

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must follow you.

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

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

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"COMPANY UNION" PROVEN FRAUD

Bill Brown Says—

After reading the proceedings of the A. F. of L. convention and the laws laid down by the Executive Council on what basis we run our business and what we have to pay to operate, I wonder sometimes if Al Capone didn't learn the racket from them, and if we are doing right by Al.

I think that if the leaders of a movement that wants to build a dual union of drivers had the welfare of the Disorganizer at heart, they would get the low price on an armored car.

The only ones that don't want a new union are all of the truck drivers.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

Warns of F-L Drift to Right

Dewey Johnson Cites Moves
Against Labor in
Minneapolis

Dewey Johnson of the insurance department of the State of Minnesota spoke before the Junior Farmer-Labor Association at the Curtis Hotel Thursday night. He bitterly harangued the local Farmer-Labor administration for their failure to carry out their pre-election promises. He said that the armored cars used against strikers had been purchased by Farmer-Labor aldermen and that by Mayor Latimer's actions in the Flour City strike he had definitely turned his back on labor.

He warned the Junior Association that the Farmer-Labor Party was rapidly drifting to the right and pointed out that this constituted a real danger for the party. He said that the elimination of the militants from the ranks of the Farmer-Labor Party spelled the end of the Farmer-Labor Party as a political force representing the workers in this part of the country.

Howard Y. Williams, national organizer for the Farmer-Labor Party, will be the speaker at the Open Forum Sunday at 3 p. m. in the Drivers Auditorium. His subject will be, "What Are the Prospects of a National Farmer-Labor Party in 1936?"

Dummy 'Unions' Controlled By Bosses Totally Unmasked In Labor Department Report

Boss Has Final Word in Fake "Unions" Run
Without Membership Meetings
or Written Agreements

Labor's condemnation of the "company union" has been emphatically seconded in a conservatively worded official report just issued by the Department of Labor. The department characterizes these boss-controlled organizations as devices through which employers work their will on workers and deny them anything like real representation. The report is based on a questionnaire sent to 43,000 concerns. Five tests were used to judge the "company union."

1. Whether the members paid dues.
2. If regular membership meetings were held.
3. Are there any agreements with the employees?
4. Did the "union" maintain contact with other workers' organizations?
5. Was the right retained to demand arbitration of differences without the management exercising the right of veto?

All of these attributes are common to bona fide unions. If the "company union" did not comply,

it was not considered that it could fairly be called a representative of the workers. Only 10 of the 43,000 concerns pretended to meet this test and in these cases the Government has not accepted the reports as authentic because they came from different establishments dealing through the same organization and were pronounced contradictory in character.

Many of the "company unions" made no pretense whatever at granting these five conditions. The majority of the "company unions" were found to be of recent origin. Sixty-three per cent have been established between 1933 and 1934 in an effort to prevent the workers from exercising the right of collective bargaining under Section 7-A of the now defunct NRA. In over one-third of the "company unions," membership was automatic, meaning that if the workers did not join, they could not keep their job. In only 150 "company unions" were members required to contribute in some way to organizing expenses and this condition existed only when membership was optional. Most of the others charged a few cents monthly.

In a few instances the employers added cajolery to threats by offering certain "benefits" which the report does not describe. The "benefits" are obtained only by members of "company unions" that are in direct competition with bona fide unions. Only 275 of the dummy organizations had provisions for meetings. Two hundred twenty-one had no meetings of any sort. A large number of the bosses ducked this question entirely.

The conclusion is that the employer ran the "dummy" as he operated his other property, without advice or suggestion from those on his payroll.

Written agreements with employees was reported by only 13% of the bosses. Less than half of these sent copies of contracts to support their statements and where contracts were furnished, they were in most cases merely NRA labor codes or "declarations of mutual good will."

Only 22 employers claimed their "company union" had contracts with outside labor groups but nothing in the report shows that this "permission" extended to bona fide labor unions. To quote Mr. Chas. M. Kelley, who reports on the Government investigation in a recent issue of Labor, "The truth is as the report makes abundantly clear, the bulk of company unions are carefully insulated, not only from the real labor movement, but also from all other contaminating influences, except the boss and his hand-picked spokesmen."

CANDY STRIKE ENDS AS ALL BOSSES SIGN

Blanket Agreement Brings
General Pay Raise
to Workers

The Candy Workers of Minneapolis, who last week struck against the sweat shop conditions in the local candy factories, are back at work. Two companies, Powells and Johnson, have signed direct agreements with the Candy Workers Union.

The rest of the candy employers have signed a blanket agreement which covers wages and working conditions in the balance of the factories. While the blanket agreement has not been made public, it is generally known that the overtime provisions and the manner of settling disputes has been changed. When the blanket contract is available, it will be published.

The formation of the Candy Workers Union, under a Federal charter, is going forward steadily.

Trotsky's Former Aide to Speak Here

Max Shachtman of New York City, editor of the New International, member of the national executive committee of the Workers Party of the United States, and a former secretary to Leon Trotsky, will speak in Minneapolis Friday night on: "The Danger of War—Will the United States Become Involved?"

Mr. Shachtman is an expert on European political affairs. The speech will be delivered at the Pythian Hall, 43½ South Fourth St., at 8 p. m., Friday, November 1st, under the auspices of the Minneapolis branch, Workers Party of the United States.

Fake Union Formed At North Star Mill

The North Star Woolen Mills are busily engaged in forming a company union among their employees. It goes under the name of a "Protective Association" or some such phoney title.

Despite the fact that the formation of such fake unions is banned by the Wagner Bill, the law is so full of loopholes that its provisions are easily evaded by a determined employer.

Transfer Agreement Is to Be Reprinted

At the Tuesday night meeting of the Executive Board of Local 574 the question of the Minnesota Sand & Gravel Company in regard to a jurisdictional dispute in the Midway district was gone into thoroughly and it was decided to hold a meeting of these drivers Friday night to thresh out their problems.

Rudy Novey, steward of the Flour City Coal Company, appeared before the board in regard to reinstatements in the Flour City yard. Novey's recommendations were accepted by the board and he was ordered to bring these men into the union on the basis of the board's decision.

Earl Peterson, manager of the Co-operative Coal Company, appeared before the board at their request in regard to information that had come to the union regarding contracting yard labor at this company. Peterson denied that such a move was contemplated and the matter has apparently been ironed out.

The board decided to print the transfer agreement in booklet form for distribution among transfer men. The By-Laws Committee reported that they would be able to make a fairly complete report at the next membership meeting.

A subscription drive for the Organizer was discussed and plans are being made to put such a drive in operation in the near future.

Oil Bosses Start Gas War to Lower Wages

The Gas Station Employees Union reports that the decision in the arbitration of its controversy with the oil employers is scheduled to be handed down between November 4 and November 10.

It is also reported that the larger oil companies through the medium of the cut rate stations controlled by the dummy holding companies of the big corporations are attempting to launch a price war in Minneapolis so that this may be used as an argument against increasing the wages of the workers.

Drivers Win 7-6

The Local football team came to life Sunday at North Commons and took the Northsiders into camp by a score of 7 to 6. The game was featured by the 40 yard touchdown run of Tony Pazik, who recovered a blocked kick. Next Sunday the 574 team draws a bye in the schedule.

Local 574 Blocks Scab Relief Coal



Officers of Local 574 appeared before the Welfare Board on Wednesday, October 23, to demand that the union scale of wages be written into all contracts for the delivery of relief coal. This point was won. The union further demanded that relief clients be permitted to order coal from any company they chose, the same as is done with milk, ice, etc. This point was not completely gained, but the coal contracts were apportioned on a broader basis than had originally been planned. This means that relief clients will get a better grade of fuel and more dependable service. Grant Dunne, the spokesman for Local 574, is shown addressing the board.

Organizer Sub Drive Soon to Be Launched

The highlight of the Monday night membership meeting was the discussion that evolved around the report of the By-Laws Committee. V. R. Dunne delivered the report and read to the members those sections of the by-laws which were in finished form. He said that much work was necessary before the committee could be discharged.

A plan was laid before the members for a subscription drive to increase the circulation of the Organizer. Prizes will be offered to members of the union who bring in the greatest number of Organizer subs.

There will be one grand prize of a year's free dues, one of six months dues, one of three and several of one month. The complete details of the drive will be presented at the next regular meeting.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,
I'm a decent Sheeney, Wop or Mick,
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik
I'm labor."

The Acme of Logic

The delegates to the recent A. F. of L. convention surpassed all heights of profundity when they voted not to endorse the Lundeen unemployment bill because "its authorship had communistic influence."

Not one word about the merits of the bill. Not one thought for the welfare of the unemployed. Just the most complete disregard for human welfare for the sake of a boss shibboleth.

A National Issue

Desperate attempts have been made by the Citizens Alliance to open the Strutwear. Police violence, impassioned newspaper ads, resolutions in the City Council, committees to Mayor Latimer, committees to Governor Olson, committees to County Attorney Goff, Grand Jury investigations and "jail the radicals and open Strutwear" speeches—all of these tactics have been used, still the Strutwear remains closed. Why? First because it was closed by a legitimate strike of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers; second, it was closed through the struggle to bring the wage standards of this open shop concern up to the wage level which obtains in the hosiery plants located in other cities.

The present labor policies of the Strutwear Knitting Company are jeopardizing the living conditions of every American hosiery worker. Operating under sweat shop conditions, the Strutwear management boasts a net profit of 15% on its investment, an earning which is equaled very rarely in industry. In the face of these facts, the management refuses even to meet and discuss with the representatives of its employees. The Strutwear will remain closed until these abominable practices are abandoned by the management.

A Pollyanna Report

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor reports a membership of 3,153,913 on the basis of per capita tax paid by the affiliated unions. This is its actual membership. The report arbitrarily states that an actual membership of 6,000,000 is a "most conservative estimate." The two and three-quarter million which they pluck out of thin air are "workers who have pledged allegiance to the union's cause but have been prevented by unemployment from regular payment of dues." By what right does the Executive Council claim these workers as members? The American Federation of Labor has done nothing for them, has made no provisions for them to organize as unemployed workers. It has merely dropped them from its membership roles and, except when making doctored reports to the conventions, they are completely forgotten.

Only when the American Federation of Labor actually does something to aid the unemployed will it be entitled to use such figures. Until that time reports such as this one can be considered as nothing more nor less than a Pollyanna report.

Pro-Labor

The Northwest Organizer, official organ of Local 574, has been and will continue to be the voice of the General Drivers Union and of the progressive section of the Northwest Labor movement. It proposes to continue to print news that is of interest to the membership of the unions.

We, unlike the capitalist press, do not claim to be non-partisan. Their claim of non-partisanship and neutrality is false. They publish news and print editorials that are of interest to the class they serve. The bosses, the bankers and big employers are the absolute dictators in the final acknowledgment of everything that appears in the news and editorial columns of a capitalist newspaper. Everything that is contained in their pages is colored by the psychology of the class that they must cater to.

We make no claim of neutrality or nonpartisanship. We intend to serve the interest of the workers and particularly the organized workers. We will print news that the boss papers suppress. Our editorials will be in favor of workers' organizations and for united action of labor. We are frankly and openly pro-labor.

St. Louis Park Section Joins Fed Workers

The regular Friday night meeting of the Federal Workers section was enlivened by a discussion that took place around the amount of money allowed by the Relief Department for the burial of relief clients. It was brought out that at the present time \$6 is the maximum allowance for this service. A committee was set up to make an investigation of burial costs and bring in a recommendation to the next meeting which will guide the Federal Workers in addressing a communication to the Welfare Board on the subject.

A report was made by Farrell Dobbs on the relationship of the Federal Workers to Local 574. A report by Organizer Miles Dunne showed that stewards are rapidly being set up on the various WPA projects and that already there are many serious complaints of discrimination to take care of.

The question of the affiliation of rural Hennepin County relief organizations to the Federal Workers was gone into thoroughly. Ed Palmquist, newly elected chairman of the Federal Workers, was not able to be present at the meeting, being at St. Louis Park speaking before the newly affiliated St. Louis Park section. It was decided to again send a communication to the Welfare Board on rentals for relief clients with the communication being backed up by union action. The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

Round Grove, Ill., news item: "Mrs. Harold McKee has been yawning for seven straight days. She yawns at the rate of eight to eleven times a minute."

She must have been reading Arthur Brisbane, or the editorials in the Minneapolis papers.

Mexico City news item: "Half a million trade union men throughout Mexico yesterday went out on a one-hour general strike as a protest against Italian fascism's invasion of Ethiopia."

General Smedley Butler: "It takes a while to get the poor devils who have to do the dying in a war worked up to it, but propaganda can do the trick—just as it did in 1917."

And what a barrage of propaganda there'll be in the coming World War—from the LABOR LOOKS AT PRES... movies, the radios, the press, those who today call themselves pacifists, plus several so-called radical parties.

Local: "Members of the Hennepin County Farmer-Labor central committee Thursday night were reported to have recommended the removal of Frank Forestal as chief of police."

And hasn't Walter Winchell been getting Hearst-y lately. But William Randolph is the butter on Walter's bread.

Hollywood: "Production in Irvin Cobb's latest comedy has been halted because the principal has sore feet."

Meeting Schedule

Local 574

Thursday, Oct. 31: Halloween Dance
 Friday, Nov. 1: Coal Stewards, Federal Workers.
 Monday, Nov. 4: Coal Workers.
 Thursday, Nov. 7: Independent Truck Owners.
 Friday, Nov. 8: All Stewards, Federal Workers.
 Monday, Nov. 11: Full Membership.
 Wednesday, Nov. 13: Market Workers.

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

G. J. Dunne's stand before the Welfare Board on the Relief coal contracts was a classic.

Conferences are taking place between long distance hauling firms and the union.

The height of something or other—having an Organizer quip reprinted in the Star.

Lawrence Abroe, Czar of Skellet Transfer, says he will soon have everything under control.

The Relief situation is still 100 per cent—that is, for every worker that goes to work on a WPA project, another new one is certified for direct relief.

Depew, Hagstrom and Morrell spell trouble for Yellow drivers who are not up to date.

Do you know that Local 574 has 91% of the Transfer firms, 95% of the Market houses, and 98% of the Coal companies under union contract?

The Drivers' Halloween Dance October 31 is going to be a Wow. Don't miss it.

Do you know that the mechanics at the Yellow Cab are members of Machinists Union, Local 382?

Union members! Don't make a date for the evening of November 25th. That is the night of the Special Membership Meeting and Union Rally.

Recent meat strike (or was it a boycott?) flopped. Reason?—It did not have the support of the workers' economic organizations. Will the Milk Wagon Drivers Union support a move to lower milk prices? Would the Filling Station Attendants be for a boycott of gasoline? Even the Meat Cutters Union was not for the strike when it concerned their union shops. Organizations of union workers know that lowering the price of a commodity that they produce or distribute spells lower wages in that industry. Higher wages and shorter hours for the workers is the union's answer to the rising price of foodstuffs.

Pure and Holy Department Secretary of Central Labor Union refusing to read an official communication addressed to that body because it came from the Communist party.

The Gamble-Robinson drivers can't make up their minds as to who is who on seniority.

DID ANYONE EVER ACTUALLY KNOW OF A FIRM LEAVING TOWN BECAUSE OF LABOR TROUBLES?

Things we will never forget—Leslie Sinton of the Cooks and Waiters buying two drinks in succession at Brady's Bar.

The organizers working in the coal yards report that stewards have been set up in most of the major companies.

The job steward is one of the most important cogs in a union such as Local 574. He is the real living link between the men on the job and the union office. It is not a job that everyone can handle. The steward must be a diplomat, a father confessor, a buffer between the men and the boss, in addition to being a dues collector. He settles minor grievances on the job, keeps the seniority list straight, and sees that all the men have their union rights. A BAD STEWARD CAN RUIN A GOOD JOB BUT A GOOD STEWARD IS A PEARL WITHOUT PRICE.

Farmer-Laborites who sit and brood Get sore when Latimer is poohed.

Saturday morning a coal worker from the River Terminal Dock Company approached the window of the union office and said that although he wished to join the union he did not think he was eligible for union membership. When asked by Harry De Boer why he considered himself ineligible, the young man replied that he was not married.

D. A. Tinholt, secretary of the Minneapolis Coal Company, was a caller at the union office Saturday morning. He signed the coal agreement.

During the recent reroofing of Ray Dunne's car, Squirrel Palmquist had a proxy go pheasant hunting for him—it was Bill Schoerner.

CERTAIN ST. PAUL TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE GOING TO FIND THEMSELVES WITH A BIG HEADACHE IF THEY PERSIST IN FLIRTING WITH OUR MEMBERS IN THE MIDWAY DISTRICT.

Moe Hork, Executive Board member, has started bringing his lunch to board meetings.

A driver for the Speed-O-Lac Company who according to reports had joined 500, appeared Monday at the union office and got right.

I. S. Josephs, Bainbridge appointee on the Welfare Board, stated the other day that I. G. Scott, Tenth Ward alderman, is the General Drivers' representative on the Welfare Board. Tut, tut, now Isadore, you know that that Scott is a member of the Plasterer's Union.

A Strutwear fink attempted to go to work at the River Terminal Coal and Coke Company.....NO DICE.

The Autumn Dance given by the Central Labor Union Saturday night was a gala affair, lovely decorations, refreshments and beautiful women. One slight incident marred the otherwise perfect occasion. The arrangements committee had forgotten to engage an orchestra.

Relief moving jobs which, thanks to Local No. 574, are now going to union transfer firms, are proving to be nice business for these companies.

The Romance Department reports a blank this week. No one died, no one got married, and there were no births. In other words, no hits, no runs, no errors.

Gagnon, steward at Boyds, reports 99% union organization there.

Blanche Jones, Minneapolis policewoman, speaking before the Van Cleve Parents and Teachers association, said that the delinquency of hitch-hiking girls was largely contributed to by truck drivers. Now Blanche, it is our contention that truck drivers are generally too tired for the lighter things of life.

Arrangements have been completed for the Candy Workers' Halloween Ball which will be held in the General Drivers Hall Thursday, Oct. 31st. Admission will be 25 cents.

A Smoker will be held in the Drivers' Auditorium the evening of Nov. 13. The committee in charge of this affair promises a real time for everyone. Admission will be 50 cents. Members are urged to attend and bring their friends.

What about the Union Label on the check room tickets at the C. L. U. dance?