

Attend Your 544-CIO Membership Meeting Next Monday, Sept. 8th, 8 p. m.

THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

1, NO. 8

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1941

FIVE CENTS

Feeble AFL Rebuttal Strengthens CIO Case; Drivers Press Stassen and Blair for Election

Stassen Hit For Jim Crow Policy in Home Guards

Governor Squirms as Colored Citizens Demand He Cease Discriminatory Policy Toward Negroes — His Shabby Excuses Are Mercilessly Exposed Before Mass Meeting

A capacity crowd of Negro men and women listened intently but coldly the evening of August 27th as Governor Stassen appeared before them in an attempt to justify his policy of discriminating against colored citizens in the Home Defense Force. For eight months Minnesota Negro Defense Force has been leading a movement of protest against the gross inequality and discrimination fostered by the Jim Crow policy in the Home Defense Force. The meeting in the Hallie Q. Brown house in St. Paul the evening of August 27th, where the governor undertook a public defense of his anti-democratic course.

Stassen together with other leading Negroes of the Twin Cities led the fight, told how dozens of applications from Negroes to the Home Defense Force have been turned down. He told how he had denied the Negroes a march on the capitol to force the governor to hand a committee to "study the Negro problem."

Stassen informed the Minnesota Negro Defense Committee that he was unable to order acceptance of Negro application to the home guard since it would be a violation of the U. S. "Military code." The committee pointed out to the governor that the "code" was not a law but a reactionary custom, and demanded of him that he issue an order as commander-in-chief of the Minnesota Home Defense Force that Negroes be enlisted just as other citizens.

Governor Stassen has repeatedly refused to do so. He did appear before the committee August 27th and "excuse" his position. That his excuse is acceptable to neither the community nor to progressive whites was evident at the meeting. Many speakers rose to denounce the governor's feeble and shabby excuses for refusing to accept a decent and progressive anti-discriminatory policy against Negro discrimination.

Dr. Newman, publisher of the Minneapolis Spokesman, well-known Negro weekly, challenged Governor Stassen to strike a blow at discriminatory Army code by enlisting that Negroes be enlisted in the Minnesota Home Defense Force. "If it's the Army's fault, let the Army on the spot," Newman declared. "Democracy in this country is on trial because many are preaching one thing and practicing another."

Schwartz, white attorney, pointed out to Stassen that the Army's anti-discriminatory practices, discrimination in the constitutional law of the land and could not be upheld. Governor Stassen to issue an order abolishing discrimination in the home guard. It is more important to support a vicious military custom than to support the constitution asked another: "This is your chance to become a great man, Governor. You can take the first step toward bringing about equality for Negroes in the armed forces," said another.

But Governor Stassen was not interested in doing a great deed or striking a blow for equality. He is interested only in upholding and defending a system that breeds injustice, inequality and discrimination.

An extremely pointed question was asked by Mrs. Della Holsmbeck of St. Paul. When the governor continued his refusal to issue an order against racial discrimination, Mrs. Holsmbeck asked: "Why can't you issue the order? What do you think will happen to you if you did issue an order to the military officers to accept Negroes?"

The governor, growing more and more ill at ease, mumbled to himself and then said, "They might say I'm not fit to hold office or that I'm opposed to national defense."

"Then you're afraid to take a chance, aren't you, Governor, you're afraid to try it," the little Negro woman said.

Convinced that Stassen is not going to do anything to help them, the assembly allowed him to leave. Plans are under way to carry on the fight against discrimination in Stassen's home guards. A number of attorneys are preparing a test case to take to court.

Stassen Cowardice Hit
An editorial in the August 29th Minneapolis Spokesman summarized the feeling of Minnesota Negroes about Stassen:
"Our Governor, Harold E. Stassen, admitted at a meeting Tuesday night that he, a man who has been lionized as a successor to the courageous hallowed Lincoln, was afraid to challenge the undemocratic custom of army brass hats which Stassen claims keeps Negroes who want to join the State Home Defense Force outside this tax-supported organization. Openly the Governor admitted that he thought the custom (the army code which he blames) is wrong and offered to help change it. Yet, he scintillates lacks the courage of his convictions or else he would stand for what he claims he believes by immediately removing any racial bars in the Defense Force which violate the rights of any citizens."

John L. Lewis Explores Mind Of Mathew Wolf

John L. Lewis' devastating description of Mathew Wolf, told the delegates to the 1940 CIO convention in Atlantic City, bears repeating today inasmuch as Wolf is the AFL vice president appointed by Green to head the AFL committee to "purge" the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

Commenting on a proposal from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers that the CIO "explore the possibilities" of peace with the AFL, Lewis told the convention: "I have been an explorer in the American Federation of Labor. Explore the mind of Bill Green? I have done a lot of exploring in Bill's mind and I give you my word, there is nothing there."

"Explore Mathew Wolf's mind? I did. It is the mind of an insurance agent, who used his position as an officer of the AFL to promote his insurance business. It is so because I told him so and he agreed with me!"

Wolf is a boss hidden behind a union hat, as are most of the other AFL toy leaders.

Demurrers Filed with Judge Joyce

Demurrers to the indictments obtained against the leaders of Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party by the Roosevelt administration were filed late last week by the legal staffs representing the defendants.

Arguments on the demurrers will be heard next Thursday, September 12th, by Federal Judge M. M. Joyce in Minneapolis federal court.

The demurrers consist of a score of objections to the indictment. The legal validity of the indictment is challenged, as is the constitutionality of the Smith Act. Other demurrers contend the indictment is too vague, giving the defendants no definite idea as to the nature of the alleged crime. Should the demurrers be sustained, the defendants would be discharged with the government having the right to appeal or obtain a new indictment. Since Judge Joyce overrule the demurrers, he would set a date for trial.

544-CIO Grocery Section to Meet Friday, Sept. 12.

All members of the Wholesale Grocery Section of Local 544-CIO are urged to attend the regular Grocery Section meeting next Friday evening, September 12th, 8 p. m. Reports will be made on the steps being taken by the union to defend the members against the self-styled maneuvers of the Tobin machine.

Looking the Other Way



LeSueur Criticizes Indictments

Declaring the Smith Act under which Roosevelt is prosecuting the leaders of 544-CIO "clearly unconstitutional," former Judge Arthur LeSueur spoke before 70 members and friends of the Twin City Workers Defense League last week in the Andrews Hotel on the subject, "In Defense of Civil Rights." LeSueur, one of the attorneys defending the indicted members of the Socialist Workers Party, is well-known in Minnesota for his long and courageous record on the bench and on the Minneapolis school board.

"The Smith Act," LeSueur contends, "almost prohibits thinking. Anything you might say or do under this act could be adjudged a crime."

544-CIO Files Charges With NLRB Against 151 Minneapolis Bosses

Charges of unfair labor practices under the National Labor Relations Act have been filed by Local 544-CIO attorneys against 151 employers in seven branches of the trucking industry.

The charges have been accepted by Robert R. Rasmussen, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board.

Among the bosses cited for violating federal statutes by signing contracts with Tobin while the question of jurisdiction is unsettled, include: 17 wholesale grocery firms; 43 transfer firms; 4 cold storage companies; 16 produce companies; 68 retail coal dealers; 2 spring water firms; and the Gambie Skogmo corporation.

All the above companies, working through Sam Levy of the Laboring Associated Industries, have signed contracts with Tobin's outfit behind the backs of the Minneapolis drivers, and are attempting to force the self-styled agreements down their employees' throats.

Their actions constitute a flagrant violation of Section 7 of the Wagner Act, dealing with "entering into a contract when a question of union certification exists."

Other employers caught conniving with Tobin's agents will face similar charges by Local 544-CIO.

Testimony of Scores of 544-CIO Drivers on AFL Terrorism Remains Unanswered—CIO Moves to Dismiss Insolent AFL Petition

The hearing conducted by the state labor conciliator on the petition of the Tobin hopheads that they be certified WITHOUT elections as the union of the Minneapolis transport drivers came to an unexpectedly abrupt end Tuesday afternoon when the AFL closed its case without even attempting to enter a serious rebuttal to the testimony of the scores of drivers who testified last week on behalf of their fellow workers and their union, Local 544-CIO.

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Couldn't Get One Driver
Of the 4,250 loyal union members claimed by Tobin, NOT ONE CAME FORWARD TO SAY: "I am in the AFL of my own free will. I support Tobin and Casey in their stand against permitting the drivers to vote democratically on their choice of unions."

AFL Case Worthless
The explanation for the pitiful weakness of the AFL case lies in the fact that the Tobin machine couldn't induce a single driver to come up and testify on its behalf.

Following arguments of attorneys, Blair took the AFL petition under advisement, together with a motion by 544-CIO that the petition be dismissed and the AFL be found guilty of violating the Stassen labor law by using force and violence and threats.

AFL lawyer Nichols worked himself up into a patriotic lather as he red-baited Local 544-CIO and its leaders. He sounded off just like the Citizens Alliance and Tobin in 1934 as he waved the American flag to direct attention away from the repulsive truth about the Tobin machine. Goldberg summed up for the AFL by making the insolent claim that "the rank and file has already had its election."

Attorneys David Shama and Gilbert Carlson for 544-CIO ridiculed the whole rotten AFL case. "The real issues are: What do the men in the industry want? What are their rights?" stated Shama.

"The testimony shows, and the AFL has admitted it, that the AFL thugs went in groups of 30 and 40, armed with ballbats, to intimidate the men into signing with the AFL and paying dues to Tobin's unions. The AFL says they did not intimidate the men. How would you feel if a mob of hoodlums told you to 'Sign or else—' The AFL says it did not use

threats. Why right in the middle of the hearing they sent an army to the Foots Lumber company to tie up the yard and force the men to pay tribute to the Tobin machine. "The AFL tries to make the point that a reputable firm of public accountants has gone over their books and attested that they have 4,250 names on the books. That is no evidence at all. It has been proved, by our witnesses, that the dues were collected by force and violence. It was impossible to call in all 4,250 of the men, but we brought in enough witnesses from every section of the industry to prove HOW the dues were collected by the AFL.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town - - - Let's KEEP IT That Way

Cross Press Wouldn't Publish Truth About AFL

WEDNESDAY, MORE TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 2)
 came to the plant and we had to sign with the everyone would be taken job. We didn't want to I asked questions. They to shut up. I WANT AN ON.

to Sign AFL

Olson, driver for New furniture for 12 years, stopped twice on the way to work. Two big hulked men over. They saw button. They were wearing buttons. I told them I was an election. They said: "never come to a vote." I since that one of them is Ramsey. The other one from Denver, Colorado. Anime car with five AFL called up in front of my two of them jumped on running board. They said: "What are these AFL cards? What do these AFL cards mean?" I said: "I don't know. I don't want to sign." They said: "You're AFL and you will be. You will never get a job without an election."

Belongs to CIO

Frank Gordon Powrie, employed at C. Thomas for three and one-half years, testified: "I paid June and July dues to the AFL, but do not consider myself a member. I belong to the CIO. I want an election."

her Goldberg Lie

Blair Locks, driver at New Furniture, AFL lawyer objected to the testimony brought in by the witnesses brought in by the 544-CIO, saying to the conciliator, "They haven't brought a man who said he joined through coercion." Olin conciliator, contradicted Goldberg's testimony. He overruled Goldberg's objection.

Admits Stassen Backs AFL

Bernard Hillman, concrete block maker at Hedberg-Freidheim, testified: "I joined Local 574 when it was independent. I belong to 544-CIO. About June 20th, I estimate 75 men wearing AFL buttons, including Red O'Loughlin, George Williams and others I recognized, came to the plant and said: 'We're from the AFL. We got papers to sign. You'd better sign, and there won't be any trouble. WE GOT EVERYBODY FROM STASSEN DOWN WITH US.' We didn't want to sign. I decided I wouldn't sign until I was forced to. I asked what would happen if I didn't sign. George Williams said: 'You'll get off the job.' Red O'Loughlin moved closer to me and said: 'Let's get going.' I asked what was going to happen. Red said: 'You get the hell off the job.' We knew we would get beat up if we didn't sign. As the AFL men left, the employer waved his hand at them and said: 'Thanks, boys.'"

More AFL Violence

Edmond Gilmore, driver at Hedberg-Freidheim, testified: "About the middle of June I passed 257 Plymouth, and some AFL boys started to follow me. They pulled alongside and four or five men with AFL buttons waved me over to the curb. I didn't want to talk, so I kept on going. I had to stop for a red light. Two or three of them pulled me out of the cab into the street. One twisted my leg so I had to go to a doctor. Another hit me on the jaw with his fist. A pharmacist came out and threatened to call the police, so they left. We got their car license. The car belonged to Frank Androff. I am a member of Local 544-CIO. I WANT AN ELECTION."

Block of Stassen Aid

Blair Locks, concrete block maker at Hedberg-Freidheim, testified: "I joined Local 574 when it was independent. I belong to 544-CIO. About June 20th, I estimate 75 men wearing AFL buttons, including Red O'Loughlin, George Williams and others I recognized, came to the plant and said: 'We're from the AFL. We got papers to sign. You'd better sign, and there won't be any trouble. WE GOT EVERYBODY FROM STASSEN DOWN WITH US.' We didn't want to sign. I decided I wouldn't sign until I was forced to. I asked what would happen if I didn't sign. George Williams said: 'You'll get off the job.' Red O'Loughlin moved closer to me and said: 'Let's get going.' I asked what was going to happen. Red said: 'You get the hell off the job.' We knew we would get beat up if we didn't sign. As the AFL men left, the employer waved his hand at them and said: 'Thanks, boys.'"

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Ernest Lehman, driver for nine years at C. Thomas warehouse, testified: "At least 100 men wearing AFL buttons—including Mickey from Pratts, Ed Blixt, and Ted Olson—came up to the dock and stood down below and told us to sign a paper for the AFL. I said I belong to the CIO. They said, 'Sign. We can't waste no more time. Sign, or get off the job. You're working under an AFL contract.' But there was no contract in effect."

Q. (From AFL Attorney Goldberg):

You weren't threatened with physical violence?
 A. He said: 'Sign or else—'. That's the way the AFL operates.
 Q. He didn't say it?
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 Q. How long have you worn your CIO button?
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 Nichols, AFL Lawyer, objected.

Q. (AFL Lawyer Goldberg):

Would you join the AFL if they are designated as bargaining agent?
 A. I don't want to join the AFL, even if the AFL is designated.
 Q. Even if you have to get off the job?
 A. I don't think I'll have to get off the job.

Q. (AFL Lawyer Goldberg):

Are you a member of the SWP?
 A. No.
 Ole Reinsson, concrete block maker for over nine years at Hedberg-Freidheim, testified: "A couple of weeks after June 20th, George O'Brien and Axel Soderberg came out and told us: 'You're an American now.' I said, 'We were before.' I told them I believed in majority rule and would stay in the CIO. The day after that, Red O'Loughlin and his gang of 50 or more men came marching in. 'Stop the marching,' he shouted. 'You Red O'Loughlin from Detroit and you're here to straighten you guys out.' The shop was full of about 50 AFL men acting in a very threatening manner. I saw outlines of guns in their front pockets, and I saw gun butts sticking out of their back pockets when they walked by. I WANT AN ELECTION."

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Rewarded for Attack on 544

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CIO Unions Back 544 Fight Against Hated Tobin Union

CIO organizations from all parts of the nation are giving the most brotherly reception to the appeal sent out August 13th by Regional UCWOC Director Frank Barnhart and Local 544-CIO asking for aid in the fight against Dictator Tobin.

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Oregon CIO Director Asks Speedy 544 Aid

Below is a copy of the letter Brother William Dalrymple, regional CIO director in Oregon, has sent to the officers and members of all CIO locals in Oregon urging speedy financial aid to Local 544-CIO in its fight to defend democratic industrial unionism against Tobin's goons and Tobin's political cronies.

Give to Defense Fund

Francis H. Biddle, who has been nominated as U. S. Attorney-General by Roosevelt. Biddle earned the nomination by exhibiting his willingness to undertake repressions against organized labor. Roosevelt at the request of Tobin gave the word to Biddle to prosecute the leaders of Local 544-CIO. Biddle came through for his boss. Now he's been promoted to the attorney-generalship left vacant by Robert H. Jackson, who has been kicked upstairs to the Supreme Court.

Wants No Part of AFL

Lynne Triplett, driver and leader for C. Thomas for nine years, testified: "About 75 to 100 men, including Eddie Blixt, came to the plant and told us either to sign or get off the job. I didn't sign voluntarily. I want an election."

Sign or Else—

Ernest Lehman, driver for nine years at C. Thomas warehouse, testified: "At least 100 men wearing AFL buttons—including Mickey from Pratts, Ed Blixt, and Ted Olson—came up to the dock and stood down below and told us to sign a paper for the AFL. I said I belong to the CIO. They said, 'Sign. We can't waste no more time. Sign, or get off the job. You're working under an AFL contract.' But there was no contract in effect."

Q. (From AFL Attorney Goldberg):

You weren't threatened with physical violence?
 A. He said: 'Sign or else—'. That's the way the AFL operates.
 Q. He didn't say it?
 A. He didn't have to say it. Anybody would know what was meant.
 Q. How long have you worn your CIO button?
 A. Since we all voted to go CIO.
 Nichols, AFL Lawyer, objected.

Q. (AFL Lawyer Goldberg):

Would you join the AFL if they are designated as bargaining agent?
 A. I don't want to join the AFL, even if the AFL is designated.
 Q. Even if you have to get off the job?
 A. I don't think I'll have to get off the job.

Q. (AFL Lawyer Goldberg):

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