

# What Happened in the N.Y. Taxi Strike

## Boot and Shoe Leaders Work With Mr. Klein

Owner Hires Prokopio to Force Workers Into A. F. of L.

By GEORGE MARTIN

The worst exploited section in the shoe industry are the Shoe Repair workers, who have been working 70 to 80 hours per week for \$12, \$14 and \$18.

The Shoe Repair workers walked out in a General Strike last September, 1933, under the banner of the Shoe and Leather Workers Industrial Union, and won union conditions in over 200 stores. However, Mr. Klein, of the Klein Shoe Repair Company and a number of other chain stores, who failed in their numerous attempts to break the Union, finally hired Mr. Prokopio, who is now one of the managers of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, and established a local of the shoe repairers, transferring his employment office into the headquarters of the Prokopio outfit, thereby forcing the workers to join the Boot and Shoe under threat of loss of jobs.

In our attempts to organize the 23 stores of the Terminal Shoe Repair Company, in which the workers slave 70 to 80 hours per week, our Union declared a strike in the 5th Ave. Store in Brooklyn, and in the F. W. Grand Store of Yonkers. In order to prevent the spread of the strike, the Terminal accepted the offer of the arch scab, Mr. Prokopio, and hurriedly signed an agreement covering all stores, guaranteeing to supply scabs, and allowing the firm to decide the question of hours and wages.

The Terminal Corporation applied for an injunction against our Union and, lo and behold, this supposed-to-be Union representative joined with the Corporation in asking for an injunction against the workers on strike! The following is our exact quotation from the Injunction papers:

"Terminal Shoe Repair Corp. Plaintiff

vs.

United Shoe and Leather Workers Union, Defendants

Giuseppe D. Prokopio, being duly sworn, deposes and says; that he resides at 1042 67th St., Brooklyn, N. Y., that he is the manager of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, Local 563, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

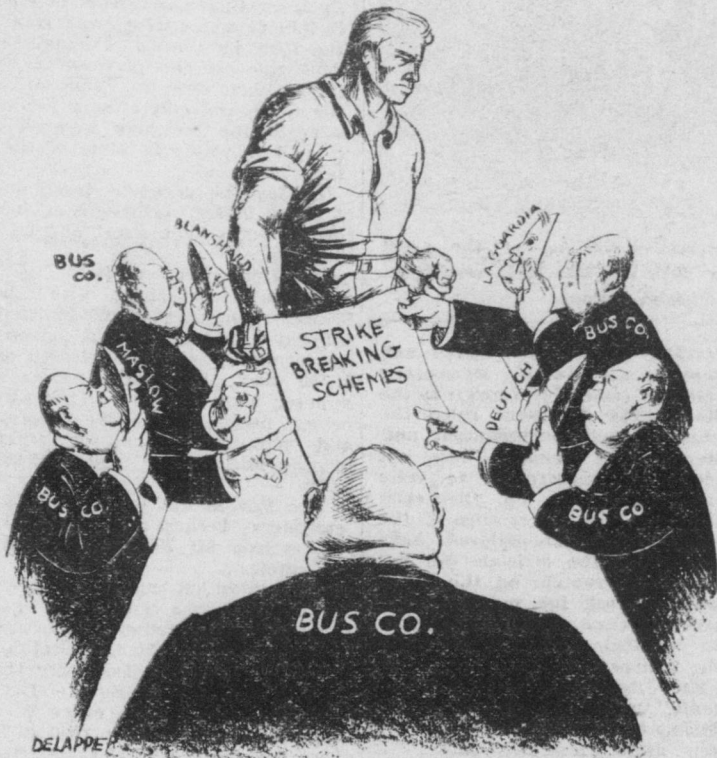
"... joins with the plaintiff (Terminal) corporation in its application for a temporary injunction and the subsequent issuance of a permanent injunction to restrain and enjoin the defendants (U. S. & L. W. U.) and each and every one of them from picketing or otherwise interfering with plaintiff's corporation."

Witness another incident. At the Radlow Shoe Repair Company and the store adjoining it in Brooklyn, Rapid Shoe Repair, workers worked under Union conditions with a signed Union agreement, ever since September, 1933. Saturday, April 28th, both firms asked the workers to accept a \$5 wage cut and to join the Boot and Shoe in order to retain their jobs. The workers flatly refused and answered that they were ready to defend their conditions and their Union. Monday morning, when the workers appeared on the picket line with their picket signs, Mr. Prokopio paraded into the stores, declaring them to be Boot and Shoe Union shops. A number of workers who have been sent by Mr. Prokopio to scab, refused to enter the stores when they learned that they were on strike.

Shoe, Slipper, Shoe Repair workers in the Boot and Shoe, raise these questions at your local meetings. Tell Mr. Prokopio and the other Boot and Shoe leaders to keep their hands off Union shops and those on strike.

## THE "IMPARTIAL" BOARD

by DeLappe



## "Labor Rights" Clause Gives City Strike-Breaking Power

By EDWIN ROLFE

WHAT actually amounts to a new Wagner strike-breaking bill on a city-wide scale was announced last Wednesday by Bernard S. Deutsch, president of the New York City Board of Aldermen, under the demagogic title of a new "labor rights" clause in connection with the pending bus franchise of the Avenue B. and East Broadway Bus Company.

This clause, as already revealed in the Daily Worker, provides for that type of "collective bargaining" in which the employers hold the royal flush. Added to this, moreover, is another and far more ominous provision to the effect that the Mayor or the Board of Estimate are legally empowered to step in at any hitch in the "collective bargaining" proceedings — and that their decisions are to be final and binding.

In an article describing this new clause, published in the New York Post of last Wednesday, Edward Levinson, formerly of the editorial staff of the Socialist "New Leader," and at present a leader of the S. P., attempts in typical social-fascist fashion to blind the eyes of New York workers to its real character. He begins by stating that "Company unionism will be outlawed and collective bargaining made mandatory in all franchises issued by the city in the future."

Levinson conveniently leaves for a less significant spot in his report the fact that this so-called "labor rights" clause "gives the Mayor and the Board of Estimate the right to intervene if it considers questions of hours, wages and working conditions unsatisfactory."

He also adds that the clause "follows the principles laid down in Section 7a of the national recovery act and elaborated on in Senator Wagner's proposed 'industrial disputes' act."

## Amter to Speak at Dressmakers' Forum On Social Insurance

The next lecture of a series being held by the Left Wing Dressmakers Educational Committee of Local 22, I. L. G. W. U. will be given by I. Amter at Irving Plaza Hall, May 16. What the unemployment insurance bill means to the dressmakers will be the subject of the lecture.

Workers who read these words will not be as impressed as Mr. Levinson. They know full well that it was under the "principles" of Section 7a and the Wagner Bill that the Fisher Body strike was recently broken in seven different cities by the Auto Labor Board; that it was under these "principles" that the great automobile strike sell-out is being brought to its vicious completion this week; and that all strikes of victimized and crisis-ridden workers throughout the United States are being brutally attacked, sold out, betrayed, by these very principles which Mr. Levinson so highly praises.

The championship of the new franchise, with the "labor rights" clause included in it, by the "progressive" New York Post is not surprising. Neither will it surprise working class readers to know that this clause in the franchise, announced as having been drawn up by Deutsch in collaboration with Paul Windels, New York City Corporation Counsel, was originally drafted by E. Michael White and William Maslow, both in the office of Commissioner of Accounts Paul Blanshard. Maslow, a lawyer, is a former member of the Socialist Party who was expelled about the same time that Blanshard left the S. P. to assume his \$15,000-a-year post in the LaGuardia Fusion administration.

The reactionary New York Herald Tribune is more candid, but hardly less elated than the Post, in announcing the new franchise. It states the following in its headlines very bluntly: "City to Demand N. R. A. Power in Bus Grants—New Franchises Drafted to Permit Intervention in Disputes With Workers—BACKS COMPANY UNIONS..."

Yes, the Herald-Tribune, unlike the liberal and progressive Post and its socialist reporter, unlike the former S. P. members who originally drew up this vicious anti-labor clause, openly rejoices in this new attack on the living and working conditions of the workers.

New York workers should not be fooled by the demagogic veneer which LaGuardia and his supporters in various camps are trying to smear across this local replica of the Wagner Bill. Active resistance and opposition to this measure, which places arbitrary strike-breaking powers in the hands of the city administration, should be initiated

## Strike Proved Myth of Talk About Unshakable Confidence in the Gov't

Exploded Myth That American Workers Will Not Accept Leadership of Communists; Blasted Red Scare Theory

By ROSE WORTIS

(Assistant Secretary of the Trade Union Unity Council)

The two strikes of taxi drivers which took place in a period of two months are events of great importance to the labor movement. These strikes are indicative of the new strike wave which is developing among the hitherto unorganized workers and show their determination to fight the starvation program of the bosses.

During the first strike the taxi drivers thought that they had the support of the government in the person of LaGuardia. The sellout settlement put through by LaGuardia jointly with Judge Panken taught the taxi drivers that the N. R. A., supported by the politicians of the Socialist Party and the A. F. of L., is nothing but a strike-breaking instrument in the hands of the bosses to oppress the workers. The class struggle has taught the taxi drivers not to trust the new promises of the Regional Labor Board, which attempted to force them back to work before the main demands of their strike had been settled.

The strike of the taxi drivers involved some very fundamental issues. Outstanding among them was the struggle against company unionism and the right of the workers to be organized into a union of their own choosing.

Developments That Led Up to the Strike

The conditions of the taxi drivers for years had been growing more miserable from day to day. In no other industry were the workers subjected to such exploitation and humiliation. The normal working hours ranged from 12 and 14 to 16 hours. The workers were never sure of their pay. In many instances they returned home after a 12 and 14 hour day without any pay. In addition to this, these workers were subjected to the most petty tyranny of the police inspectors and are a prey to all sorts of petty politicians.

For years the resentment of the taxi drivers against their unbearable conditions was growing until finally it broke loose into the spontaneous strike of February. The companies at first did not take the strike seriously, thinking as all exploiters do that the workers would not have enough strength and determination to stand up for their rights. The militancy shown by the workers in the first strike sounded the danger signal to the companies. The companies realized that the calling off of the strike was only a cessation of hostilities, that the fire of resentment was smoldering

(Continued on Page 4)

## Union Leaders to Hear Stachel Speak On C.P. Convention

NEW YORK.—A meeting of all leading functionaries in the trade unions will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at the Workers Center, 2nd floor, at 7 p.m.

Jack Stachel, acting secretary of the Trade Union Unity Council, will make a report on the 8th Convention of the Communist Party and the immediate problems facing the trade union workers in New York City.

## Metal Chiefs Don't Oppose \$8 Wage Cut

Leaders of Spinners' Union Help Police in Spying on Worker

By J. LUSTIG

THAT Caruso, Kastelak, Sperling and Co., leaders of the Metal Spinners' Union of Greater New York, are running the union on a racketeering basis, was proved recently when they took no action on an eight dollar wage cut in the Cromwell Silver Co., although workers there had the support of 70 men in the Silver and Hollow Ware Local of the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union.

In order to get rid of Harry Zeller, another shady character in the union leadership, Caruso called a strike in the Empire Silver Co., where Zeller works, even though the men in the shop did not want to strike.

Caruso Backs Out

Caruso and Sperling approached the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union with the proposal that it call out 60 workers in the Empire shop, with the purpose of forcing out Zeller. Realizing the selfish aims of Caruso in this action, the Industrial Union suggested a shop meeting where reasons for the strike could be discussed. This Caruso refused to do, knowing that he could give no good reasons for calling the men out.

After this the leaders of the Metal Spinners Union started a campaign to split the Industrial Union by trying to recruit solderers and polishers into their organization.

Sperling Aids Police

One of the spinners in the Empire shop is in the United States illegally. When he refused to follow Sperling, the M. S. U. business agent, he was reported to the immigration authorities. In order to avoid the Federal agents he had to leave his job. Rumors are now current that Sperling was the police spy.

After these actions on the part of the Executive members of the Spinners Union, the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union issued a statement to members of the M. S. U.

This open letter has resulted in hope from the rank and file that new elections to the Executive Board will result in the cessation of racketeering and unity from the Industrial Union.

Any one who stands in the way of unity between the workers of the two unions will be swept aside by the will of the workers to unite.

at once. Organize without delay in all trade unions, in all locals of the American Federation of Labor! Draw up your protests against this anti-labor bill immediately, and send them without fail to Mayor LaGuardia at City Hall!

At meetings of the militant left wing unions resolutions should be framed. Rank and file members of the A. F. of L. should see to it that this new attack on workers' rights will not, as the bosses and their tools in the city government think, go unanswered!

# A. F. of L. Officials in Local 302 of Food Union Use Gangsters, Jail, Expulsion Against Members

## "Unholy Trinity" Acts for Bosses to Break Cafeteria Strike

By JOHN BERGER

THE policies of the A. F. of L. misleaders can best be illustrated by the tactics pursued by the officials of the Delicatessen, Restaurant, Countermen, and Cafeteria Employees Union Local 302.

In 1929 the Cafeteria section of the A. F. W. the present Food Workers Industrial Union, launched a militant campaign to organize the Cafeteria workers into an industrial union. This drive received militant support from thousands of the workers in the industry, who worked 12 and 14 hours a day under the most miserable conditions and speed-up.

Under the leadership of Obermeier, Kramberg, and others, the cafeteria workers, through the Industrial union, waged a heroic struggle for the right to organize and improve their working conditions. The fierce brutality of the police, the hundreds and even thousands of arrests, could not weaken the courage and determination of the Cafeteria workers or their leaders. In spite of the police terror and gangsters' blackjacks the Food Workers Industrial Union, after a short period of time, succeeded in settling between forty and fifty shops with increases in wages reaching in some places as high as 100 per cent.

### Alarmed Bosses

Those victories alarmed the bosses to no small extent. They started to look around for a better way of crippling the strike and to defeat the struggles of the cafeteria workers.

The United Restaurant Owners Association therefore fell upon a good scheme. They sent their organizer, Max Pincus, who was thrown out of Local 1 of the Waiters Union in 1927, to negotiate with the secretary of Local 302, Abe Borson, promising him a large sum of money if his local would permit Pincus to step in and "organize" the Cooks and Countermen in the cafeterias. On the promise of "plenty of jobs," Borson forced this action over the Delicatessen Clerks, since it already had the approval of the International. Borson and Pincus picked themselves a bodyguard in the person of Irving Epstein, a man known to be of ill repute and sly fingers. Thus was the alliance of the unholy three established with the sinister purpose of breaking the cafeteria strike.

### The First Job

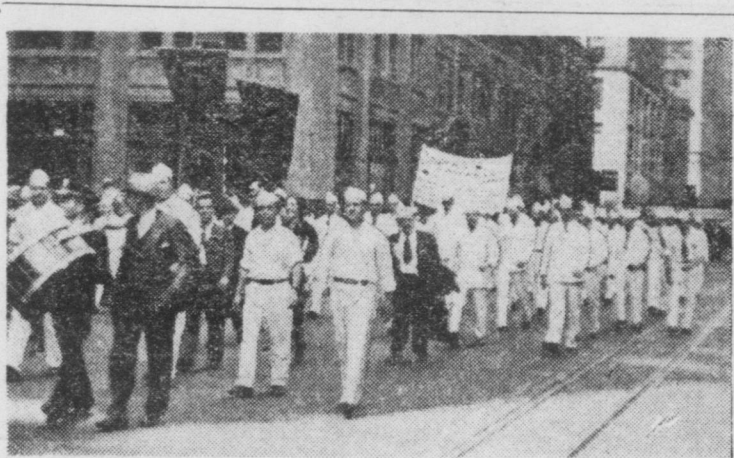
Their first job was "Our Cafeteria" on West 27th St. The Industrial Union succeeded in pulling the shop a 100 per cent. After a militant struggle on the picket line the boss was forced to close his shop. A few days later he reopened with a scab crew and a sign in the window bearing the name of Local 302 A. F. of L. When the Cafeteria Workers discovered this betrayal of the bosses' agent Pincus, and the A. F. of L. they renewed their picket lines with more vigor and determination, but with little success. The A. F. of L. followed one betrayal with another. The "Zergreen" on 34th St. witnessed the most vicious betrayal of the scab agents of the A. F. of L. At this cafeteria, Epstein, Borson and Pincus, with the aid of the police and gangsters, sent many militant workers to the hospitals and prison.

### Shady Elements

Epstein, Borson, and Pincus, succeeded in gathering around themselves the weak and shady elements in the industry, who found the militancy of the Industrial Union a trifle too much for their delicate stomachs. Wherever the Industrial Union succeeded in signing a shop the A. F. of L. agents would step in and "convince" the boss that it is bad to deal with

## Relief Workers League Calls Meeting of All the Central Park Workers

NEW YORK.—All Central Park workers are urged to attend a special meeting of the Relief Workers League on Wednesday, May 10, at 4:30 p.m., immediately after work, at Clarte Hall, 304 W. 58th St. Leaflets for the meeting are now ready for distribution, and all members of the Relief Workers League who work at Central Park, regardless of the local to which they belong, are urged to call at the offices at 29 E. 20th St.



One of the most militant and impressive sections of the great United Front May Day parade in New York was this large contingent of members of the Food Workers Industrial Union.

Communists, that their "union" only "organized" the Cooks and Countermen, that dishwashers and the other "bums" don't deserve any more than 6 or 8 bucks a week, and the best thing is to throw out the "reds" and buy an A. F. of L. sign. Of course this was "heaven-sent" for the bosses and they carried through their bargain with the A. F. of L. faithfully. The Industrial Union found itself tied hand and foot with injunctions and other court actions and frame-ups instigated by the scab A. F. of L. agents.

### Fakers Begin Work

After they succeeded in breaking the strike the A. F. of L. fakers set their "organization" in the proper order. They distributed the fat jobs to their faithful henchmen, divided the organization into two branches and set up by-laws to strengthen their own pay envelopes. At the same time they continued their strikebreaking tactics. Now and then they would meet with a militant resistance from the Food Workers Industrial Union, as, for example, at the "Brunswick Cafeteria," and in a few others, but the courts and police were always behind them, and the sporadic opposition of the honest workers in the local could not stop their dirty work. They succeeded in raising the dues to \$5 per month, increased their own wages, and systematically sold out the workers whenever they could.

In the shops the workers were hounded by office spies, who reported everything to the boss or to the officials. The "contracts" with the bosses were just scraps of papers, and they were never carried out. Countermen were working for 25 or 28, or even as low as 22 dollars per week, for 12 hours daily. Taxes and assessments were put in at regular in-

tervals, keeping the fakers well supplied with funds. Democratic rule was something foreign to the local. The President ruled the chair through intimidation and terror. The members were not given the opportunity to voice their grievances on the open floor. A large percentage of the members were unemployed. Anyone whom the officials did not like would remain on the bench without work for months. The officials found even more schemes to fill their own pockets while the members starved.

They make "gentlemen's agreements," whereby they received an amount of money from the boss to keep away from his place. In order to fool the members they would send one or two union men into the place to work while the rest of the shop remained unorganized.

Nevertheless there were many attempts to organize an opposition group to put up a strong fight against the corrupt officials. In April, 1933, the first issue of the "Voice of Local 302" was distributed in the shops. Evidently a rank and file opposition group had started to function. The great enthusiasm of the membership for this bulletin was obvious by the way they accepted and read it. Then followed a series of leaflets and a second issue of the "Voice."

For fear of a general uprising the officials brought the Dutch Schultz mob into the union. At a secret meeting held in an uptown hotel Pincus and Borson agreed to pay Big Sid, Jules Martin, and two other Schultz mobsters \$2,500 to step into the union and clean out the opposition. In order to raise the money they decided to put over a \$5 tax, presumably for "organizational up-

## Bring Dutch Schultz Gang Into Union to Browbeat Members

poses." The revolt of the members against this tax was ruthlessly suppressed by the officials. A reign of terror existed at the April meeting and threats to kill certain members were made from the floor by Pincus. The president ran off the platform and hit members over the heads with the gavel, and only after a fierce struggle the members were coerced into voting in favor of the tax.

In May the gangsters lured one of the members who fought against the tax out on the street and beat him up.

### Union Workers Held

The officials, along with the Schultz gangsters, were indicted, charged with coercion and conspiracy, arrested, and later released on \$1,500 bail. Six union members, however, were held as material witnesses under "protective arrest" and kept in prison for three months and a half under \$15,000 bail.

Abe Borson was later killed by gangsters because he extorted money from Mr. King of the 42nd St. cafeteria.

The opposition movement grew tremendously as a result of the arrest and expose of the officials and their henchmen. At the elections which took place in December the whole slate of the Square Deal Committee was put in office with the exception of the two paid officials. The Square Deal Committee made this basic mistake which later resulted in their own expulsion; they did not run against the two thieves because of a technicality in the By-laws.

The criminal trial, meanwhile, proceeded after six postponements.

The officials spent \$20,000 to kill any possible conviction.

### Expulsions by Officials

The officials hailed this bought and paid for victory as proof of their "innocence" and immediately started a campaign of vengeance against the Square Deal Committee. They called together their henchmen to an illegal meeting where the regular president was not permitted to preside and expelled thirteen members from the union. Included among the thirteen are the president, the vice-president, council, and executive board members of the union, who have been elected by a big majority of the members. At the present day the fight is still going on for reinstatement of all members who were expelled, and the expulsion of the scab officials of Local 302.

## "Sub" Teachers Should Join Up With U.T.A., Says Sec'y

### Six Point Program Is Cited by Secretary of Association

Editor, Daily Worker:

Dear Friend:—This in reply to the "worker correspondent" who suggests that the substitute teachers be organized. I am happy to inform this correspondent that there has been and is such an organization for the last three years. This organization, the Unemployed Teachers' Association, has been conducting militant struggles for the unemployed teachers and has a number of achievements to its credit. Chief among these is the extension of lists, abolition of a share the work scheme and the securing of 500 work relief jobs for unemployed teachers. The educational authorities have been very much aware of our existence, aware enough to expel one of our most militant members, Isidore Begun, from the school system.

Our program includes the following:

- 1—Appointment of all teachers on the elementary and high school lists.
- 2—Reduction of class registers to a minimum of 30.
- 3—A minimum of two days' work per week for all unemployed teachers at cost of city, state and federal governments.
- 4—Abolition of multiple jobs.
- 5—Free food and clothing for children of the unemployed or partially employed.
- 6—Unemployment insurance for all workers at cost of the employers and government.

The Unemployed Teachers' Association has endorsed the Workers' Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill (H. R. 7598) and is actively supporting the campaign for the passage of the bill. We realize that our fight is not only a teachers' fight, and we have allied ourselves with the militant working class. We have sent delegates to the unemployed conventions in Washington.

The Unemployed Teachers' Association is entirely distinct from the New York Association of Unappointed Teachers, which today has no following and believes exclusively in a policy of class collaboration.

All substitutes and teachers not on lists, in fact, all unemployed teachers, are invited to our meetings every Wednesday night at 33 E. 20th St., N. Y. C.

Fraternally yours,

ALICE CITRON,  
Secretary.

# Some Problems of the Harbor Workers

## Work of Marine Union Among Bargemen Gets Results in N. Y.

By DAVID DRUMMOND

ONE of the main problems that confronts the Marine Workers Industrial Union in the port of New York is the winning of the harbor workers over to our program. There are approximately 15,000 harbor workers in the port of New York.

The M. W. I. U. has carried on much work among the harbor workers, especially the bargemen, and has been responsible for winning of better conditions for hundreds of bargemen. The union organized an action of the bargemen of the Bouker Contracting Co. that resulted in an increase of wages amounting to \$24 per month. We had only two members in this company when the action took place, but now all the men in the company are joining the union.

This action of winning better conditions for the bargemen in this company has gained tremendous sentiment for the M. W. I. U. The union is numerically weak on the harbor but the influence of the union is very strong. The big task that confronts the union at the present time is to carry on opposition work in the reformist unions in the harbor.

Last winter the union was responsible for a increase in wages of the men that work for Burns Bros Coal

Co. The men who work in this company are organized in the International Longshoremen's Association. Riley is the business manager of the union and is the typical A. F. of L. gangster type, whose only activity is collecting dues from the membership. The Barge Bulletin that the M. W. I. U. issues started a campaign in exposing the leadership of the I. L. A. and also pointed out that the time was ripe for the men to demand a raise from the company. The old agreement was running out and Riley was not doing anything to prepare the men to force the signing of a new agreement. All of these grievances were played up in the Bulletin and we succeeded in getting contacts that were in favor of our program of work in the craft unions.

We held a few meetings with our contacts and discussed their problems and convinced them that immediate action was necessary, no membership meetings had been held for months. A group of members got together and forced Riley to call a membership meeting. At this meeting he was put on the spot. Member after member took the floor and attacked Riley and his delegates.

At the meeting the men drew up a set of demands that were the same ones that our Bulletin had published. A committee was elected from the rank and file to present the demands to the company. The men let Riley know that they did not trust him. All of the demands were not granted because Riley

started to maneuver and split the men. But a ten dollar increase was won, and Riley was completely discredited. The M. W. I. U. gained more respect from the men.

The big mistake that we made here was that we did not follow up and build up a strong opposition in the I. L. A.

Last month a similar action took place on the barges that run to the Great Lakes. The men on these boats are also organized into the I. L. A. The men last year were getting various scales. Each company paid different wages; the wages ranged from \$70, \$80 and \$90 per month. This year the men were discontented with the wages, so they started to protest but Riley was conspicuous by his absence. We had a couple of members in these barges and they carried on work with the other men to force Riley to call a meeting. A meeting was called and the same results were attained as in the coal barges. Riley was forced to take action. As a result of this action the men on all the barges are getting an even scale of wages. The wages are now \$100 per month.

The towboatmen are also organized into the Associated Marine Workers, which is another dues collecting agency. This union sold out the towboatmen in 1929 and 1931. When the men got wage cuts they were determined to strike. But due to the scabby tactics that Maher, the president, used the towboatmen were forced twice to accept wage cuts.

This union leadership is coop-

## Must Increase Work of Organizing Towboat Men for Action

erating with the boatowners in putting over the boatowners code and the men are getting wise to them. Early this year when the radio operators went on strike and the M. W. I. U. sent a delegation to Maher and asked him to support the strike by calling upon the men on the towboats that were handling the scab ships to refuse to tow them out. The answer that Maher gave was that he had nothing to do with seamen and besides he has trouble of his own. He stated that he has his hands full trying to keep the towboatmen from going out on strike for an increase in wages. This statement shows what kind of strikebreaking leadership this union has.

### Must Spread "Daily"

The M. W. I. U. issues a bulletin to the towboats and it is received favorably by the men. We have been successfully in exposing the fakers, but we have not been able so far to lead any actions to individual towboats for better conditions.

The Daily Worker gives you the truth about the Soviet Union, the truth about working-class strikes in the United States and abroad. Subscribe to the Daily Worker today.

## Trade Union Directory

### STEEL AND METAL WORKERS UNION

The regular monthly meeting of the Machine Shop Local 301 will be held Friday, May 4, at 5:30, in Columbia Hall, 123 Court Street, Brooklyn. Nominations will take place for all officers of the local. Elections will take place on June 1.

### MARINE WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION

Wednesday—Regular Business meeting. Note:—Formerly an educational meeting was held every other Wednesday, but the present situation demands weekly business meetings.

Thursday—Open air meeting at evening. Friday, 4 p.m.—Waterfront Unemployment Council Business meeting. Sunday—Port Organizational Committee of Union meets at 12 p.m.; 3 p.m. Sunday, Open Forum.

### MEETINGS OF UNITED SHOE AND LEATHER WORKERS UNION

Shoe Trade Board meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Shoe Grievance and Membership Committee meets every Monday at 6 p.m.

Slipper Trade Board meets every Monday at 6 p.m.

Slipper Grievance Membership Committee meets every Thursday at 6 p.m.

Slitchdown Trade Board meets every Monday at 6 p.m.

Shoe Repair Trade Board meets every Monday at 6 p.m.

Executive Board meets every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Joint Council meets every second Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

All meetings are held at the headquarters of the union, 22 W. 15th St.

### BROTHERHOOD OF PAINTERS, DECORATORS AND PAPERHANGERS OF AMERICA

Local Union 261, every Friday, at 210 E. 104th St., N.Y.C.

Local Union 490, every Monday, at 109 E. 116th St., N.Y.C.

Local Union 499, every Wednesday, at Labor Temple, 84th St. and 2nd Ave., N.Y.C.

Local Union 846, every Monday, at Labor Temple, 84th St. and 2nd Ave., N.Y.C.

Local Union 892, every Monday, at 216 E. 59th St., N.Y.C.

Local Union 905, every Friday, at Hunts Point Palace, Bronx, N. Y.

Local Union 1011, every Friday, at 109 E. 116th St., N.Y.C.

Painters Rank and File Protective Association meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Labor Temple, 84th St. and Second Ave., Room 7.

In the above locals there are organized groups of the Painters' Rank and File Protective Association.

### TAXI DRIVERS UNION OF GREATER NEW YORK

Headquarters, 60 W. 45th St.: Shop Chairmen meet Monday; Active members meet Wednesday; Shop Chairmen's Executive Committee meets Friday. All meetings will be held in the evening at the headquarters of the union.

### SPECIAL SHOE REPAIR WORKERS MEETING

All shoe repair workers in the Bronx will have a special section meeting on Monday, May 14, right after work at the Shoe Workers Center, 1532 Boston Rd.

Workers of the Bronx are asked to help organize the shoe repair workers by going into the stores in their neighborhood, showing them this announcement and asking them to attend this meeting.

MONDAY, May 7.—Active members and Organization Committee—6 p. m.—Union office.

Women's Action Committee Executive—5:30 p. m.—Union office.

Bathrobe—trade board—right after work—Union office.

TUESDAY, May 8.—Furriers open forum—2 p. m.—Auditorium.

Fur Pointers active members meeting—1 p. m.—Union office.

WEDNESDAY, May 9.—Open Forum—unemployed—2 p. m.—Auditorium.

Brooklyn Needle Trades Club—membership meeting—after work at 962 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn.

THURSDAY, May 10.—Women's Action Committee meeting—5:30 p. m.—Union office.

Open Air Meeting—Lenox Ave. & 131st St.—7 p. m.

Knitgoods—Shop Chairmen and Executive—6:30 p. m.—Union.

Fur Dyers Membership Meeting—7:30 p. m.—Manhattan Lyceum.

Bathrobe—Mass Meeting—Irving Plaza—5:30 p. m.

FRIDAY, May 11.—Trade Union Class—7 p. m.—St. Lukes Hall.

Harlem Needle Trades Club—Membership meeting—8 p. m.—St. Lukes Hall.

### LEFT WING DRESSMAKERS

Left wing dressmakers of Local 22 will hold a special meeting for all group members on Monday, May 7, right after work at Irving Plaza, 15th Street and Irving Place.

The latest developments in the industry and other very important matters will be taken up. No group members should fail to be present.

### Union Youth Committee Endorses Conference Against War, Fascism

NEW YORK.—A call to the youth to endorse the New York Youth Conference Against War and Fascism, to be held Sunday, May 13, at 2 p. m., at the Church of All Nations, 9 Second Ave., was adopted by the Trade Union Unity Youth Committee at its meeting of May 3.

Many unions had representatives present, who acted on the invitation of the American League Against War and Fascism.

The T. U. U. C. has issued a communication to its affiliated unions requesting that all shop groups, unions and affiliated bodies elect delegates to this conference, both youth and adult.

## A.F. of L. Ousts Militants in Waiters Local

### Owners Finance Union Heads To Break Strike; Court Action Quashed

Because of their militant struggle against racketeering in Local 302 of the Delicatessen, Restaurant and Cafeteria Employees Union, A. F. of L., thirteen members, including the President, Vice-President and officers on the Executive Board were railroaded out of the union. Max Pincus, a former agent of the bosses' association, Epstein, Williams and Goldstein were forced to hire Dutch Schultz gangsters to intimidate rank and file members of the local who had exposed the crooked, sell-out policy of these officials.

### Association Pays Local

The Restaurant Owners Association financed the officials of Local 302 when they tried to break the Food Workers Industrial Union's strikes in 1929-30.

In October, 1933, the rank and file opposition brought charges of criminal assault and coercion against the officials and gangsters. Six workers were placed under "protective arrest" and held as material witnesses under \$15,000 bail. The criminals were released on \$1,500 bail while the workers were virtual prisoners for four months, awaiting court action.

### Kill Court Action

The officials by spending \$25,000 were able to kill the court action.

The sincere rank and file members are continuing to agitate for the reinstatement of all the expelled members. They know that if they allow the officials to get away with this, they will not be able to open their mouths in protest against the crookedness existing in the local.

### Must Cleanse A. F. of L.

The struggles in Local 302 have shown the members that courts, judges and the rest of the rotten politicians are part and parcel of the whole rotten system of class justice, that the A. F. of L. officials are the labor lieutenants of the bosses. The only way to cleanse the A. F. of L. is through militant struggle within the organization, under rank and file leadership, not through the courts.

## Wages Low Shows A. F. of L. Worker

### Continues Exposure of Paris 'Gyp' Agency; A.F.L. Apathetic

#### By a Worker Correspondent

NEW YORK.—Referring to the "Daily" of Jan. 19, 1934, about a reader signing himself "Victim," exposing the Paris Employment Agency for promoting a deal for a certain high-class restaurant, for a job as waiter, demanding \$10 as their fee, as well as an additional \$1.50 to be paid the employer for the privilege of working there.

The writer of this letter can certify, even prove it as correct. But the object of this letter right now has a different point of view; that is, as follows: This very same exploiter from the day of opening has been cheating his employees right and left in regard to wages. That is, to some paying no wages at all.

The workers there are aroused and are ready for action of the strongest kind. The only thing that is lacking is leadership, which is the reason I am taking this opportunity to notify you of its extent, in order that the "Daily" sends a reporter there to expose that racketeering nest—so-called Murray's Show Place and Restaurant, 1530 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn. Besides there is a possibility to organize at least the kitchen crew into an Industrial Union.

I, myself, am an A. F. of L. member of Waiters' Union No. 2, which happens to be the only department party organized—or rather was, for only yesterday all the crew of this department walked out of the place. Reason, as already stated, unable to collect two weeks' wages. However, we notified our local. The results are to be seen. "VICTIM."

Stop depending for news and information on the capitalist press that favors the bosses and is against the workers. Read the Daily Worker, America's only working class newspaper



## Rank and File In Pocketbook Union Rebels

### Ruling Clique Employs Force to Keep Jobs; Betray Jobless

#### By L. SYLVA

The International Pocketbook Workers Union consists of some 4,000 members in New York, 2,500 of whom are partially employed and the rest totally unemployed.

There are some 10,000 workers scattered throughout the country, very few of whom are organized. While these 10,000 workers are playing a very big role in determining the living standards of the New York workers, because of the very low wages paid the out of New York workers, due to the fact that they are not organized, they for the same reason play no direct role in deciding the policies of the Union. This is fully in the hands of the New York workers.

### Clique Approved Cuts

The Union administration is in the hands of a clique, who have a record of constant betrayals and sell-outs. The betrayals of this clique administration reached its highest point when they four weeks ago brought as a victory a code for the industry which among other very bad points proposes wage cuts of from 40 to 60 per cent and does not propose any shorter hours in spite of the unemployment in the trade.

The workers unanimously rejected the code and decided for a special union meeting to take up the role the administration played in bringing this code. Knowing how discredited they are in the eyes of the workers, they feared that this meeting would result in their being kicked out of office.

In the past, when confronted with a revolt of the membership, this clique mobilized its "strongarm" elements and when these proved too weak, hired regular gangsters in order to terrorize the membership. But this time, in addition to the fact that the workers due to their meager earnings could not pay dues and taxes, they were also very unwilling to pay dues, with the result that the "strong arms" and gangsters refused to "serve" an empty treasury.

### Try to Use Terror

When confronted with this very serious problem, the breakdown of their arms of terror, and the revolt of the membership, they looked for a way out. Finally they found a man who they think would rally around himself the gangsters, promising them that he will be able to, through force and terror, to fill up again the treasury for these "strong boys."

This man they found in Osip Wolinsky, who until 1929 was manager of this union, but was forced out when he was found guilty of being on the payroll of M. White, the largest firm, while he was manager of the union.

### Rank and File Rebel

The Pocketbook workers, Rank and File Committee, is issuing leaflets, writing articles in the press and calling meetings in order to rally the workers against the traitor Wolinsky and against the administration.

The Rank and File Committee urges the workers to elect a united front Provisional Committee to replace the present administration till after the next agreement is signed

# Leaders of Local 22 Dress Union Try To Create Illusions

## Rode Into Office on Promises; Now They Use Tammany Hall Tactics to Stay in and Betray Union Membership

By B. K.

The present administration of the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, is known as a progressive administration. In the Jewish press, especially the Forward and the Day, much has been written about this local, praising it as the most progressive and democratic local of the whole labor movement in America. The average rank and filer looks up to that local as the model of a labor union, but I shall try to convince the reader of this paper that this is merely an illusion, created by the officials.

First I shall try to explain why the present administration of Local 22 calls itself "progressive."

About three years ago Local 22 had an administration that followed the following principles. Their principle was the regulation one, that a union must be a "pure and simple" organization; the only object of a union is economic, to improve the condition of the workers, to shorten the hours of labor, and to get higher wages. According to the same policy a trade union must collaborate with the leaders of the industry, instead of fighting the bosses as class enemies, as is advocated by the revolutionary unions.

The A. F. of L. leaders preach "collaboration" and co-operation with the bosses. Not only that; they also preach that the union should help the bosses conduct their business wherever necessary. "because the workers have to be interested in the welfare of the industry in which they are occupied." The best example of "cooperation" between the workers and the bosses is the Amalgamated, where a whole staff of accountants are employed to help the employers reorganize their factories wherever it becomes necessary, and also to teach the employers the new methods of production to increase their output.

### Workers Not Satisfied

The very same principle prevailed in Local 22. But many members, some of them Communists, social anarchists, and progressives, were not satisfied with the old administration which stood for the policy of "collaboration" and "co-operation;" they had been brought up with different ideas, especially the Communists had a different conception of how a trade union should be organized and conducted. Their conception of a trade union was: that a union must be a militant organization; in a union workers have to be taught to become class-conscious, imbued with "class struggle," and they must also be taught to be ready when the time comes to abolish the present capitalistic system through a revolution and establish a socialist society.

There were many groups in that local with different philosophies; they all combined into one group. This group named itself "The Progressive Trade Union Group of Local 22." The Communists did not agree to deviate from their principles.

### Program of Promises

This group consisted mainly of Lovestoneites, Socialists, and anarchists. Through an intensive agitation among the dressmakers, they succeeded in gaining a foothold. Before the Progressives came into power they drew up a program with wonderful promises. They promised the membership full democracy, no suppression of any political group holding different opinions, equality to all members, and many more such promises.

But as soon as they got the power for which they were striving, everything was forgotten. For instance, the Progressives came into power

and then carry the elections for a new administration.

The Rank and File Committee is doing everything in its power to organize a united front movement of all anti-Wolinsky elements for the defeat of Wolinsky, for immediate strike preparations, for a united front, militant union administration.

through their promise to be an opposition to the leadership of the "International," but as soon as they set foot into office all the differences among the officials were straightened out. Another example of how the Progressives betrayed their own followers is the following: they promised the membership full democracy, but as their main leader is a Lovestoneite he used all his power to suppress the Left-Wing group, which is the most militant group in that local.

### The Elections

On March 24, Local 22 conducted an election for new officers. In this campaign two opposing groups were involved, the present administration, which is called Progressive and the Left Wing group. The Progressive group, which is dominated by the Lovestoneites, organized a powerful campaign machinery under different disguised names in order to fool the members into voting for them; also wherever it was necessary, to force the new recruits to vote for them. The paid officials, themselves contributed 25 cents each.

Six weeks prior to that election the business agents were engaged day in, day out, running around from shop to shop in a wild frenzy, speaking and agitating among the workers, to put the machine back into office. On the day of the election the business agents stopped hundreds of shops in the middle of the day and brought them into the halls to vote for them.

Never in the history of Local 22 had such a maneuver been heard of! The very same paid officials were watching the entrances to the halls, shouting, yelling, at the tops of their voices "vote for one union"—which meant "put me and my colleagues back into office." Before the workers at large they praised themselves, saying that it was the most democratic election that was ever held in Local 22. One who witnessed this election knows that it was a shame and a disgrace for an administration to conduct such a campaign and yet have the nerve to call itself democratic progressive, and radical! Even Tammany Hall does not dare to use such tactics.

### Used Iron Hand

The Progressives oppressed their opponents with an iron hand under the much disguised name of "progressive unionism."

As a result of the "Tammany Hall measure" the Progressives were re-elected. How could it be otherwise?

After last summer's general strike on dresses, tens of thousands of young girls and other women joined the union. Many dressmakers will recall at the last general strike Grover Whalen wanted the bosses to settle with the International, "otherwise they would have trouble with the Industrial Union." These girls never belonged to a union, never had any experience whatsoever with unions, and when the paid union officials approached them and asked them to vote for the administration, otherwise the union would be broken, is it any wonder that the girls did what they had been told to?

Can you call such an election an honest election, a fair election? Of course not!

Now they boast of their great unparalleled victory. (Indeed, the Left Wing got 4,000 votes during the last election.) They point with pride to the fact that they are the chosen representatives of the members. But listen, Progressives and Lovestoneites, don't boast so much. These are Tammany Hall tactics. Tear down the red flag from your citadel! It's a disgrace for the red flag to hang there

# Strike Proved Myth of Talk About Unshakable Confidence in the Gov't

(Continued from Page 1)

in the hearts of the workers and was bound to let loose within a very short time. Knowing of the disappointment of the workers with the sellout settlement, aware of the fact that the union had not yet been consolidated, the companies considered this an opportune time to challenge the union and to attempt to establish a company union controlled by the bosses.

Accordingly they proceeded to force the workers into a company union and when the chairman of one of the Parmelee garages refused to join, he was discharged. The workers in the rest of the garages of Parmelee realized the meaning of this challenge. They promptly responded with a strike which paralyzed the Parmelee fleet.

**Parmelee Key Fleet**  
The leaders of the Trade Union Unity Council, in discussing the situation with some of the leading members of the taxi drivers, advised them to concentrate their efforts in winning the strike of the Parmelee, because the outcome of this strike would be decisive in the entire industry. We pointed out to these leading comrades that the union had just been born but not yet consolidated, not yet ready to meet a new test of strength, that there was some disappointment among the workers with the outcome of the strike which must be overcome. We had no doubt that the taxi drivers would respond in mass should the union decide to extend the strike of the Parmelee to a general strike.

However, we knew that in this strike the union would have to contend with much greater obstacles than in the first strike, not only on the part of the fleet owners and the city administration, but also on the part of the Socialist Party. We knew from our experiences in other industries that the Socialist Party, whose leaders, Panken and Levy, had been discredited among the taxi drivers, would stop at nothing to sabotage the strike, and, as in the case of other industries, such as fur and shoe, would openly align themselves with the bosses to defeat the strike led by militants.

At the first meeting of the executive council, called to consider the question of the second general strike, Gilbert voted against the strike, but since he could not convince the others he agreed to the strike at the second meeting.

The leadership of the union did not fully realize these difficulties and yielded to the pressure of the workers to extend the strike on a general scale.

The second strike of the taxi drivers will remain one of the most militant pages in the history of the labor movement in New York. For a period of two weeks, the taxi drivers fought against the most powerful combination of enemies, which included the city and federal administration, the powerful fleet owners controlled by General Motors. They encountered a wall of opposition and sabotage from the leaders of the Socialist Party and the A. F. of L., who threw out the committee of strikers who came to appeal for assistance to their local meetings. Relying only on the support from the militant sections of the labor movement, the taxi drivers carried on a battle which aroused the greatest admiration of the entire labor movement. This battle placed this hitherto unorganized, undisciplined and what had appeared to be backward workers in the front ranks of the American labor movement.

**Militant Leadership**  
The experiences in the first strike taught the workers that the only way to defeat the bosses is through militant struggles. The rank and file leaders of the strikers, Orner, Gilbert, Cantor and Rabin, coming from the ranks of the workers, learned a valuable lesson from the first strike. Instead of permitting themselves to be closeted in conference for days in succession, as was the case in the first strike, leaving the workers in a state of suspense and expectancy, without any leadership, they gave up their entire time toward organizing and mobilizing the workers to win the strike. It was their inspiring leadership that kept the ranks of the workers united and made possible the militant demonstrations which paralyzed the industry and took

every taxicab off the streets of New York. It was their close contact with the masses, their policy of taking the masses into their confidence on every step in the negotiations, that made possible such a close bond of unity between the leaders and masses.

During the first week of the strike, when the N. R. A. came forward with a proposal to return to work before a settlement, the leaders of the union, benefitting by the experiences of the workers in the Fifth Ave Bus, the Budd Co. and the Weirton Co., refused to accept this strikebreaking proposal. In this they were unanimously supported by the strikers. They decided to carry through a vote under the auspices of the union to show the taxi drivers' stand on the question of the union. However, the leadership at all times left the door open for negotiations that would be satisfactory to the workers.

This forced concessions from the bosses. At the end of the first week of the strike the companies were forced to agree to a plebiscite which meant a complete victory for the union.

The union called a meeting at St. Nicholas Arena Sunday afternoon which was attended by 8,000 workers. At this meeting the workers again reiterated their readiness to submit to a plebiscite, but adopted a resolution demanding that all workers be allowed to participate in the vote, that the vote be carried through on one day and that the union be permitted to have its own watchers. The capitalist press which was thrown into panic by the militancy of the workers and was looking for an opportunity to arouse the public against the strikers seized upon this opportunity and came out with big headlines that the strikers had rejected the plebiscite. The very news printed below the headlines gave lie to this statement. However, this is now being taken up by the Socialists in an effort to discredit the rank and file leadership.

**Forced La Guardia to Agree**  
The continuous militancy of the workers forced the companies and the LaGuardia administration to agree to the original proposals of the union.

At this point the treacherous agreement in the auto industry was signed by William Green, president of the A. F. of L. This agreement practically legalized and gave recognition to the company union. As soon as the news became known, General Motors ordered the fleet owners to withdraw from the plebiscite and sent its lawyer to New York in an effort to break the strike on the basis of the Roosevelt agreement. La Guardia immediately washed his hands of the plebiscite plan and proposed the auto agreement.

Again the rank and file leaders of the union in consultation with the workers, rejected this offer, since it would mean a defeat of the strike and legalization of the company union which was the main issue in the strike.

These facts give the lie to the slanderous propaganda of the Socialist Party that the leadership of the Manhattan local refused to settle the strike. The Socialist Party will not succeed in its vicious attack since the facts are known to thousands of taxi drivers.

(The final section of Rose Worts' article dealing with the shortcomings of the taxi strike will be continued in next Monday's Trade Union Section.)

## Industrial Union Calls Tailors to Convention

NEW YORK.—A call for a national conference has been issued by the Custom Tailoring Workers Industrial Union, to be held in New York on May 19, 1934. The purpose is to unite all the Custom Tailors for mutual support and assistance in the struggle for better conditions.

This conference will lay the basis for a national organization, to be based on a militant program. The conference will present a united front of all custom tailors against the proposed code.

Workers are urged to call immediate meetings of their locals, shops, and unorganized groups, and elect delegates to the national conference. The address of the union is 49 West 46th Street, New York City.



Taxi Drivers Stopping a Cab in the Recent General Strike

## FOOTNOTES

By HARRY RAYMOND

**JOSEPH P. RYAN, arrogant 200-pound president of the International Longshoremen's Association, after promising Mayor LaGuardia that he would do his best to prevent a strike on the New York coastwise docks, made a hurried trip to the South a few days ago.**

Reports in the New York capitalist press made it appear that Mr. Ryan is in the South to lead the strike of the 18,000 longshoremen who are out in the Texas and Louisiana Gulf ports.

But what really happened in the southern ports is that the stevedores walked out on strike without the sanction of Joe Ryan.

A front page editorial in a recent edition of the "Houston Labor Journal," official organ of the American Federation of Labor published in the seaport town of Houston, Texas, shows that Ryan's interests are the shipowners' interests—to halt any movement of the longshoremen to raise their wages and improve their conditions.

Here's what the "Houston Labor Journal" said shortly before the longshoremen took the situation in their own hands and walked out on strike:

"For the past several years an intermittent state of unrest and dissatisfaction has prevailed in the ranks of Texas and Louisiana longshoremen, breaking out at times in strikes and threats of strikes, with a consequent injury to business that is all out of proportion to the matters involved in the controversies.

"We will not undertake to discuss the matters of immediate issues pending, and the measures of justice or injustice involved, except to say that it is inconceivable to us that any question could arise affecting the welfare and wages of longshoremen that could not be settled equitably, and to the reasonable satisfaction of all concerned.

"However, we do not think that a strike would serve to hasten that settlement, or in any way promote the best interests of the dissatisfied workmen. Instead it would have the reverse effect, bringing hardships to the strikers, antagonizing the employers, and causing a disrupting to business that would be felt by every man and woman in this region.

"So let the longshoremen think seriously about this matter before they jeopardize their jobs by striking.

We'll give one guess as to what Mr. Ryan is doing in the South.

And after you have guessed correctly, longshoremen of New York, that he is there to break the strike and stop it from spreading to the New York docks, your job is clear.

The Marine Workers Industrial Union and the Rank and File Action Committee of the International Longshoremen's Association are organizing the longshoremen on the docks to strike for the 1929 wage scale and for solidarity action with the strikers in the South.

Longshoremen on the I. L. A. docks—your job is to organize action committees and prepare to strike over the head of Ryan in solidarity with the men in the South.

Unorganized longshoremen—join the Marine Workers Industrial Union which is at the present time leading the dock workers in Norfolk, Va., in a militant strike struggle.

Unite against the shipowners!

**A** PLAIN admission that it is the policy of the A. F. of L. leadership to help the bosses cut wages appears in the following communication received last month by the Executive Board of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York from William Young, President of the Philadelphia Typographical Union No. 2, and published on page six of the April issue of the "Union Chronicle," official organ of the Council:

"... John C. Winston Company locked out its employees. This firm is the only printing plant in Philadelphia that has labor trouble. Other fair employers and the union negotiated a reduction in scale of wages, but Winston's demanded a greater cut and then deliberately took the initiative and locked out men who had served them from 16 to 35 years."

The only action the Executive Board took on the question of the lockout was to refer the communication to the Educational Committee!

**T**HE foregoing note shows what militant union workers mean when they speak about the class collaboration policy of the A. F. of L. leaders.

It means that the workers should drop all real fighting policies and accept the employers' program of wage cuts and speed-up—that is, the policy of the N. R. A.

**S**TANDING on a program of revolutionary class struggle, the unions of the Trade Union Unity League and the opposition groups in the A. F. of L. are leading a relentless fight against class collaboration of the A. F. of L. leaders and N. R. A.

## 500 Demonstrate in Waterbury, Conn.

WATERBURY, Conn., May 4.—Two May Day parades here ended up with a militant demonstration of over 500 workers at the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument. Many young workers took part in the demonstration. The main speakers were Joseph Borgnis of this city, and Jackson of New Haven.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

New York Trade Union Section

- BAXTER, H.—Marine Workers Industrial Union
- GILBERT, JOE—Taxi Drivers' Union of Greater New York
- HYMAN, L.—Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union
- HENRY, I.—Furniture Workers Industrial Union
- KRAMBERG, S.—Food Workers Industrial Union
- LUSTIG, J.—Metal Workers Union
- OVERGAARD, A.—Trade Union Unity Council
- UFFRIE, P. M.—Tobacco Workers Union
- WEINSTOCK, L.—A. F. of L. Committee for Unemployment Insurance

## News Writers Face Refusal By Publishers

### Final Recourse Must Be Unity of All Departments

By GEORGE LEWIS

The New York Newspaper Guild, which at last accounts had 1,463 members and has since been organizing new chapters, including a chapter of the New York Amsterdam News, is now faced with several important problems. The New York Publishers' Association has refused to negotiate a contract with a committee of the guild. A second letter to the publishers' association has gone unanswered.

Attempts to negotiate with individual publishers have not yet succeeded. The New York Times business manager has let it be known unofficially, through Allen Raymond, president of the New York Guild, that the New York Times is "not yet ready" to negotiate. The New York Evening Post, whose owner, David Stern, has signed a contract with the Philadelphia branch of the Guild, has put a notice in its New York office that it is operating under a contract with the Newspaper Guild, but the New York committee knows of the existence of no such contract. Probably early action on this question will get some recognition from the Post, which wants to pose as a liberal paper, and would add some prestige to the Guild for the rest of New York newspaper men.

Since the majority of New York newspaper men, who are naturally on a lower political level than workers in basic industries, still have great illusions in the N.R.A., it has been decided to appeal to the N.R.A. for a ruling forcing recognition from the publishers. This is not a bad idea, if it is not permitted to lull the members of the Guild into carrying on no other activity. It would be a good idea also for the Guild to agitate for a ruling from the N.R.A. on the refusal of the New York Times and other papers to deal individually with the Guild.

### Bad Effects

An example of the bad effects of relying only upon such negotiations, without also carrying on a daily agitation and struggle for better conditions is seen in the case of the Jewish Daily Bulletin. There the newspaper workers suffer such bad conditions that it seems they were considering striking for a 48-hour work. However, a committee of the Guild, far from encouraging them to struggle and getting the rest of the Guild to support them, actually held them off from any struggle by holding out the promise of getting their demands for them by negotiations of the committee with the bosses. The Jewish Daily Bulletin staff is now waiting, but so far no negotiations have taken place.

### Relation to Printers

The relation of the Guild to the printers is another important question. This must be sharply differentiated from the relation of the Guild to the officers of the printers' and pressmen's unions, and to the whole A. F. of L. bureaucracy. Since Charles Howard, president of the International Typographical Union, confessed that the A. F. of L. bureaucracy or the mechanical union bureaucracy saw no way to give support to the struggles of the newspaper workers, many Guild members who had previously been for formal affiliation with the A. F. of L. are considering seriously whether anything is to be gained by such a move.

However, this should be no bar to solidarity with the printers and pressmen, but on every specific question appeals should be made both to the rank and file mechanical workers as well as to such organizations as the International Typographical Union for support, even if the support is nothing but the passing of resolutions, at least in the beginning. This will help to create that feeling of solidarity between all newspaper workers which, when it grows strong enough through careful and constant tending, will be a weapon which no publisher can resist.

## N. Y. Barbers Prepare Strike Against N. R. A.

NEW YORK.—Twelve thousand barbers prepare to strike on May 15 if the N.R.A. code minimum wage of \$17 a week is not increased to \$20, with the added provision that a barber shall receive a commission of 60 per cent on all his earnings above \$37 a week.