

**TODAY'S  
FIGHT  
Against  
The Bosses**

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*Expropriate the War Industries!*

# TODAY'S FIGHT

## *Against the Bosses*

### **Government Strikebreaking Threatens Labor**

**Against state police and company gangsters at River Rouge—and at Bethlehem—and at Allis-Chalmers—and at International Harvester's plants— everywhere the workers have shown their readiness to fight as hard as necessary to win their just demands.**

**Everywhere they have brushed aside the bosses' argument that this is no time to strike. The war propaganda has not blinded the workers. They KNOW that this is the moment to win and they are on the march!**

**But as they march toward victory, enemies lie in ambush. Enemies whom the workers don't yet fully realize are enemies. Unless the workers recognize these enemies for what they are, the great march of labor will be waylaid and cut to pieces.**

Who are these enemies?

The enemies of the workers are those who call upon the 48 state administrations to speed up organization of the Home Guard "to curb labor disturbances." Those for whom the six-ton armored car belching gas at the Allis-Chalmers strikers, the 30-inch riot sticks with which women and children were clubbed at Bethlehem, the Chicago killer-cops, are not enough, but who demand "Home" Guard strikebreakers by the tens of thousands—these are the enemies of labor.

The names of these enemies are known to all workers. OPM Director Knudsen and Secretary of the Navy Knox ordered the Allis-Chalmers strikers back to work. National Mediation Board Chairman Dykstra was responsible for telling all unions henceforth to observe a "cooling off" period. The Na-

tional Mediation Board as a whole told the strikers, in every case certified to the board, to return to work first and discuss their grievances later. It was Secretary of War Stimson who, reminding the state government they would get from him all the guns they needed, urged them to speed expansion of their Home Guard units to "maintain law and order" against "labor disturbances."

Nor do these names complete the list of enemies of labor. The direst threats against the workers are coming from the poll-tax Congressmen. Sumners of Texas, foaming at the mouth with class-hatred, calls for death in the electric chair for strikers in war industries. Cox of Georgia calls for industrial conscription of all workers up to the age of 65. Smith of Virginia launches a new assault on the last vestiges of the Wagner Act.

Nor does this exhaust the list of those who are cracking down on the workers. Roosevelt demands "uninterrupted production" of coal, but says nothing about the fact that the miners offered to continue working on condition that any gains under the new contract be retroactive until April 1, and that the bosses refused this. By saying nothing, Roosevelt condones the refusal of the bosses and puts pressure on the miners to go back to work unconditionally.

**Nor does this exhaust the list. The most outrageous acts against the workers have come from those agencies of government in which labor "representatives" are functioning: the Office of Production Management in which Hillman is co-director with Knudsen, the Mediation Board on which sit Green and Harrison, Murray and Kennedy. Hillman "vacations" and lends consent by silence, while Knudsen orders strikers back to work. Philip Murray, CIO head covers up the strikebreaking moves made by the Mediation Board on which he sits.**

Add all this up. Add together the actual moves made against the workers, plus the threats of further action against the workers, and the answer is plain: the basic tendency of the government as a whole is toward systematic strikebreaking. All these individual instances are not separate and apart from each other, but are parts of this strikebreaking tendency.

This kind of strikebreaking, like any other kind, can be stopped by the workers. But they can't stop it until they understand what it is. Once they understand that it is *government strikebreaking*, then they can fight it successfully.

## **- Profits Out of Mangled Bodies**

During his anti-labor speech on Army Day April 5 OPM Director Knudsen mentioned two true facts which every worker should know and understand.

1. *"We are all in the Army now... The technical progress of making war,"* said Mr. Knudsen, *"has advanced to such a stage that ONE MAN in the field requires the backing of TEN MEN at home."*

**That means that ten out of eleven men in the "national defense" forces are working under the dictates of Eugene Grace, Henry Ford, Max W. Babb of Allis-Chalmers and others of the same stripe.**

And for what do the Graces and Fords use their power? To wring the maximum amount of blood-money out of creating instruments of death. From the first trickle of war orders in 1940, 230 corporations increased their "earnings" for that year 70.77 per cent over 1939, the April 6 New York *Times* reports. The twelve leading steel companies in 1940 more than doubled the profits they had made in 1939. Aviation companies tripled, quadrupled and quintupled their previous profits. What these war profits of 1940 mean was demonstrated recently by a CIO analysis: General Motors netted a profit of \$977 per employe; American Telegraph and Telephone, \$528 per employe; U. S. Steel, \$420 per employe; DuPont, \$2,200 per employe; General Electric \$826 per employe; Standard Oil of New Jersey, \$2,000 per employe.

**By their autocratic rule over ten out of eleven men in the "national defense" forces, the Graces and Fords really control the destiny of the nation and dictate whether we shall live or die. It is to their interest that there be war booms and wars. Out of our mangled bodies they coin new and greater profits.**

2. *"During the last seven months,"* said Mr. Knudsen, *"we*

*have actually started and more than 60 per cent completed new factories at a cost of over two billion dollars, of which a billion dollars and a half was furnished by the government and the balance privately financed."*

**That means that the government paid 75 per cent of the cost of expanding the empires of the Graces and Fords. They get not only war profits but also new factories for nothing!**

Yet, after all this the Knudsens and Stimsons and the rest of the bosses and their political agents in Washington, have the effrontery to propose to "settle" strikes by cracking down on the unions. None of these gentlemen even breathe a suggestion of cracking down on the Graces and Fords.

Secretary of War Stimson, Senator Connally and others have proposed what they call "the government taking over" struck plants like Allis-Chalmers. In reality they are proposing nothing but a strikebreaking scheme. The war profiteers wouldn't suffer a bit. The government would pay the bosses handsomely for the use of their plants, expand the plants at government expense and eventually turn them back to their owners. The workers, on the other hand, are not only not promised a settlement or recognition of their union if the government takes over, but Secretary Stimson and Senator Connally don't even promise to reinstate the workers in their jobs!

The question now burning in the mind of every militant worker is: *How can we meet this offensive of the profit-mad bosses?*

The Trotskyists, organized in the Socialist Workers Party, propose the following 7-point program for today's fight:

## **A Program of Action!**

**1. Demand that trade union officials resign from all posts in the government, including the OPM and the National Mediation Board.**

Unmask this governmental strikebreaking! Show it up for what it is! No trade union official shall serve the government agencies as a fig-leaf covering up its strikebreaking. Withdraw all union officials from the government service!

**2. Organize the picket lines for all-out militant defense against the thuggery of government cops and company hoodlums.**

No more inadequately prepared picket lines. The place of union officials is directing the strengthening of picket lines and not trying to get non-existent government "help" for favorable settlements. The workers can win only by their own independent class action.

**3. Organize Union Defense Guards to protect the picket lines and union halls against 'law and order committees,' 'home guards,' and all other anti-labor bands.**

The labor movement was crushed in Italy and Germany because the workers did not defend themselves against organized gangs of thugs in the pay of the bosses. Don't let it happen here! Defend labor's right to strike! Organize permanent defense squads trained to protect picket lines and union halls!

**4. Call an immediate halt to all acts of hostility between the AFL and CIO which serve the bosses' strikebreaking.**

The CIO had no business lending its name to four electricians working for a boss who wouldn't sign the regular AFL union contract at Wright Field; that gave the government a pretext to crack down on what it called a "jurisdictional" strike. On the heels of that came the AFL's chartering of the company union at International Harvester, giving a "jurisdictional" cover to Chicago's cops to beat up the CIO picket line. Similar crimes are being committed by the AFL at Allis-Chalmers and Ford.

**5. Demand the unification of the AFL and CIO on the basis of preserving and extending the industrial form of organization.**

The main responsibility for a divided labor movement must be placed on the shoulders of the craft union moguls of the AFL. They can and must be forced to yield to a progressive unification of the trade union movement.

**6. Carry out independent working class political action. Build an Independent Labor Party.**

"Pure and simple" trade unionism is bankrupt. Every governor, mayor, sheriff, police chief, who acts today against the workers got his office with the help of "non-partisan" labor votes. It is now a life-and-death question that the workers must have their own party, an Independent Labor Party constituted by the trade unions, all of whose candidates shall be answerable to it for all their actions. Such a party will rally the farmers and all other toilers behind it and open up the road to a Workers' and Farmers' Government.

**7. Expropriate the war industries and operate them under workers' control.**

With magnificent courage the workers have stood by their demands and backed them up with heroic strikes. Now it is necessary, while continuing these strikes, to do more: to give a positive answer to the strikebreaking threats of the bosses and their political agents. An answer which will show the workers are not only defenders of their rights but the rightful leaders of the nation. An answer which will not only guarantee uninterrupted production, but which will take away from the Graces and Fords the control of the country's war production:

**Expropriate the war industries and operate them under workers' control.**

Democratically-elected factory committees, will run those plants as they should be run. Out of the workers, freed from the dead hand of the oppressive bosses, will come creative energies such as this continent has never seen.

There are more than enough specialists, sincerely devoted to the people, to serve as consultants to these factory committees. The best of the accountants, statisticians, engineers, scientists, would prefer to work under such factory committees rather than to serve the brutal and ignorant bosses who have hitherto bought their brains. For the workers, having no interest in profits nor in throttling new inventions, will really give free scope to science and technique, which have been thwarted by the crises and profit-seeking of the capitalist system.

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