

**"Don't Fail Me Now Boys!"** → Last Words of Henry B. Ness,  
Shot in the Back in Cold  
Blood by Order of Michael Johannes the Murderer. Died July 21st, 1934

## DAILY STRIKE BULLETIN

UNITED  
LABOR  
ACTION

# THE ORGANIZER



TWO TWENTY-FIVE

SOUTH THIRD STREET

SMASH THE  
CITIZENS  
ALLIANCE

Volume I, No. 10

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, MONDAY, JULY 23, 1934

Price one cent

# The Fight Has Just Begun

## Laundry Men to Strike Tuesday; Solid with 574

### Drop Parley With Bosses; Condemn Johannes

The Laundry Workers and Dry Cleaners Local 18005 has broken off negotiations with the bosses and voted a strike to begin at 7 A. M. tomorrow morning. The bosses stalled these workers for several weeks, offering them one rotten proposition after another, and using Rabbi Albert Gordon, arbitrator, to induce the workers not to strike. Finally the workers saw that the weapon of the strike had to be used.

Local 574 is with the Laundry Workers in their fight for decent living conditions. Our struggles are one; let us fight shoulder to shoulder. Militancy and solidarity alone will win for us what is our right. Greetings to our brothers! We invite them to utilize the columns of **The Organizer** for their strike announcements.

The Laundry Workers strike resolution included a demand calling for the removal of Mayor Bainbridge and Chief Johannes from office. It says that, "not a wheel shall be turned, not a shirt shall be ironed, not a garment shall be cleaned," until this is accomplished.

At 8 P. M. tonight a mass meeting of all laundry and dry cleaning workers will be held at 225 South 3rd St.

The laundry workers have accepted the offer of Drivers Union 574 to use their headquarters at 225 So. 3rd St. as laundry picket headquarters.

### Petition to Go to Council

The petition to which thousands of signatures have already been signed will be turned in to the City Council today. It blasts the Bainbridge-Johannes "Hitlerized reign of terror," and the bloody murders of Black Friday. It demands the impeachment of the Mayor and his Chief of Police or the resignation of the Council.

This follows on the refusal of Bainbridge to fire his favorite, Mike Johannes the Bloody. A request was laid before the Mayor Saturday by a committee of the Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council. The Committee included Robley Cramer, Emery Nelson, George Guider, Miles Dunne, Wm. S. Brown, George Simcoe and others. The last named is an official of the Fire Fighters, A. F. of L. firemen's Union.

Well, City Council men, what will you do? Will you make yourselves accessories after the fact or will you heed the voice of the masses of Minneapolis?

### Mark Where Ness Fell

At the spot near the corner of 6th Ave. N. and Third St., where Henry Ness fell on Bloody Friday, Local 574 is erecting a temporary monument to his memory. A flag at half mast and a laurel wreath will decorate the historic point until after the funeral ceremonies tomorrow. All workers will bare heads as they pass this corner out of respect to a brother and fellow-worker who died that all might live.

## The First Martyr of 574



Courtesy Minneapolis "Star"

### HENRY NESS

Henry B. Ness, martyr of labor's struggle, was born March 18, 1894, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He served overseas in the World War. He is survived by Mrs. Freda Ness and four children: Olive, age 9; Henry, Jr., age 7; William, age 5; John, age 1½, living at 2812 Tenth Ave. South.

For 16 years Brother Ness was an active and loyal trade unionist, for the last few years in the General Drivers Union, Local 574. His fellow Unionists respected his opinions and his courage, and found his genial disposition a source of constant pleasure.

Ordered to the picket line in the wholesale grocery district Friday morning, he went forth with a determination to fight to the end for the rights of labor. When the police opened fire on the peaceful picketers, Brother Ness received a charge of shot full in the chest. As he turned to seek shelter, a cowardly enemy buried another charge in his back. Thirty-eight slugs in all parts of his body were more than doctors could fight against. Union brothers gave liberally of their blood to save him but the sacrifices did not avail.

### The Testament of Henry Ness

Henry Ness is dead, and tomorrow thousands of fellow unionists will lower him into his grave.

Henry Ness is the first martyr of Local 574. Henry Ness is the first man to die at the hands of Michael J. Johannes, the Murderer, shot down in cold blood by the Minneapolis police at the order of the Citizens Alliance.

Henry Ness was a simple worker who toiled for a scanty living for his family. And because the first consideration of his bosses was the piling up of the greatest possible profits, regardless of the sufferings and misery it entailed, his was the common lot of every worker. He was never able to accumulate any wealth.

Yet, Henry Ness left behind him a rich testament. There was no picket line, no fight, in which Henry Ness was not to be found in the vanguard.

He was not a man you could intimidate or deceive. He knew what the Union meant to the workers and he was resolved to preserve its solidarity and fighting spirit at all costs. He was not fooled by the efforts of the employers to bring division and disruption into the ranks of the organization. He stood firmly with the Union and its chosen leaders. He was not deceived or frightened by the malicious "red scare" by means of which the Citizens Alliance sought to break down the militancy of the workers.

Nor was he frightened by the display of force made by the Mayor, the Chief of Police, his uniformed assassins, and their masters of the Citizens Alliance. On the crucial day of the strike, when the police announced that they would move a scab truck and shoot to kill any strikers who tried to stop it, Henry Ness was among the first to run to the scene of action.

He leaped into the fight with a vigor and determination that belied his forty years of age and to life. And he was cut down, cut down in the prime of his life. He was killed, not facing the enemy, but shot in the back by cowards.

Tormented with pain and realizing, as he lay on the hospital cot, that life was ebbing fast, Henry Ness did not break down or repent. His last words were those of a fighter. His last words were a command to his brothers in the struggle.

"Tell the boys not to fail me now!"

And we who are alive and on the battlefront, solemnly receive the testament of Henry Ness and pledge ourselves by all we hold sacred that we shall not fail the martyr who was ready to give his life so that we might live like men.

By the side of his early grave, we lower our battle-banners and bow our heads in grief-stricken tribute to the modest hero who goes to join those thousands of martyrs who gave their lives for the working class and its cause. As the tears roll down the cheeks of men unaccustomed to weeping, they will place their hands in his and take an oath:

To avenge Henry Ness—by holding the ranks of the Union as firm as iron against every attack of its enemies;

To avenge Henry Ness—by an unrelenting struggle for the cause of labor in which he fell;

To avenge Henry Ness—by fighting to the bitter end to gain those ends for which he was so ready to give his whole life.

Farewell, Henry Ness, our brother-in-arm! Farewell, immortal warrior, brave comrade, man among men!

Hail, shining, unforgettable memory of a hero!  
We swear: We shall not fail you!

### All Out to the Funeral!

All Minneapolis workers are called upon to attend the funeral of Brother Henry B. Ness, member of Local 574, killed by the police on Bloody Friday. The call issued by the Strike Committee of 100 has been endorsed by many labor organizations and thousands of workers are expected to join in the funeral procession.

Workers are asked to assemble at the Welander-Quist Funeral Parlors at Chicago Ave. and 19th St. at 3 p. m. There services will be held in which the Veterans of Foreign Wars will participate. On the completion of services, the workers will begin the procession which will follow this route:

Down Chicago Ave. to Eighth St.

Left turn into Eighth St.

Along Eighth St. to Strike Headquarters.

Here the procession will halt. Albert Goldman, member of the Union's legal staff, will deliver a funeral oration. The procession will then resume, taking the following route:

Along Eighth St. to Second Ave.

Left turn into Second Ave.

Along Second Ave. to Twelfth St.

Right turn into Twelfth St.

Along Twelfth St. to First Ave. N.

Here the procession will disband. All strikers will return immediately to Strike Headquarters for the resumption of picketing.

Owing to the immense numbers expected, it will be impractical for all to view the body tomorrow afternoon. Friends are urged to go to Welander and Quist Funeral Parlors tonight and tomorrow morning. Brother Ness's body will lie in state until the procession sets out.

## Bosses' Threats Fail to Worry 574's Picketers

### More Men Out Than Ever; Town Still Tied Up

A massing of pickets and picket cars at Strike Headquarters almost four times as great as on any morning of the strike thus far—that is the answer given by the striking drivers, helpers and inside men of Minneapolis today to the bosses' letters threatening them with loss of jobs.

Well aware that to lose a job is no worse than to keep one when it is a slave's job, and that only a victory in the strike will pave the way to decent living conditions, the workers have consolidated their ranks in the face of the bosses' latest threat as they did in the face of Bloody Johannes' gunmen.

The answer of the ERA workers to the call of the Strike Committee of 100 is very close to 100 per cent at the time of going to press. By the end of the day, it is expected, all ERA workers will be out. City and Sanitary drivers have given the same expression of solidarity; they have walked out to a man, some sweepers and sanitary drivers even anticipating the strike call by several hours.

The bosses, failing in their plan to frighten the strikers back to work, are frantic. They had hoped that enough strikers would come back so that they could try conveying on a large scale. Up until the time of going to press, however, they made only two or three attempts. Of these, only one succeeded: a 1½-ton truck was rolled up to Sais and Salisbury. Otherwise the city is still tied up tight as a bullseye in flytime.

The National Guard is said to be stranded at the fair grounds due to the refusal of drivers of the Twin Cities Bus Co. to move soldiers.

The laundry workers and dry cleaners—all inside men—are preparing to go out tomorrow morning to fight for their own demands and also in support of 574 and for the removal of Bainbridge and Bloody Johannes.

Several unions are preparing to assess their members a day's pay in support of the strikers.

A number of picketers wounded by Bloody Johannes' "men" returned to picket duty today, their arms in slings and bearing marks of wounds. As they entered Headquarters they were loudly cheered by the great crowd gathered there.

Hundreds of workers, both strikers and sympathizers, crowded the sidewalk in front of headquarters to gaze respectfully at the placard over the door out of which Henry Ness went forth to his glorious death. On every man's lips were the words: "Tell the boys not to fail me now!"

In the face of red scares, threatening letters, honeyed words, tricks and traps and gunfire, the strikers' ranks remain solid. THE FIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN!



News and Views

P. L. Taylor printer, writes this column concerning Sister Carlson's poem printed yesterday. "I'm all for the poem," he writes, and I'm not criticizing the author for her remark about the Star. But I want to say this, that I have not seen the Tribune or the Journal having any bouquets to the strikers and at least the Star is an all-Union shop, which is an exception here."

Sister Lillian Paulson was thrilled when she purchased a copy of The Organizer gave her \$1.00 for the copy.

One of the rats who served as a special deputy in the last strike wandered into Strike Headquarters yesterday for reasons known only to himself and his boss. When he emerged he was in a pitiable condition, which could be explained only on the theory that he had thrown himself down the stairs and broken himself over the head with a club. What strange behavior!

The Socialist Party Local contributed 25 pounds of hamburger steak to the Commissary at G. H. Q. yesterday.

When Joe Hill died at the hands of lynchers he said: "Don't mourn, organize." With these words now go Henry News, to live forever in labor history: "Don't fail me now, boys."

The farmers' market at 5th and Hawthorn is open for business today again, by arrangement between Local 574 and the small farmers' organizations. Harry Moe, gardener, 7300 Portland Ave., who wrote Brother Bill Brown asking what farmers see to do during the strike, should bring his goods to this market. The workers of Minneapolis understand very well the fate of the poor farmer, who suffers as they do from capitalist oppression. That is why Local 574, the Market Gardeners Assn., and other farm organizations are fighting shoulder to shoulder today.

Brother Sloan begs to announce that the food speaker at Headquarters now has a signature; it is station Five Seven Four. By authority of the workers of Minneapolis, we suppose.

One active member of 574 runs an automotive tow service in peace times, if we may use the expression. He says if any pickets get stuck on the road they should call Main 9788, and he will tow them in free of charge. Take note, all pickets.

You all know "John Brown's Body," that old melody. Do you know these, the modern Union man's words to the same tune:

The workers learned a lesson now, that anyone can see,  
The workers learned their bosses are their greatest enemy.

We'll fight and fight until we win a final victory,

For one big solid Union.

(Chorus)

Solidarity forever,  
Solidarity forever,  
Solidarity forever,  
For the Union makes us strong.

Learn those words, and tonight one of the members will lead us over the microphone in singing them.

Mrs. Howard C. Dressel, state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, spoke over the radio the other night to condemn the purposes of the Low and Odor League. Members of 574's Ladies' Auxiliary whose men were shot down by the cops Friday have their own views on the Low and Odor League. Come about, Mrs. Dressel, and learn them.

Seek is the spirit of the strikers that even the Tribune, no friend of the oppressed, lately, conceded last night that the haven "deadline" letter to the strikers is a complete flop. Remember Harry News—stand solid—not a man breaks ranks!

The fame of 574 is spreading. Out-of-town Unions have written in for copies of The Organizer. Friends: we need copies of last week's issues to send out of town; please leave them in Headquarters office for the Editor. And boost The Organizer!

Many union members turned out to be energized at first-aid work yesterday. It was a great blessing.

"HEY! WHERE DO YA THINK YOU'RE GOING?"



574 Supported by E. R. A. Workers

Enthusiastic support of Local 574 in its strike was voted in a resolution adopted by a delegate conference of ERA workers called by the Minneapolis Central Council of Workers, with the assistance of the Strike Committee of 100. Nine delegates, representing 3 jobs, together with some 50 ERA workers, heard V. R. Dunne, of the Strike Committee, outline the attitude of the Union towards the problems of the unemployed. The change of the position of the whole labor movement towards the unemployed, and the record of 574, were presented to show that it was one of the first unions in the city to go to bat for the unemployed.

Speakers from the M. C. C. W. explained the situation facing all ERA workers. The decline of the relief standard in recent years, the total inadequacy of the federal program, were scored and the absolute necessity of organization emphasized. Organized cooperation with the trade union movement was heavily underscored.

The delegates ended by forming a Central Committee of ERA workers, with Wesley Foster as chairman. The resolution adopted is as follows:

"Resolve that this conference of delegates from ERA work projects pledges its support to the General Drivers Local No. 574 in its fight for higher wages and increased relief standards for all workers of Minneapolis. In order to do this we take the following steps of organization of ourselves and will make these declarations:

"1. That a committee be set up composed of one delegate for every 50 men upon a job, to be elected by a majority of men upon the job, preferably at a noon meeting. This committee will be the job committee.

"2. That a central committee be set up of at least two delegates from each ERA job (on jobs of ten men or less, there shall be but one delegate). This Central Committee will work in cooperation with the Strike Committee of Local 574 and the Executive Committee of the M. C. C. W. to take all steps necessary to improve the situation of the strike and the conditions of the men upon ERA work and City Relief.

"3. We immediately request all ERA workers to volunteer for picket duty for Local 574 and register for same with the M. C. C. W. The delegates to the said Central Committee of ERA workers upon the job should give their men identification slips signed by themselves, to facilitate the registration and identification of men.

"4. At the first meeting that a majority of jobs are represented in the Central Committee, this committee will work out a program of grievances of the ERA worker, which shall be presented to the local, state, and federal authorities according to their respective contents, and shall work out a program of action to enforce correction of grievances and granting of demands made.

"5. The said Central Committee will meet daily at 4 P. M. at the M. C. C. W. Headquarters at 301 S. 3rd St., and shall organize itself and take the necessary steps to continue its existence until a far more improved Work Relief System is promulgated by the Government."

C. Forsen.

G. H. Q. Strike Headquarters  
General Headquarters for all pickets has been set up at 215 South Eighth St. All pickets report there to the Committee in charge.

McCoy Stands with Barach

Jack McCoy, member of 574, joins Si Barach in giving the lie to Johannes and the newspapers which claim that these pickets went to picket because some leader of the Communist party offered them a good job in return. Barach's statement was published in The Organizer Saturday; no capitalist paper has yet retracted its lying report.

In a letter to The Organizer, McCoy says: "I am doing my small bit for the Union because of the cause and not for anything that I might receive. I think the workers realize this and that the statement reported by the press was only to damage 574 and its cause. I made no statement whatever to the cops, their stenographers or any reporters."

Barach is still in the hospital. McCoy has been released from the hospital and is now out of jail on \$200 bail provided by the Union.

The Strikers' Voice

Dear Editor:

A lot of baloney is being said about Union leaders and members. Local 574 does not apologize. It has confidence in its leaders. The bosses newspaper ads are just a trick to split the strikers' ranks.

This gag was pulled in Frisco where a bunch of yeggs called vigilantes have wrecked headquarters of several groups. There are a few interesting facts about Frisco in an article printed in a Mupples paper Tuesday. The piece is by Jim Tully, who writes books and movies. He says, "I attended a meeting of more than 400 delegates—the representatives of the 50,000 on strike in this city. It was, man for man, more American in point of antecedents, than the convention that nominated Roosevelt for President!"

The Frisco workers, like those in Minneapolis, want every worker protected, of any politics or nationality, Irish, German, Jew, Swede, Negro or anything. But as for facts, this Tully proves the bosses dirty attempt to split workers on the question of reds and aliens is based on a lie. The same goes for Mupples.

I say we are a unit regardless of politics or nationality. We are all workers, that's what counts, and we will stick together against the bosses and their finks and scabs. We won't tolerate lies or fall for red scares. And if any so-called citizens of this town want to play at vigilantes, we're ready.

—A Native of Mupples (there are some.)

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to 574, not only for its good fight but for its fine newspaper. As a printer, many papers have come to my eye but I have never seen a trade union sheet before that measured up to The Organizer. My neighbor is a railroad man and I find he is just as enthusiastic as I am about it.

Issue Revised Strike Orders

The following are called out on strike immediately:

1. All ERA drivers.
2. All city and sanitary drivers.
3. All drivers out by previous order to remain out.

The following are to be permitted to continue work until further notice, provided they are Union members: milk, bakery, brewery, tea and coffee, ice, florist and funeral drivers (for funeral purposes), farmers and gardeners to be passed if they have permits and proper identification.

Oil drivers to be permitted to work with or without Union cards until further notice.

No junk rigs or trucks to move. Cattle trucks headed for St. Paul to be routed around the city.

The Strike Committee of 100 desires to emphasize the following order:

All pickets are instructed to continue tactics of peaceful picketing as hitherto. They are, however, to defend themselves against any attacks.

In the event of uncertainty call Headquarters on the phone. Corrected telephone numbers: Atlantic 7291 and Atlantic 7292.

He takes a couple of copies to the yards every day where the workers eat them up. I'm glad to read that you are now publishing 10,000. You are waking up the Minneapolis trade union movement and every trade unionist (I have been one for 20 years) is with you in this fight. The only trouble with your paper is that it's too small. We could do with less Tribune and less Star and more Organizer. Great stuff!  
A Printer, member of the A. F. of L.

Ladies Auxiliary Grows

The Ladies' Auxiliary, through Mrs. Clara Dunne, president, announces that since the strike began 50 new members have come into the Auxiliary. Many applications from ladies not eligible have had to be rejected, but these good friends are being enlisted in strike work anyway.

The Commissary, which grows more efficient daily, now serves about 5,000 meals a day, generally hot meals of first quality. The Auxiliary is caring for fifty families who are without means of subsistence. Its hospital has been a great boon to the strikers from first to last.

The Auxiliary has also played a leading role in distributing The Organizer. On Thursday the ladies collected \$40.00 by sales of The Organizer. On Friday they got \$68.00. On Saturday they went to \$127.00. Today we expect close to \$200.00. Fine work, Sisters!

How many workers are buying groceries at Food Guild Stores today? All those who do not know that they are controlled by Jordan-Stevens, open-shop, anti-union corporation which is leading the fight against 574.

Enjoy Yourself  
2951 Lyndale Ave. S.  
SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS  
Fred Hefler  
REgent 9759 Minneapolis, Minn.

letters to dere emily

Friday

dere emily,

well kid its 5 days we bin out on strike now and ya mite say the ol town is constipated. Becuz one things sure, and that is that nothins moving unless we want it to move.

emily, i found out today that all the bosses aint as bad as Bill Brown, thats our Union president, sez. Bill sez, "the only honest employer is a dead employer," but i guess he never run across the guy i heard talk today.

i was walkin up 2 avenue this morning to strike headquarters when Lo and Behold, two pot-bellies come out of a cafe and starts to ankle along in front of me.

sez one, "George," he sez, "its a crime against the consteetooshun the way these Unions is actin up in this town."

the other one laffed and said, "Jameson, you old fogy, your an ass. a fellas got to be liberal these days about such things," he sez. "now take me Jameson, i'm 100% for Unions. us fellas thats got the factories and the banks and so on, we got our Union, aint we. and its only fair that the workers should have them."

what do you think of that emily? comin from a plute too.

"yes Jameson," he went on, "it aint the Unions thats wrong, its this here 574 Union or what-ever-ya-call-it in Minneapolis. when i say i'm for the Unions, i mean on principul of course. but these local birds aint got regular Union principles. now Jameson, if we kin just teach em the right Union principles, why inside of two months theyll be such that you and i kin be proud of them, Jameson."

"in the first place," he sez, "574 is too big. it aint rite, Jameson, that a union should get too strong. it destroys the balance between Labor and Capital. why in the ol days Capital and Labor was friendly. Capital was like a father to Labor, givin it board and room. neither interfered with t'other. Capital went rite on capitalizin and Labor went rite on laboring. thats the good American principal that we got to teach these here drivers and helpers and so forth in 574. we got to teach em pride. to be proud of their crafts, and not to mingle with the scum workin in the other crafts. we got to explain to them how much better off theyd be to make 10 Unions grow where one is growing now. why if these here labor leaders was smart, they cud get a dozen dam good Unions outa 574, whereas they only got one now."

"in the 2 place Jameson, we gotta see that 574 gets some high-class leaders—broadminded statesmen—that what we need at the head of our Unions here. respectable citizens, who can see both sides a the question, and act accordingly. another thing, we got to see that the labor leaders get the salary commensurate with their high positions. Jameson, give a labor leader 10,000 dollars a year, and you got a fella you can deal with man ta man, if ya no what i mean."

"in the 3 place, Jameson," he sez, "we gotta instil American ideals in labors heads. now you no and i no that it aint American to go out and strike against the best friend that Labor has got in the hole world—the big employer. strikin and tryin to get their Union recognized! that aint no way to do, and you no it, Jameson."

"yessir," sez George, "when we got Unions like i been tellin you, Jameson, then i'm 100% for em. the Liberal view, thats what us employers has got to have in these days of the n r a."

just then the two guys had stopped in front of the minneapolis club and so i stopped too behind them.

"by the way Jameson," he sez, "lets go in and see if our machine gun is still by the window there. havin these Bolshies across the street has made me some nervous of late."

and so ya see, emily, some of the bosses are pullin for us, at any rate.

well i gotta go upstairs now kid to the commissary and get my lunch so i'll hafta sign off. the grub is real good emily. a site better'n the grub i get at the board- inghouse. i got a good one on the phony chief of police which i will maybe rite to you about tomorrow.

yours,  
Mike