

Food Workers Move Toward One Union

Must Build Militant Opposition Of Dining Car Cooks and Waiters

Union Leaders Fail to Carry on the Fight for the Observance of Conditions of Agreement Signed by the Company

By J. R.

The agreement between the Brotherhood of Dining Car Cooks and Waiters and the Pennsylvania R.R. of 1929 specified certain working conditions and a scale of wage rates for different classifications of workers.

Under this agreement the Penn. was supposed to pay for a minimum of three hours for reporting, was supposed to give full pay for day dead runs and a minimum of three hours for all night dead head runs.

The union leaders instead of rallying its members and fighting for the observance of these conditions by the company, adopted a policy of doing nothing about the grievances of the men, or at best made a feeble protest. The union officials were content to draw their salaries from the \$3 initiation fee and the \$1 a month dues which the workers paid into the union for union protection and sick and death benefits.

When the company discovered that the union did nothing to enforce the working agreement, they started a policy of gradually violating most of the provisions of this agreement. For instance, instead of dead-heading men on a day run, they arranged their schedules so that most of the men were dead-headed at night, thus saving themselves several hours wages per man. Then as time went on they developed other wage-cutting methods. Instead of paying three hours wages for reporting, they changed that to fifteen minutes.

Petty Larceny

The Penn. also developed another lucrative petty larceny racket. They force out-of-town workers to sleep at company flop houses so that they are within call for emergency runs and charge them 25 cents per night for this imposition which they call an accommodation.

Numerous other violations of the agreement has so reduced the union membership that the chair warmers are now making a violent drive for membership. They even went so far as to circulate the rumor that new members would be admitted free, and then officially contradicted this rumor.

With the initiation fee at \$3 and the dues \$1 per month, the sick and death benefits suspended indefinitely, the rank and file workers have been fighting shy of all at-

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TUUL Leaders Will Discuss "Sevedore" at Labor Temple Friday

A symposium on "Sevedore," in which leading speakers of the Trade Union Unity League and the Theatre Union will discuss the problems raised by the play has been announced to take place on Friday evening, May 18 at Labor Temple, Second Ave., 14th St.

The symposium has been arranged by the Trade Union Unity Council as a result of the enthusiasm evoked by the play among trade union members.

Participating in the symposium will be Paul Peters and Michael Blankfort of the Theatre Union, James Ford, member of the National Bureau of the Trade Union Unity League, and other trade union leaders. Georgette Harvey, who plays the role of "Binette," will sing Negro and Russian songs.

Women Needle Workers Off To Capital

To Protest Miserable Conditions in N. Y. Fur Shops

By CLARA MELTZER

A DELEGATION of women needle trades workers is leaving for Washington today, to demand a hearing with the Secretary of Labor, Miss Perkins, and Rose Schneiderman.

Most of the delegates are fur workers who face unbearable exploitation in the shops, unemployment, and who are being forced to belong to a company union.

The National Labor Board has made an agreement with the fur bosses, at a recent hearing that a status-quo should be maintained in the fur trade until a referendum will decide to which union the workers choose to belong.

The bosses have ignored this agreement and continue to lock-out the workers who refused to join the company union. The National Labor Board did not call the fur bosses to responsibility for recognizing a company union, and ratifying their agreement which was declared void by the chairman of the hearing, Senator Wagner.

Scab Council

The bosses have recognized the "Joint Council," better known as the "Joint," which functions as an agency which provides scabs whenever a shop goes on strike for union conditions. The police department, together with underworld gangsters, and the notorious Lovestonite, Turk, who always carries a knife in his pocket, lead the scabs every morning to the shops which are on strike.

Conditions Undermined

The bosses have undermined the conditions in all the shops, by cutting the wages and lengthening the hours of the workers. They have installed the contracting evil, of which the women furriers suffer mostly, since the work is being done mostly on finishing by contractors who exploit non-union help outside the fur shops.

At a mass meeting of the finishers it was decided that a women's delegation is to go to Washington to present these facts to the "ladies," Perkins and Rose Schneiderman who claim to represent the interests of the workers, and are especially concerned — they claim — with the welfare of the women workers.

Endorse The Women's Anti-War Congress!

The Trade Union Unity Council, 799 Broadway, has issued a call to all its affiliated unions to endorse the International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in Paris, France, July 28-30.

This congress will work out plans to mobilize women in every country in the world to fight against imperialist war and advancing fascism.

Among the delegates who will go to the congress from the United States, will be five from New York,

"IT'S O.K. WITH ME"

by Delappe



The Amalgamated Clothing Convention Opens Today

AT the first convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America to be called in four years, and which opens in Rochester, N. Y. today, the rank-and-file committee in the union is rallying its forces to break the reactionary, strike-breaking Hillman machine and force rank-and-file control of the union on a militant program.

The opposition committee will propose resolutions at this convention demanding that the union fight against the piece system which has resulted in virtual sweat-shops throughout the country. The institution of week-work is demanded in its place.

Demand Wage Increases

An increase in wages to meet the rising cost of living and equal pay for equal work are among the demands of the opposition. The committee will raise the issue of home-work and the fight for sanitary conditions in the shops.

Especially important is the demand of the rank and file that the union shall issue exempt stamps to the unemployed. The ruling clique has caused militant workers to lose their jobs. Unable to continue paying their dues, these workers have been dropped from the union. They are thus deprived of all benefits of the Unemployment Fund and are unable to continue their fight against the misleaders of the union.

Right to Strike

The right to strike and the struggle against discrimination in the shops will be taken up by the opposition at the convention. The rank-and-file delegates there will

attempt to bring out the whole slimy role of the Hillman-Schlossberg machine into the open and break the grip of the clique.

The Hillman machine, openly and directly serving the interests of the employers, has left a nauseating trail of scandals in its wake. The graft scandals involving powerful clothing companies and the officialdom of the union and the direct tie-up of the officials with racketeers has resulted in the needs and benefits of the workers being continuously disregarded.

Financial reports have not been given the members in many years. Hillman has forced the piece-work system upon the workers and has resorted to gangster terror when the workers fought against the piece-work system.

The money in the Unemployment Insurance fund, which was intended to feed the families of jobless workers, has been turned into a new source of graft for the ruling clique of the union.

The rank-and-file committee has raised these demands in all the locals of the Amalgamated to rally the support of the workers on this militant program and to consolidate the ranks in the struggle to oust Hillman, Schlossberg, and the other bureaucrats having a stranglehold on the union and its funds.

2 Unions Meet; Both Agree On Amalgamation

Movement Has Great Effect on Workers in A. F. L. Unions

By WM. ALBERTSON
Sec'y, Hotel and Restaurant Workers
Union, Local 119, of the Food
Workers Industrial Union

The present widespread movement amongst the workers in the Food Workers Industrial Union, the Amalgamated Food Workers of America, and many unorganized food workers and members of independent food unions for the establishment of one class struggle union in the food industry nationally, springs directly from the experiences of the workers in the recent general strike struggle in the hotel and restaurant industry in New York.

The hotel industry, being one of the basic sections of the food industry as a whole, naturally drew the attention of all the workers in the food industry to the strike and to its outcome.

Unity of Action In Struggle

During the strike, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union of the Food Workers Industrial Union not only spoke unity, but established the unity of the workers in struggle over the heads of the renegade leadership of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union and conducted a militant policy throughout the period of the strike, at the same time agitating for and working in the direction of establishing one union on a class struggle program in the hotel and restaurant industry as the only guarantee that the workers' interests could be protected.

Oust Leaders

Realizing the betrayal perpetrated upon them by their misleaders due to the pursuance of a policy of splitting the ranks of the workers and of collaboration with the bosses through the medium of the N.R.A. Regional Labor Board, the membership of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union ousted their leadership from the Union and took the administration into their own hands. They also had the perspective that their union and the hotel and restaurant local of the Food Workers Industrial Union would merge into one union in the industry on the basis of class struggle.

A.F.W. Agrees

However, the movement for amalgamation spread rapidly from the hotel workers to the workers in a number of other locals in the Amalgamated Food Workers of America. The movement grew so rapidly, that an official joint rank and file committee of ten, representing the National Committee of the Food Workers In-

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ILGWU Convention To Be Held in Chi. At End of the Month

Delegates of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will meet in convention in Chicago on May 29. The tasks of the rank and file members of the union from New York, the program of the Left Wing group, will be presented and discussed in next Monday's Trade Union Section. Don't miss this special convention issue of the Trade Union Section.

"Women can play a key role in stopping another war and of the advance of fascism. Women will be called upon to take the place of men in the factories and even be forced to do the actual fighting. They must be prepared to stop the criminal and insane plans of the capitalist butchers."

All affiliated locals of the T. U. U. C. are to take immediate steps to mobilize their membership for conferences which will be held in June to elect delegates.

Shop Conference Of Hatters Votes For Increase In Wages

Local 8 Rank and File Demand Quick Answer from Manufacturers

A SHOP conference of Local 8, United Hatters, last Tuesday at Beethoven Hall decided to demand an increase of 75c per dozen for finishing, a 20c increase for flanging and an increase of \$5 a week for weekly help.

Other demands decided upon are the following: 50c extra payment for finishing snow hats and all other colors in the same category on which the men have to put in extra work; 15c extra payment for rounding with a strap; 15c extra payment for 9 line band hats and the employment of union men at union wages on the following operations: blocking, pouncing, brim plating, plugging, packing and slicking.

A final vote on these demands will be taken at a special general membership meeting Wednesday, May 16, 4 p. m. at Beethoven Hall. This meeting will also decide on the date of presentation of the Bill of Prices to the hat manufacturers and also on the length of time the latter will be allowed to decide on the answer.

In the past the procedure was that the Bill of Prices was presented to the manufacturers on June 1, and they were given time until June 10 to give the answer. This year, however, there is a sentiment among the men to present the Bill earlier, since some manufacturers are already stocking up on their fall order, and also to allow them a much shorter period than in the past to present an answer.

Growing Militancy

The conference on Tuesday showed that there is a growing spirit of militancy among the hatters.

Must Take Matters In Own Hands

It is important at present for every hatter to remember that when they go out on strike this year to win their well deserved demands they must take matters into their own hands. They must see to it that the necessary preparations shall be made for an effective strike. They must not allow themselves to be influenced by speeches of Michael Greene or any other officer who will try to discourage them from putting up a fight for their demands.

N.Y. Painters Set Up Club On East Side

Carpenters Also Build New Club in Uptown Section of City

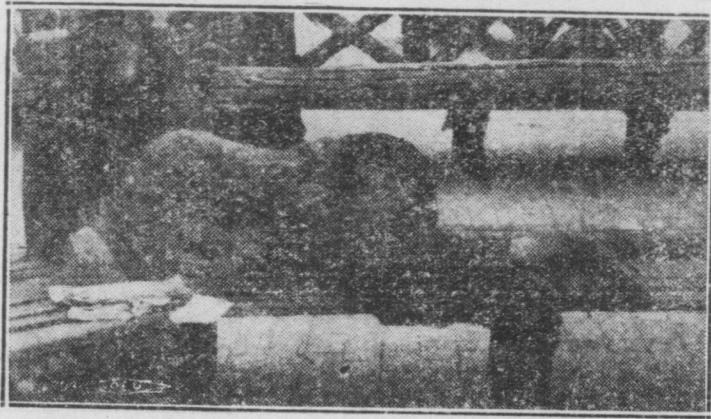
Some six or seven weeks ago the painters on the lower east side organized a Painters Club known as the Tri-borough Painters Club, 721 Sixth Ave. This organization is growing very rapidly, over 300 dues paying members having joined within a period of six or seven weeks. The club has established a headquarters, with telephone, and calls are received for painters to work.

The painters in the past have been subjected to job control through the business agents of the various A. F. of L. locals, with all sorts of discrimination, extortion, etc. In this club there is no discrimination and painters are given the jobs that come in rotation, each member receiving his number and moving up in turn to the position at the top of the list.

Carpenters Build Club

It is interesting to note that the carpenters up-town have likewise established a club. These clubs are not unions and not intended as such, but due to the resentment of the rank and file among the A. F. of L. locals against the crooked and graft-grabbing business agents, the rank and file and non-union members are establishing these centers to gather and discuss their conditions, to secure a livelihood through having a headquarters where employers may reach them. (This is achieved through advertising, canvassing contractors, etc.)

The clubs serve simply as centers and gathering places, holding regular business meetings. They are not fraternal. In the Painters Club, due to the activity of a wide-awake class conscious group of members, the organization has been steered away from the dangerous rocks of discrimination and reactionary control.



THE NEW DEAL FOR THE UNEMPLOYED—Park benches haven't got softer since the Blue Eagle began to flap its wings. This unemployed worker is one of the thousands of New York workers whose bed is a hard bench. The fight for the passage of H. R. 7598, the Workers' Unemployment Insurance Bill, is necessary if the unemployed are to live better than animals.

Taxi Union Needs Help

Editor of the Daily Worker:

We wish to express our appreciation on behalf of the Taxicab Drivers' Union of Greater New York for the splendid support given to the taxi drivers by the labor organizations during our last general strike. Your support was a contributing factor in cementing the unity of the strikers and the maintenance of their militant spirit on the picket lines.

Since the general strike was terminated the Socialist Party leadership, in alliance with the racketeers, left no stone unturned to destroy the unity of the militant Taxi Cab Drivers' Union and its leadership. Not satisfied with the shameful role they played in the strike, they attempted to turn over the taxi drivers to the American Federation of Labor, the leadership of which knifed the general strike when President William Green signed the Automobile Pact which legalized company unions. This move was designed in order to divide the taxi drivers and thereby destroy their militant union. The rank and file resisted this attack and have thrown their support to the militant leadership of the Manhattan Local.

While the racketeers in the Manhattan Local, with the assistance of the Socialist Party leadership through strong-armed methods, captured the union headquarters at 42nd St., we have the rank and file of hackmen. Through the support of the rank and file we established new headquarters at 60 W. 45th St.

We are now engaged in strengthening the union to meet the attacks of the bosses and their company unions, the racketeers and

their Socialist Party allies. In this struggle we are again going to appeal to all organizations who have given us such splendid support in the general strike, to give us that same financial support in this struggle against all our enemies and to enable us to firmly establish our militant Taxi Drivers' Union.

Sam Orner, President

Joseph Gilbert, General Organizer

Abner Selly, Financial Secretary

Harry Cantor

William Gandall

Adolph Rabin

Reckoning Day IS Coming, Comrade!

By a Food Worker Correspondent
BROOKLYN, N. Y.—This may not be humorous but it's damn ironic, even sad. What is a worse ironic situation than one in which a half-starved waiter—who makes \$30 a month and depends upon tips, waits on a millionaire? I work in one of those fashionable hotels where the tired banker, stock broker and general smart set of the theatrical profession gather around at the regular cocktail hour of 5 p. m. and discuss stock quotations, the latest news, the musical comedy they saw last night and the pleasant effects of a good cocktail. They sip their drinks slowly and request a number from the orchestra (of which I am one). They applaud gently, speak in whispers and oc-

Hairdressers Unions Move Toward Unity

Strike Still On At the Beauty Parlor in Brooklyn

THE United Beauticians and Hairdressers Union is now conducting a strike in Dorine Beauty Shop in Brooklyn. The operators demand the 8 hour day, union recognition and the right to join a union of their own choice. The operators were working over 76 hours a week and were getting wages as low as \$10 a week.

When the boss tried to force them to join the A. F. of L. union the operators struck. As usual the strike breaking A. F. of L. sent scabs to the shop. During the week, 24 workers were arrested for picketing, although no injunction had been issued.

Again, as usual, the police used provocateurs and the A.F. of L. used gangsters to try to provoke fights to break up the open air meetings and demonstrations, but with the help of the Young Communist League this was prevented.

As a membership meeting of the United Beauticians and Hairdressers Union the Independent Hairdressers Union gave \$15 to the strike fund of the Dorine Beauty Shop. The president of the Independent gave \$5.

It would be both wise and of benefit to both unions if they had a close United Front against the corrupt A. F. of L. officials and drive them from the trade.

This strike is of the greatest importance to the beauty trade. The whole trade is awaiting its outcome. If this strike is successful the entire trade will be organized into one militant Beautician and Hairdressers Union.

asionally laugh out loud. The waiter gets his usual 10 cent tip.

And this is what he works for. He's lucky if he averages \$10 a week in tips. The head waiter and the captain play the role in gypping the waiter.

The waiter is never home with his wife, because he works about 10 hours a day. The wife of one waiter works during the day so that they see each other only upon going to sleep. This is not conducive to any happy marital relationship.

There is misery in the hearts of these men who cater to the wealthy whom they despise. Some of them are refugees from fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. They call themselves Communists and support the Party. They say there's a day of reckoning coming.

Some Shortcomings of the Recent N. Y. Taxi Strike

Limited Activities To One Section of the City Only

By ROSE WORTIS
(Continued From Last Monday)

Against these strong points, the strike suffered from a number of serious shortcomings which proved very costly to the union. When the strike was called the union formulated a number of economic demands. However, in the course of the strike the leadership permitted the economic demands to be pushed to the background. While establishing themselves as the mass leaders of the strikers, Orner, Gilbert, Cantor and the other rank and file leaders permitted important positions, such as vice-president, secretary, treasurer, to remain in the hands of a group of Tamany henchmen who regarded the union as a business proposition to earn an easy livelihood. Administration of the funds were in this way taken over by the racketeers, Rubin, Cecil and Weiner, who misused not only the money paid by the taxi drivers in dues and initiations, but thousands of dollars collected by the Labor Committee organized to support the strike. It was only at the end of the strike that the demand for a financial account was made by the militant leadership. Through their control of the funds they have held statements intending to bring the back two issues of the union paper and also the printing of numerous statements intending to bring the cause of the strikers before the pub-

lic and to appeal to those workers who had remained on the job.

Orner and Gilbert committed the same error made by numerous other comrades even in some of our oldest unions, namely the idea that we cannot fight on two fronts at the same time, that while we are conducting a strike against the bosses it is injurious to take up a struggle against the representatives of the bosses inside of the union. They were guided by the same mistaken ideas as in the cloak strike of 1926 when, while aware that Sigman and Dubinsky were knifing the strike, we adopted the policy of "let us first defeat the bosses, then we will take care of the enemies from within." The leaders in the taxi strike just like the leaders in many other unions failed to realize that it is one and the same fight, that to carry on a fight against the bosses while permitting the representatives of the bosses in the union to undermine the strike would lead to the same results.

Another very serious shortcoming of the leadership was the fact that they limited their activities to Manhattan alone and left the mass of the workers of the Bronx, Queens and Harlem at the mercy of the misleaders, Smitty and Goldstein, who with the help of Panken helped to sell out the first strike. While the workers of Manhattan were familiar with every step in the developments of the strike and negotiations, the strikers of the other sections were kept in total ignorance. The militancy on the picket-line which helped to raise the spirit

of the strikers in Manhattan was discouraged in the other section where the leadership accepted the police regulations of picketing tw by two and at times called off the picket line altogether.

In Manhattan the leaders welcomed the assistance of the Workers International Relief, which organized kitchens where thousands of strikers and their families were fed twice daily. But these same leaders failed to bring the question of organized relief before the strikers in other sections. Instead Smitty of the Bronx and Goldstein of Brooklyn were given daily checks of \$100 and \$200. No steps were taken to find out where this money was going to.

Failed to Expose Splitters

Even more serious was the failure of the Manhattan leadership to expose the splitting activities of the misleaders of the other sections who tried to array the workers of the Bronx and Brooklyn against the workers of Manhattan. Instead of bringing these matters before the workers they attempted to preserve a superficial unity. A striking example of this hesitancy to expose the misleaders occurred in the last days of the strike. Smitty and Goldstein called together their supporters under the slogan of going to Manhattan to oust the reds. When they reached Manhattan and sensed the mood of the workers they turned about front and began to call for unity. This was not exposed before the workers.

While demands for the Negro taxi drivers were sharply brought for-

ward, insufficient work was carried on among them to win them to our leadership.

To sum up the whole strike situation, the following lessons can be learned:

1—First, that contrary to the long established theory about the submissiveness of the American workers the workers once aroused to action are showing the greatest militancy.

2—That the idea about the unshaken confidence of the American workers in the capitalist government is so much capitalist propaganda, since we see in this strike as in many others that once the workers become disillusioned in the government on the basis of the concrete actions which involve their most vital interests, these workers will be just as ready to fight against the strike-breaking government as they will directly against the bosses.

3—It has exploded the idea that the American workers will not accept the leadership of Communists. This strike more than any other has shown that if the Communists develop the correct policy and tactics of leading the struggle of the workers, the workers are ready to disregard the red scare and the propaganda of the bosses and rally around Communist leaders.

4—This strike has also shown the importance of understanding the psychological moment for a retreat.

5—It has brought out more sharply than any other strike the need of continuously and systematically exposing the enemies within the ranks of the workers and to develop

Failed to Expose the Role of Those Who Would Split Union

simultaneously the struggles against the bosses as well as their henchmen within the ranks of the labor movement.

The strike of the taxi drivers, even though it has not attained its main objective, has nevertheless been an inspiring example to workers in many other industries of New York City, especially the city transport workers, who are beginning to move much faster toward organization. The taxi drivers have shown unmistakably their determination to build a union as the only weapon of defense against exploitation. The splendid leadership given by Orner, Gilbert and other rank and file leaders to the taxi drivers bids well for the workers in this field to establish their union in New York and to be the initiators for the organization of a powerful national union of taxicab drivers.

The first symptoms of this are already seen by the movement for organization in New Jersey, Boston, Chicago, etc., where the workers are calling on the New York leaders to assist them in organizing the union. The Communist Party, which has gained great prestige among the workers as well as increased membership, will continue to give its loyal support to help build a powerful section of the organized workers of this country.

Coney Island Strikers Hit Injunction

A. F. of L. Leaders Force Members to Scab on Strike

THE misleaders of the American Federation of Labor, Local 325, had signed to sell-out the strike of Nathan's Famous, Inc., now on its third week, and are forcing their members to scab against their will. The strikers are naturally indignant and are using every means to smash this sell-out by exposing the A. F. of L. grafters to the rank and file members.

The strike was hardly in its second week when Mr. Nathan, through his political pull, obtained an injunction prohibiting the strikers from picketing. The New York Trade Union Anti-Injunction Committee, on its last regional conference in Coney Island, had passed resolutions to the effect of smashing the Nathan's injunction. In the meantime the Committee had mobilized various organizations to picket the place on their own behalf, in order to test the force of the injunction, i.e., whether it applies to all organizations or only to those incorporated in the injunction. Several arrests have been made in the last few days on the charge of disorderly conduct.

The injunction case came up for a hearing last Tuesday, but decision was reserved. The strikers are impatient. They are determined to smash the injunction, and win their demands for the recognition of the union of their own choosing—the Cafeteria Workers Union.

HAIRDRESSERS STRIKE STILL ON

NEW YORK.—It has been rumored around by agents of the bosses that the strike at the Dorian Beauty Shop is over. The truth of the matter is that the strike is still on, according to reports from the strike headquarters at 261 Schenectady Ave., Brooklyn.

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.; 2 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.

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

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

Shutdown 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 848, every Monday, at Labor Temple, 84th St. and 2nd Ave., N.Y.C.

Local Union 892, every Monday, at 216 E. 99th 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 Chairman meet Monday; Active members meet Wednesday; Shop Chairman's Executive Committee meets Friday. All meetings will be held in the evening at the headquarters of the union.

An A.F.L. Delegate Reports

By JIM WATERS

(Ted Miller—that isn't his name, but it will do just as well—is a rock-ribbed reactionary, a defender of the American Constitution and protector of the sanctity of the home. He is down on all Reds. So the bureaucrats in the central labor body picked him out to represent them at the A. F. of L. convention at El Paso. This is what Ted reported when he got back. It is not fiction. Ted is a real person, and the story was taken down pretty nearly verbatim.)

"Well, brothers, I got back from the Texas Convention last night, And I sure want to thank you for the trip. The convention was called on the Seventeenth And adjourned on the Twenty-fourth We all had a good time. Most of the boys spent their time in Juarez. That's sure some town . . . They don't have keys in that town . . . Whiskey . . . two dollars a quart . . . good stuff. Plenty of beer. The Mexicans make a drink Called pulki . . . it would make a man kill his mother. We sure had plenty to drink . . . Now I've seen lots of bull thrown around here, But down there I saw them killed by the car load. And cock fights! Christ, them long-legged birds Can fight like hell . . . never seen anything like it. We sure had a good time . . . And women . . . a man's a hog that wants better variety; And nationality, color, size, any age from twelve to sixty. I was too drunk to see good, but they looked pretty clean. Well, brothers, I don't know of any more to say, Only, I sure want to thank you for the trip. "Oh, just another word, brothers, You remember the big schooners O'Sullivan used to put out? Them two-handed ones? Well, that's how they serve beer in Juarez."

Furriers Protest AFL Racketeering

Haberman Shop Workers Issue Statement

Racketeering and violence used by the A. F. of L. and Socialist leaders of the Furriers Joint Council was vigorously protested last week by a group of furriers, members of the Fur Workers Industrial Union, who were driven by strong arm men from the Haberman shop, 24 W. 57th St.

The following statement signed by 11 workers in the shop tells the story:

"On Tuesday a group of about 15 men rushed into the shop, went over to the machines and benches, put out the electric lights and said: 'dress and come with us.' Some of these men were stationed at the door of the shop so that none of us could escape. When we refused to come along they pushed us, forcing us to leave the shop.

"They led us down to the street,

surrounded us, pushed us into taxis, intimidating us . . . to the office of the Joint Council. "We, the workers of the Haberman shop condemn these gangster methods. We further state that we refuse to have anything to do with the Joint Council. We are members of the Fur Workers Industrial Union and will remain and give our full support to the Industrial Union.

Furniture Workers Condemn Racketeers

The Mattress, Box and Bed Spring Section of the Furniture Workers Industrial Union discovered a group of corrupt elements among the mattress makers, who had a conference with racketeers and planned to organize an opposition union, in order to terrorize the mattress makers and sell them out to the bosses.

The membership of the Mattress Section of the Union condemned these racketeers and their agents at a special meeting which was held on Thursday, May 10th.

N.Y. Laundries Are Just Hell On Earth

"Black Bastard," is a Pet Name the Foremen Have for Negro Workers

By MORRIS KAUFMAN, Organizer of the Laundry Workers Industrial Union

THE Nobel Prize for exploitation of Negro and white workers goes to the employers of the laundry industry in the city of New York, in the three branches of the industry: 1.—Wholesale seam; 2.—Wet wash; 3.—Linen coat and apron supply.

There are about 50,000 laundry workers, not counting the workers in hotel laundries and city institutions and large chain stores having their own laundries. About 65 or 70 per cent are Negro workers, the rest Spanish, Jewish, etc. The men workers in the wash kitchen, where 90 per cent are Negro workers and the hardest and filthiest work is done—80 to 90 hours per week is nothing unusual. The workers are paid in most cases, by the day, from \$2 to \$3 per day and discriminations because they are Negro workers are plenty, such as asking you to come in to work; spend carfare and time and then send you home. The foreman calling you black bastard, or worse, is often a common practice. If you want to verify the hours, ask any kitchen workers, working for the Port Morris Laundry, the Pearl White or the Spick and Span.

But the majority of the workers are women workers, and last year the State of New York passed a law which guaranteed to women workers 31 cents per hour as a minimum wage, and 10 per cent more if they don't work at least 34 hours out of a 40 hour week.

So far 90 per cent of the employers are not living up to the law, but they have lowered the higher paid workers to 31 cents and speeding up the rest of the workers. Here are just a few facts among many. The Edison Laundry sends away 14 women workers, the Westboro Laundry 10 out of 30 girls and make the others do all the work, and so, we could enumerate fat pages.

The Drivers
Now, the so-called better paid workers, are the drivers. Since the employers were actually the only ones in Washington to work out the laundry code, they classified the drivers as salesmen and commission workers, so they are not included in the code—now. Most of the drivers really believed in the New Deal and Section 7A of the NRA. They also believed the A. F. of L. would be the one getting the most favor from the government board employers(?). So they flocked to Local 810 Drivers'

Taxi Union Paper Opens Its Guns Against Racketeering

By EDWIN ALEXANDER

The determination to win better conditions for the hackmen of New York City by ouliding a united, rank and file controlled, militant union, free from grafters and strikebreaking bureaucrats, breathes through every page of this first issue of the Union Hackie, official organ of the Taxi Cab Drivers Union of Greater New York.

After the recent general strike, the taxi drivers were beset by two major problems the attempts of such open racketeers as Rubin, Weiner and Maurer in alliance with Socialist Party leaders to affiliate with the A. F. of L. over the heads of the cabmen, and the renewed drive from the company union.

In a vivid editorial and in articles by Sam Orner and William Gandall, the precise role of the So-



SAMUEL ORNER, President of the Taxi Drivers Union of Greater New York.

cialists is pointed out; their tactics can only lead to the splitting of the union, with the consequence that the cabbies are left to the mercy of the fleet owners and the company unions.

Revelation of a plot to bribe Orner; of the sell-out activities of O'Brien and Cohen of the A. F. of L.; of the efforts of Smith, Goldstein, Maurer, Weiner and Paley to raise a red scare in order to cloak their selfish aims in jacking-up dues, all throw much more light on the A. F. of L. and its Socialist adherents.

Interesting and important is the decision of the Taxicab Drivers Union to limit salaries of its officials to the average hackman's wage and to set dues at fifty cents per month. What a contrast to the policies of the now discredited Sam Smith who under Socialist influence, appointed himself leader

of the Bronx and grabbed off \$200 a day during the strike.

Although the Union Hackie appeared just before May Day, mention of this event is confined to a vague, generalized editorial on the back page, which fails to mention the place of time of the demonstration. Certainly in view of the cabmen's intimate acquaintances with Socialist 'unity,' specific and vital reasons for participation in the United Front May Day parade could have been put forward.

Work in Garage

An article on work in the garages by Harry Cantor effectively points out the necessity for solid organizational work now that the glamour of the strike is past and gives concrete directives.

Other immediate tasks are taken up by Joe Gilbert in a story which explains the common interest of independent cab owners and fleet drivers in the struggle against monopolization by the large car corporations.

Explanation of the N.R.A.'s activities might profitably have been undertaken in respect to this last and in connection with the company unions.

The Taxicab Drivers Union includes a plank on the Negro cabmen in its platform, but no discussion of their special problems is found in the paper. Since Harlem has been one of the most active localities, articles devoted particularly to the conditions facing Negro hackmen should appear soon.

Praise of the cab driver's courage from a physician who treated many during the strike, a snappy column by Gandall, and two cartoons round out the issue.

Osip Makes Return; Rat Was Boss Aide

Walinsky Back; Beware Pocketbook Workers!

Osip Wallinsky, who recently returned to the Pocketbook Makers Union to take up the position of "Legal Advisor," has already announced what kind of advice he proposes to give.

"It will be my privilege to help on the union board of strategy in planning constructively for the good of the industry" . . . and then he adds for good appearances, "and the welfare of its laboring man."

It will be remembered that this same Wallinsky, who came back to the union accompanied by shouts of joy from the Socialist Party leaders of the union, was booted out of the organization eight years ago when it was discovered that he held two jobs; one with the union as business manager and the other with the Morris White Shop where he was giving advice on how to break strikes.

The rank and file of the union have recently had a taste of Mr. Walinsky's method of "helping the working man." On May 2 a group of thugs who were supporting the campaign to reinstate him in the union brutally beat two members of the rank and file opposition.

Rank and file members should refuse to allow this scoundrel to act in the capacity of "legal advisor" or in any other capacity in the union. Drive him from your ranks! He is a rat working for the bosses' interests!

Strike for More Pay, Less Hours in Shop of Samuels and Dickstein

NEW YORK.—The mechanics and helpers of the shop of Samuels and Dickstein, 312 E. 8th Street, are striking against the low wages, long hours and intolerable conditions existing in the shop. The mechanics are forced to work for as low a wage as \$12.50 and helpers for a wage of \$7 for a 6 day week.

All workers in the trade are urged to join at their next membership meeting, which will be held Monday, May 14th, at 854 Broadway, N. Y. at 8 p.m.

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.

FOOTNOTES

By HARRY RAYMOND

WHEN Mr. Schlossberg, General Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, goes to Rochester on May 14 to attend the union convention he will have other urgent business to take care of besides defending the piece work system, commonly called "Hillmen's Chain Gang."

The Grand Field Marshall of the Amalgamated also has a date in a Rochester courthouse to answer a labor racketeering charge.

It happens that about three years ago the Reyborn Clothing Company made a loan from the Amalgamated Bank and when the time came to pay it off company officials said that they did not have the money.

Whereupon Mr. Louis Waldman, Socialist Party leader, rushed to the scene, and promptly worked up a plan whereby the workers in the factory would loan the company 10 per cent of their wages to pay off the debt.

Then the factory changed hands. A Mr. Holtz, President of the Clothing Manufacturers Association, became the new boss. He collected the 10 per cent for two years.

At the end of the two years union officials came to the workers and with sorrowful looks in their eyes told them that the company was broke. The union officials increased the rate to 15 per cent of the workers' wages. Mr. Holtz then gave up the shop.

At this point Brother Davis, a cutter, who worked in the factory nine years, rared up and began to kick. He wanted his money back.

In the local union he sailed into the officials. For this he was kicked out.

Davis took the case to court. The Amalgamated lawyer offered him \$100 to drop it. But Davis would not do that.

So Schlossberg will have to explain his little racket in court.

With the court case and the convention coming at the same time Schlossberg has got a lot of tall explaining to do.

TAXI DRIVERS are again getting active. The new headquarters of the Taxi Drivers' Union of Greater New York at 60 West Forty-fifth Street is as busy as a bee-hive. "It's company unions," said Sam Orner, the union's president, when I asked him what was the trouble. "We have got to knock them on the head and clean them out of New York once and for all."

The union's opening guns in the new drive against company unions will be fired at conference of hackies to be held next Sunday, 4 p. m., at Irving Plaza Hall.

At this conference a drive will be started for 20,000 signatures endorsing a protest against company unions.

Three delegates from each garage are to be there. A basis will be laid for a national conference of all hackmen's organizations to fight the company union menace.

"We are going to elect a delegation to go to La Guardia to demand the enforcement of the agreement for no discrimination for union activities," said Orner. "The national conference will elect a delegation to go to Washington to demand the right of the hackies to join a union of their own choice."

Here's a fight that every trade union member, every worker, must get into with all his energy. The

company union issue is vital to all of us.

ALTHOUGH the Socialist Party paper, the New Leader, complains about the notorious Oosp Walinsky's recent return to the Pocketbook Worker's Union as a "legal advisor," the Socialist sheet remains conveniently silent about the fact that it was the Socialist leaders of the union who helped place this agent of the bosses where he is today.

Wasn't it Charles Kleinman, Socialist chairman of the Joint Council of the union, who supported Walinsky and cast his vote for him?

The Communists and rank and file Socialists in the union voted against Walinsky. But the Socialist leaders of the union gave this double dealer their unwavering support.

Explain this, Mr. Labor Editor of the New Leader.

THERE was a real united front of strike-breakers down at Pier 37 on the West Side waterfront last Friday. Delegates of the International Longshoremen's Association and agents from the Val O'Toole Detective Agency worked hand in glove together.

The delegates chased the striking longshoremen away from the docks



just in time for the O'Toole gangsters to bring in several vanloads of scabs.

Longshoremen, speculating on the situation, came to the conclusion that it was just possible that the I. L. A. delegates were working together with the O'Toole gang, splitting the money that the shipowners paid for scabs and guards.

THE only familiar faces absent from the strike-breaking crew down on the waterfront was Joseph P. Ryan, President of the I. L. A., and his right-hand slugger Frank Madden.

Ryan, of course, was far afield at that time trying to get the longshoremen of the gulf ports and the West coast to submit to strike-breaking arbitration scheme of Roosevelt. Madden is unaccounted for at the present time.

The dictatorship of the proletariat must be a State that embodies a new kind of democracy, for the proletarians and the dispossessed; and a new kind of dictatorship, against the bourgeoisie.—Lenin.

Something Fishy in Local 56 Of Firemen's Union Treasury

By a Worker Correspondent

NEW YORK.—Last January we elected a new slate in our union, which is Local Union 56, of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers affiliated with the A. F. of L.

We suspected something crooked was going on. Our funds dropped from \$20,000 to \$1,500. The incoming administration had the books looked over by an expert accountant for the period of three years and found there was \$2,800 that could

not be accounted for.

The new officials, like President Roosevelt, promised the members a new deal. What was the result? The whole thing was white-washed at the last meeting. Our former secretary is James Clarke, and former president is James Holland, who was also president of the State Federation of Labor.

Our new president, who did the white-washing, is Patrick Fearon. Hoping that you will expose these crooks and fakers, I will close.



HERE'S MY HAND ON IT—"Let's fight together," said member of the Food Workers Industrial Union to member of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union. The picture was taken during the recent hotel and restaurant strike. Now the food workers are shaking hands on the proposition of forming one union in the food industry.

2 Food Unions Move Toward Building One Union In Trade

(Continued from Page 1)

dustrial Union and the Central Executive Board of the Amalgamated Food Workers of America was elected, met, decided in favor of the merger, and made ten unanimous recommendations to the central bodies of both unions for the carrying through of the merger in the shortest possible time—a merger which would result in the establishment of the largest independent union of food workers throughout the country.

The decision of the Central Executive Board of the Amalgamated Food Workers of America on the basis of the report of the joint committee of ten was to refer the question for discussion and vote in all of its locals. On the basis of a vote in favor of one union, a planning board will be established and the steps for merging will be put into operation.

Major Questions

Three major questions now arise before the workers and both unions.

Must Build Cooks, Waiters Opposition

(Continued from Page 1)

tempts by the union officials to bring them in.

Not only that, but in addition when Robinson, acting for the Penn., communicated to them the information that the company was returning 2 1/2 per cent of the 10 per cent cut in accordance with the recent agreement, he did so with the reservation that this was for the Eastern Division and that all controversies in line with this would be handled by the superintendent of the Eastern Division. This is a direct attempt to split the organization into two separate units.

Call Meeting

Now the officials of the union in desperation are grasping at any straw and are planning to call an open meeting of members and non-union members to build organization. They still propose to keep the initiation fee at \$3 and the dues at \$1 per month.

The attitude of the workers to this move should be not to ignore this call, but to join the union and fight for a militant program.

First, they should demand that the initiation be reduced to \$1 and the dues to 50 cents per month because that is all the workers can afford.

Second, they should build up a militant opposition to the policy of the union, elect rank and file workers as officers and fight for the strict observance of the working agreement by the Penn. The demands should include, (a) pay for reporting with a minimum of 3 hours; (b) no more firing of employees with seniority for no cause of trivial cause, and (c) abolition of charge of 25 cents for sleeping in the company flop houses.

A number of independent unions have been established within the past year in the various sections of the food industry affiliated neither to the American Federation of Labor, the Amalgamated Food Workers of America, or the Food Workers Industrial Union. The Brewery Workers Union recently voted almost unanimously to dis-affiliate from the American Federation of Labor and become an independent union. The workers in these independent unions must be contacted, joint struggles organized with them, and on the basis of these struggles they must be drawn into this amalgamation movement.

Secondly, the movement for amalgamation is, and the amalgamation itself will be a tremendous stimulus for organizing the unorganized workers (the tremendous majority of the food workers in this country are completely unorganized at present.) Immediate advantage must be taken of this situation to begin a consistent and strenuous organization drive in all trades to organize these workers and to prepare to lead them in struggles for better conditions.

Appeals A. F. of L. Workers

Thirdly, the amalgamation is having a tremendous effect on the workers in the American Federation of Labor, especially in the baking and hotel and restaurant industries. In fact, the misleaders of the A. F. of L. bakers are at present working in the direction of breaking this unity move by attacking the shops of Local 164 of the Amalgamated, and are trying to force the Amalgamated bakers into the A. F. of L. This move is being fought jointly by the Amalgamated and the Food Workers Union. The A. F. of L. bakers officials realize that if they succeed in smashing Local 164, it will be easier for them to smash the remaining Amalgamated Bakers locals.

The establishment of this one national independent union of food workers, together with the intensification of our rank and file work within the American Federation of Labor food locals will be the biggest stimulus for organizing thousands of unorganized workers and leading them in united struggle for wages, conditions, security of the job, and unemployment insurance.

Loc. 4, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Endorses H.R. 7598

Left wing cutters in Local 4 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America won a victory for militant labor when resolutions introduced by the group for the support of the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill, H.R. 7598 and the 30 hour week were passed.

These resolutions will be taken to the Convention in Rochester, which begins today.

Although the administration endorsed the first two resolutions, another one calling for democracy in

12 Workers Of N.T.W.U. Must Be Rescued

Are in Prison Due to the Lies of Socialists and Bosses

Never in the history of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union has it happened that 12 active rank and filers should serve long prison sentences at the same time as are the 12 workers who have now been sentenced because of their union and strike activity.

All 12 are members of the union, and all are workers from shops. The slanderous cry of the "Forward": Communist gangsters, is a deliberate lie. The court records show that every one of the 12 sentenced workers was arrested on the picket line of his trade, or in connection with general strike activities in his trade. Who sent these workers to jail? In almost every case, it was the Socialist labor leaders and their henchmen who pressed the charges and perjured themselves on the witness stand to send honest, militant workers to jail. The 12 sentenced workers are not only victims of capitalist justice, but also direct victims of the S. P.-Forward clique in the unions.

The situation of the convicted workers and their families is such that immediate assistance must be forthcoming. The Industrial Union has organized a Prisoners Defense Committee, which must organize and collect help for the arrested workers and their families. The Union and the Committee appeal to all workers, and particularly to all needle trades workers to come to the immediate assistance of the unjustly convicted and arrested rank and filers. Take the collection lists which will be given out by the Committee. Contribute yourselves and get contributions from your friends and acquaintances. The S. P. and A. F. of L. machine which sent these workers to jail has plenty of money. The money to defend the convicted and arrested workers must come from you workers.

Musicians' Local Wins Autonomy Following Rank and File Fight

NEW YORK, May 4.—The musician members of Local 802, A. F. of M., won a smashing victory in their fight for autonomy (self-government). Over a thousand members broke down the intimidation and czaristic methods of their local and national officials and succeeded in holding their special meeting, and adopting their revised bylaws.

The new bylaws give the members of 802 self-government. They are now going to hold a special election on June 4 to democratically replace the seven appointed members of the governing board. The active rank and file by-laws committees have inspired the members by their honest and militant leadership.

The committee has proven that their confidence in rank and file action (from within the union) was the correct policy.

So long as the committeemen continue this splendid fight in a democratic and militant fashion, every last member of the local should give them his active support. The members have now learned that mass action can never be defeated by tyrants like Weber, Canavan, Weissman, and Co. (officials).

the union and honest elections, introduced by Brother Kauffman, set the whole officialdom into an uproar.

They brought Kauffman up on charges, took away his right to speak and vote at union meetings—in short, took away all his rights as a union member.

The case of Kauffman must be taken up in all locals and on the floor of the convention. Mass pressure of the locals will force the officials to give Kauffman his rights back.