been given an opportunity to express themselves, they would not only have voted down the wage cut proposition, but would strike against it.

The maneuvering of the companies and the railroad union leaders to put over this wage cut upon the workers was a striking illustration of the latter's role as the agent of the bosses. It was manifest from the outset that the officials would either directly accept the wage cut that their masters insisted upon, or concede it to them by arbitration under the Watson-Parker Law. All their protestations and submission of "counter-proposals" amounted to just so much talk, designed to create the impression among the rank and file that they were fighting against the wage cut. They will accept another cut

just as tamely at the end of twelve months as they did this one. The "promise" of the company to "do all they can" to furnish more steady work are an insult to the railroad workers.

It is necessary that a fight be organized immediately against this shameful treachery. The wage cut must be voted down and struck against. Every misleader who had anything to do with this shameful betrayal should be driven out of union office. In every union minority groups should be organized. Under the leadership of the National Railroad Industrial League the betrayed railroad workers must rally to struggle against the companies and the reactionary union leaders.

Workers, organize and fight against the wage cut. Demand that the wage cut be submitted to the workers for a referendum vote, and then vote it down. Demand that a strike vote be taken. Form committees and prepare to strike against the wage cut. Drive out of official position every official who voted to accept the cut. Demand unemployment insurance and the six-hour day without reduction in pay. Build the National Railroad Industrial League.

**WM. Z. FOSTER,**  
Gen. Sec., Trade Union Unity League