

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!

VOLUME 1, NO. 33

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

STRUTWEAR STRIKERS STAND FIRM

PACK DENIES UNION RIGHT TO LOCAL 160

Power Magnate Tells Workers He Will Not Deal With Spokesman

Leaves Latimer Labor Board to Avoid Dealing With Own Workers

The resignation of Robert F. Pack, from Mayor Latimer's Employee-Employer Labor Relations Board, is an event that should hold great significance for everyone in the local Labor Movement. Mr. Pack's own company, the Northern States Power, is a notorious open-shop anti-union concern.

Local No. 160, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has been endeavoring for over a year to obtain a union contract with that company. Mr. Pack has repeatedly and consistently refused to deal with the organization of the workers in his plant, although his presence on this board would lead one to suppose that he is in favor of establishing amiable relations between employer and employee. Mr. Pack evidently proceeds on the theory that what is good for Peter is not always good for Paul, so rather than be placed in the position where he is compelled to deal with the or-

(Continued on Page 3)

Ice Wagon Drivers Start Union 'Drive'

Local 120, Ice Wagon Drivers' union, long a tool of the Cedar Lake Ice Company has, in the past few weeks, attempted to move out of their narrow company union boundary. For years this "union" refused to take into its ranks anyone but employees of the Cedar Lake Company and its affiliated companies. Although it has always been chartered in the Teamsters International it has been nothing but a company dominated organization. Now, it seems that under the prodding of some of Tobin's henchmen, they are not only attempting to organize drivers who are not members of any union, but are trying to persuade good members of Local 574 to drop their union and become members of Local 120.

We will not quarrel with the representatives of the Ice Drivers' union if they confine their organizational efforts to workers who are not now members of a union.

But we strongly resent their underhand attempts to confuse and disturb workers who are already members of a strong fighting union organization.

More than that, we will not tolerate any continuance of that policy.

Upheaval in the A. F. of L.

When John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, sent his one-sentence letter of resignation to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, he touched off the biggest explosion that sedate body has ever known in all its existence. As everybody knows, it is not a mere conflict of personalities that is involved. Behind the explosion, which is gathering force day by day, is the great outstanding issue of industrial unionism versus craft unionism. That also is the issue at the bottom of the attempt of John Tobin, William Green and their unlucky emissary, Meyer Lewis, to wreck Local 574, the leading force for industrial unionism in the northwest. The national developments therefore have a special interest for us.

Auto Workers Call Lewis

Statements flew thick and fast in the battle of the factions in the A. F. of L. last week. But the biggest news of all is contained in the reports from Detroit and Cleveland that the automobile workers, sick of the craft union run-around, are throwing in with the industrial union bloc in the A. F. of L. and have asked John L. Lewis to address mass meetings in a big drive to organize the automobile industry. At the same time, in a truculent statement to the press, the head of the miners' union let it be known that the industrial union bloc has its eye on the steel industry and intends to offer something different than the pitiful craft union nibbling at this great problem which has characterized the "organization drives" of the A. F. of L. in the past years.

Lewis, Dubinsky, Howard, Hillman and similars, who head the industrial union bloc, are no radicals. As a matter of fact their past record is such that no militant rank

and file worker is justified in putting confidence in them as persons. But—and here is the essential point—the demand from below for industrial unionism is so powerful, it is becoming so clearly a question of industrial unionism or no unionism at all for the great masses of workers, that the most intelligent and alert of the conservative labor leaders feel constrained to champion the issue. That is what gives the present struggle such great significance. And that, also, is the reason the militants and progressives cannot be neutral, but hail the struggle and support it as far as it goes.

The Real Issue

"Back of it all," said John L. Lewis in a press statement, "back of all the controversy, cavilling and quibbling is the question of whether the A. F. of L. is to organize the workers in the great modern industries—and the A. F. of L., officially, is not going to organize them except in craft organizations. There are those of us who believe that this type of organization will not suffice—that it has no assurance of being able to stand up against the opposition of hostile employing interests."

The craft union leaders, he said, represent an "aristocracy of labor, and they fail to see that their own progress is inhibited by the failure to organize the teeming millions. We believe that the whole mass has the right to organize, and that obviously the level of those at the top is limited by the economic level of the lowest."

Steel Workers and Miners

Speaking about the steel workers, who have been cut to pieces by craft unionist inefficiency and corruption, Lewis said: "We feel

(Continued on Page 3)

Federal Courts Act in Strike

Minnesota, the scene of many new and strange developments in the political movement, last week provided the background for something new in strikebreaking attempts.

For the first time in the history of labor disputes in the United States the Federal Courts were used as a strikebreaking medium in a new and novel manner.

In order to move goods out of the Strutwear Knitting plant the employers resorted to a Federal replevin action to gain their end. Setting up a dummy corporation in St. Joseph, Missouri, and through it, executing a replevin order on the Strutwear Company, the knitting firm, with the authority of the Federal courts, called in United States marshals to assist them in attempting to break the strike of the Hosiery Workers Union. So palpably false was their maneuver that even the capitalist newspapers referred to the St. Joseph "corporation" in ironic quotes.

The action taken by the Strutwear Company is a new departure in strikebreaking tactics of American capitalism. It has not been used before. It holds great dangers for the American Trade Union Movement. If the employers are successful in perfecting this tactic it will mean that the Federal courts and United States marshals will become the new strike breakers for the American employers.

The workers cannot, they must not, shut their eyes to the importance of this new development. If this new maneuver of the employers is going to be made a universal weapon of the employers, workers everywhere must face it courageously and determinedly. They must say, "A strike-breaker, no matter what his title, is only a strike-breaker after all."

Box Factory Workers Demand Agreement

The workers at J. R. Clark Box Factory, who are organized into Furniture Workers Union Local 1859, affiliated with the Carpenters' International, have at last determined to force the owner of the plant to recognize this union and deal with them collectively.

Up until now the union has been unable to secure any kind of an agreement with the owner. Last week the Executive Board of the union and the shop Grievance Committee had a series of meetings in 574's hall, decided to draw up a seniority agreement and present it to the boss. The contract deals only with seniority and does not cover wages or working conditions. It provides that seniority shall run straight through the plant and not through departments.

The agreement will be presented sometime this week.

Williams Box Lunch Still Is Non-Union

Williams Box Lunch Company, who have always refused to allow their drivers to organize, are beginning to find out that non-union drivers cannot sell lunches to union men.

On the Belt Line job where, the union has over 150 union drivers, the Williams Company is having tough sledding. The union drivers on the job have told the Williams driver repeatedly that they will not deal with a no-bill.

Now the Williams driver is not even allowed on the job. If the stand taken by the Belt Line drivers was followed by union men everywhere there would be no scabs.

Did you ever know that Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L. belongs to the same organization as John L. Lewis, the United Mine Workers. And if Lewis says the word Green won't even be a delegate to the next A. F. of L. convention.

Important Notice

In accordance with the newly adopted by-laws, the first membership meeting in December, which falls on the 9th, will have as a special order of business the nomination of candidates for the union executive board. The regulations provide that none except members in good standing will be permitted to participate in the nomination meeting. The meeting will therefore be a closed meeting with admittance by proper union credentials only.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 574

GOODS MOVED WHEN POLICE STAND GUARD

Minneapolis Transfer Firms Refuse to Move Scab Knit Goods

Winona Transfer Dray Line Furnishes Scab Drivers for Job

Early last week news was given out to the capitalist press that the Strutwear Knitting Company would endeavor to move some of the finished goods out of its plant under the protection of a Federal Replevin action. A dummy company, the Peacock Hosiery Company, St. Joseph, Missouri, had, through the Federal courts, replevined \$5,000 worth of material which they claimed the Strutwear Company had failed to deliver to them.

The court order gave authority to U. S. District marshals to see that the court order was carried out. Then began the hunt for trucks and drivers who were willing to go into a struck plant under the protection of marshals and police to move the goods. Despite the fact that Minneapolis and St. Paul were combed thoroughly and in spite of the fact bonus wages were being paid for the job, only three local companies had the courage to place their equipment on the job.

Under pressure from Local 574 these firms left the job and on Wednesday noon, the strike breaking attempt was at a standstill. Thursday, which was a holiday, (Continued on Page 3)

D. M. Gilmore Co. Settles With Union

The D. M. Gilmore Company, local plumbing supply house, has again engaged in a little scuffle with the union.

The Arnold Johnson case is becoming as famous as the Dreyfuss case.

Johnson is the oldest driver on the seniority list at Gilmore's. For some reason the management has decided to rid themselves of this willing and efficient driver.

Once before Johnson had been fired and returned to work by the union. After his return to the job, the company proceeded to make it so tough for Johnson that it was almost impossible for him to remain at work.

Other drivers were given almost all of the work and Johnson was allowed to earn only a few dollars a week. Finally Arnold was again discharged.

After a three-day strike on the company, Johnson was returned to work.

Back wages to the amount of \$66 were collected for him.

All is quiet!

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Building Trades Win Local Victory

The Building Trades workers in Minnesota have won a notable victory when they compelled the State WPA to grant the prevailing wage scale. The greatest threat that has been made against their long established wage scale has been made in recent months in the declaration of the Works Progress Administration that the subsistence wage would prevail for both the skilled and the unskilled worker.

Admitting that the Building Trades Department of the A. F. of L. has suffered serious reverses in the past ten years, it is significant to note that they have been able to bring enough pressure upon the WPA Administration in many localities to maintain their union hourly pay schedule.

Many of the workers in these unions do not understand the importance of the decision to adjust the pay schedule of the Building Trades employees according to their union scale. It does not mean that they will earn more money than formerly but it does mean that their union hourly schedule will be maintained. This is important for them because there has been a deliberate attempt made on the part of the National Administration to break down the splendid pay schedule that the Building Trades workers have succeeded in establishing.

The National Contractors Association of the United States in collaboration with the WPA Administration have conspired to break down the hourly union pay rate of these workers. The action of the administration on the Federal projects was not important or significant insofar as it affected the total earning power of these workers who are working on the projects, but it was a deliberate attempt to break down their hourly rate so when and if they returned to private employment they could not longer bargain with the contractors as of yore.

The contractor could say, and logically so, "Why should I pay you a higher hourly rate than you received from the Federal Government?" This argument would be so valid and so powerful that the only answer of the Building Trades would be submission to a new and lower pay schedule.

The Minnesota Building Trades Workers are to be congratulated.

Strutwear Picket Held in \$2,500 Bail

Al Russell, one of the pickets at Strutwear on Wednesday and Friday of last week when the truck attempt was made is in the city facing a serious federal charge.

He was picked up by the police while peacefully picketing as were the other workers at the Strutwear plant. He is charged with criminal contempt of federal court. His bail is set at \$2,500.

The trial will be on Monday.

All workers who witnessed the arrest of Russell or who were present before the arrest are asked to communicate with the office of General Drivers Union.

Christmas Party for Members' Children

It has been suggested, from several quarters, that the union hold a Christmas party, with a tree and all the trimmings, for the children of the members.

This party could be held some time shortly before the holidays. There could be a large Christmas tree in the auditorium, a Santa Claus, some little gifts, candy, etc.

A program could be provided in which the kiddies would take part. Let's hear what you members think about it.

Write or telephone the union office.

Duluth Labor Editor Loses Job

In Duluth the ax has fallen and a new head is rolled before the onslaught of the reactionaries in the upstate labor movement.

Ann McEwen, long time editor of the Labor World, official organ of the Duluth Trades and Labor Assembly, has been voted out and a new editor, more pliable to the dictates of the reactionary bloc, has been installed.

Ann McEwen is not a radical. Not a communist. Perhaps not even a parlor pink. But she did have some progressive ideas as to how the American workers should be organized in order to secure a maximum of return for their toil. She favored vertical organization of employees in plants. She stated repeatedly that she was for the most logical, efficient workers' organizations. She felt that when workers were on strike that they should be supported whether they were in the A. F. of L. or out. Her position was that workers should be organized and if the A. F. of L. with its present setup did not provide the necessary machinery for their organization then there should be a change in methods.

Crime? Heresy? Treason? No, just the honest opinions of a logical person in regard to Trade Union organization. These opinions, however, did not meet with the approval of the petty trade union officials in Duluth. They are hide-bound, dyed in the wool craft unionists.

The opinions Miss McEwen advanced and the type of organization she advocated were foreign to their nature. And so, not being able to completely control the things she wrote, and the things she thought, they had no recourse but to have her scalp.

So Ann McEwen is out and the

Independent Truckers Force Recognition

As an example of what can be done by determined organizational methods the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 574 are a classic example. In the inception of the WPA projects, where equipment was to be hired, the setup was so oriented as to give the large trucking contractors practically all of the available work. The Independent Truck Owners, that is, people who own only one truck, were to be deliberately excluded from this work. Had they been disorganized and divided their case would have been hopeless. They would have been at the mercy of the large trucking contractor and the WPA Administration.

It so happened, however, that a large number of them were organized into 574. Reading the program of the WPA Administration and realizing what was taking place they determined to make a courageous fight against the unjust administration provisions. Resolutions were passed by their organization. These resolutions were forwarded to everyone concerned in the WPA Administration. Letters of protest were sent to Christgau, Wing, Sassman, the Congressmen from Minnesota, the two Senators and even to Harry Hopkins, himself.

Delegations from their body worked unceasingly to compel the administration to recognize them and their rights. After two months of work the administration was forced to realize that these people could not be excluded when bids for equipment were let.

As a result of the splendid work that they have done there are now hundreds of union Independent Truck Owners working on WPA projects.

Gasoline Station Employees Union, Local 19802, struck the Texaco Company stations Monday noon. Fifty stations are involved.



Ann McEwen

new editor whose only newspaper training consists of a lifelong record on a capitalist sheet is the new spokesman for the Duluth Labor Movement. It is safe to predict that the victory of the reactionaries in Duluth will be short lived. The new development in the Trade Union Movement spells the doom of those who attempt to suppress new and progressive ideas.

Federal Workers Need Real Unity

As the WPA program gets underway with thousands of these workers now at work, it becomes more and more apparent that these workers need the protection of a union organization set up on a statewide basis. Even in Hennepin County, where perhaps a dozen unemployed and Federal Relief workers organizations exist, contradictions in their various programs prevents them from taking united action in time of common need.

The State Federal Relief workers all have one thing in common. This will become more apparent as time goes on. Although there are many minor and petty grievances arising constantly on the jobs and although many places vicious discrimination exists, these minor and petty grievances are not the things that will unite all the WPA workers for common struggle.

The flaw in the whole program and the only thing that can bind the unemployed and Federal Relief workers into some sort of a federation where common action can be taken, is that the WPA subsistence wage is a starvation level for the majority of those engaged on the projects.

While this complaint is not yet general, it will soon be the rallying cry around which those workers must organize. When the cold of the Minnesota winter sets in, and the heads of families find that they will be compelled to support their dependents on the wage of \$60.50 per month resentment will be crystallized to the extent that these workers will be more than willing to rally to an organization which presents as its program "a living wage on WPA projects or supplementary relief."

This will be the battle cry that will rally the project workers when the proper time arrives. In the meantime every unemployed and Federal Workers organizations should arrive for real unity around this program.

Last week, during the little affair at Strutwear, the most popular place in town, for truck drivers, was in the vicinity of the knitting plant. They evidently wanted to see if there were any truck drivers with guts enough to drive a truck with a cop on the seat.

Bill Brown Says—

I wonder what Meyer Lewis thinks now. The Strutwear strikers, belonging to a "respectable" A. F. of L. union, found that it took the "outlaw" truck drivers to say no and make it stick. We must be pretty weak when the Citizens Alliance has to go 130 miles to get scab drivers to move goods out of the struck knitting plant.

We are glad to report that the Hosiery Workers Union likes us—even if Meyer doesn't.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

Northern States Union Sends Letter

Editor's Note: The following letter was sent out to the membership of Local 160, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, by the Executive Board of that union.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION NO. 160

Dear Sirs and Brlothers:

It has finally become clear that Mr. Robert F. Pack is determined to ignore the just demands of his employees and to make war on our union. Like all other autocrats who pretend to have the "welfare" of their employes at heart, he thinks he can over-ride the just and reasonable demands of his employees and pacify them with the empty promises with which we are so familiar.

On Friday, November 29, the Executive Board of Local Union No. 160 went to interview Mr. Pack to negotiate a union agreement. In order to make sure that our cause would be ably represented we felt that we were entitled to the assistance of an experienced labor leader in the negotiations. We had previously had unfortunate experiences in this respect. Some of our own International officers and other local labor leaders, upon whom we had relied for the assistance we needed, had proved to be unable to give us effective aid. We, therefore, approached Mr. Farrell Dobbs, Secretary-Treasurer of General Drivers Union No. 574, who had shown his reliability and devotion to our cause and rendered us valuable aid in the past, and asked him to represent the union as spokesman in the negotiations. Brother Dobbs agreed to do this and the general membership meeting of the union held on November 27 officially appointed him as spokesman.

On Friday, November 29, the Executive Board, together with Brother Dobbs as spokesman, went to meet Mr. Pack in order to negotiate an agreement. Mr. Pack demanded that Brother Dobbs leave the room before he would discuss anything. He was informed that Brother Dobbs had been officially appointed as spokesman for the union and that his demand that Brother Dobbs be excluded was tantamount to a refusal to deal with the union. Despite this clear statement of the case, Mr. Pack stubbornly refused to recognize the union's rights to have a representative of its own choosing and the meeting was abruptly broken off. This autocratic action of Mr. Pack only made it clearer than ever to us that the union had made a good choice in the selection of its spokesman.

It is well known to every intelligent worker that the heart of the principle of collective bargaining is the right of the union, in each case, to have representatives of its own choosing not subject to the dictation or selection of the employer. The arrogant and overbearing attitude of Mr. Pack would make a mockery of the principle of collective bargaining and reduce the rights of the workers to those which the employers see fit to give them. Red-blooded union men will not tolerate such an attitude.

We have already had enough and more than enough of Mr.

'Safe Driving Clubs' Menace to Drivers

In the last few months there has been a regular epidemic of "safe driving clubs, truck driving safety campaigns" and all sorts of methods to bring truck drivers into meetings to discuss the newest and most up to date methods of operating trucking equipment with a minimum of accidents.

Now, no one can quarrel with those who advocate safe driving. No sensible person can be against it. In spite of the fact that these safe driving campaigns are generally inaugurated by the large insurance companies, who have an ax to grind, we cannot be against them.

But the employers, as is usual, are using these safe driving meetings to kill two birds with one stone. The usual procedure is to bring the drivers together in some ritzy downtown hotel, give them a dinner, a few drinks, a cigar or two, give them a talk on safe driving, and then comes the hypodermic. Very few employers can overlook the opportunity when they have a large number of their employees together to get in a little anti-union propaganda.

As we said before, we are for safe driving campaigns, but we are certainly not for using this movement as a cover up to poison the men's minds against union organization. We should say to the employers, "You take care of the safety campaigns, we'll take care of the Union."

The Clark Box boys are tired of stalling.

With the union elections only a month off no notice of Mendel's filing has been received.

Pack's "philanthropy" and hypocrisy. We want the rights of American citizens and trade unionists in accordance with the spirit of the times.

We want a union agreement with the improved wage and working conditions which it brings and maintains. Our union has drawn up an industrial union agreement covering all workers in the plant which provides that we shall all be members of one organization, thereby giving assurance of protection and improved standards for all workers and their families.

Mr. Pack's refusal even to discuss this agreement only makes us all the more determined to continue the struggle for its ratification and enforcement. This is our right. It is high time for the workers of the Northern States Power Company to assert themselves and to demonstrate that they are aware of their rights and are determined to defend them.

The medium for this struggle is our union. A report on the agreement, the negotiations and all associated questions will be made and discussed at the next meeting of the union on Tuesday, December 3, at Central Labor Union Headquarters, 18 North Eighth street, at 8 p. m. In addition to the Executive Board, prominent labor leaders and Alderman I. G. Scott will address the meeting.

Fraternally yours,
EXECUTIVE BOARD,
I.B.E.W., LOCAL UNION 160.
K. G. GERLIN,
Chairman.

UPHEAVAL IN THE A. F. OF L.

(Continued from Page 1)

that the miners are more secure if the workers in the steel mills are organized. The miners' union deals with the steel interests in the captive mines, and we are having the greatest difficulty. The steel companies want to maintain a buffer between the great mass of the organized miners and their own workers; they believe they can withhold collective bargaining from their steel workers more consistently if collective bargaining is not a reality in the captive mines—so steel will continue to harass what they consider the most dangerous group of organized workers in America, the U.M.W.A."

Lewis referred sarcastically to the fact that the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. had fixed its next meeting in Miami, Fla., next January, when the Mine Workers convention meets in Washington. "I haven't any doubt that this date was fixed deliberately," he said. "They simply didn't want me at their meeting—and that suits me fine."

Green Warns of "Consequences"

Back of the resignation of Lewis from the Executive Council, it was revealed, was the letter of President William Green "warning" the heads of the international unions who compose the newly-formed "Committee for Industrial Organization" that "grave consequences" might follow the step they had taken. Lewis replied to this bluntly with the statement that, "We are going right ahead."

Meanwhile the automobile workers, who have had a bellyful of the "grave consequences" of craft unionism, indicated that the campaign of the industrial union bloc is just what they have been waiting for. The leaders of the independent automobile workers union, now conducting a strike at Detroit, sent Lewis an invitation to speak at a public meeting in Detroit and promised to "organize fifty thousand men in the next few months." In return, the independent leaders agreed to affiliate to the A. F. of L. on only two conditions: that they have an industrial union charter and that they have internal democracy. Since the "Committee for Industrial Organization" has publicly announced its readiness to co-operate with independent unions and to facilitate their entry into the A. F. of L., this Detroit development has an extraordinary importance. It is to be expected that other independent unions will take similar action.

Here is the full text of the let-

ters sent to Lewis by Mathew Smith and Richard Frankenstein, leaders of the independent automobile workers:

"If you could find time to address a mammoth mass meeting some time in the near future we could organize fifty thousand men in the next few months. In return our organizations are willing to agree to affiliate to the American Federation of Labor on two specific conditions, (1) with an industrial union charter, (2) with internal democracy. We hope you will be able to make arrangements to speak for us during the next week."

The letter sent to William Green warns about the fatal effects of the policy of the A. F. of L. union in Detroit which, under the inspiration of Green's special agent, the notorious Francis Dillon, is working during the strike of the independents. It follows:

Letter to Green

"The situation in Detroit, where the independent unions, the Automotive Workers Industrial Association and the Mechanics Educational Society of America, are on strike and the United Auto Workers Union working, is becoming dangerous not only to the unions concerned but to unionism in general. It is putting an almost insuperable obstacle in the way of future organization of the automobile workers. In view of this we suggest that you come to Detroit to speak to the auto workers in a meeting during the next week. In return we are willing to affiliate to the American Federation of Labor on the following simple terms, (1) one industrial charter; (2) internal democracy. You cannot remain indifferent to the present situation which challenges unionism in its first strike with the employers during the present production program. We urge that you give careful and favorable consideration to this appeal."

From Cleveland comes the announcement that Lewis is to address a mass meeting of auto workers sometime in January and that he had pledged "all possible assistance to organize automobile workers in Cleveland." This announcement was made by Wyndham Mortimer, president of the Cleveland Auto Council, after a visit to Washington with a delegation. While in Washington the Cleveland delegation had a formal meeting with the new "Committee for Industrial Unionism," and informed this body of the plan to organize the auto plants in Cleveland 100 per cent.

Organizer Sub Drive Goes Over the Top

The Organizer sub campaign getting under way with a bang.

During the short time it has been going on hundreds of new subs have been taken. Members of the union who have been active in the campaign report that securing six months subs for 25c is as easy as falling off a log.

A move is on foot in several unions and other workers' organizations to have the membership subscribe en masse. Members who are taking subscriptions not only stand a chance of winning some worthwhile prizes that are offered, but are assisting in spreading the principles of sound union organization.

Upholsterers Give \$5.00

General Drivers No. 574
257 North Plymouth Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

At the regular meeting of November 15th, Mr. William Brown and Miles Dunne addressed our membership in reference to the support of the organizer and therefore we are enclosing herewith a check for five dollars (\$5.00) as our contribution.

We also wish to inform you that speakers will be available for future gatherings such as you held recently.

Trusting to be of service, we are,

Fraternally yours,
UPHOLSTERER'S LOCAL 61.
JAMES M. BISHOP,
Fin. Sec. and Treasurer.

Union Thanksgiving Baskets Bring Thanks

Local 574:

Dear Sirs:

I wish to thank you for the lovely Thanksgiving basket you sent us.

We had a very nice Thanksgiving, hoping you all had the same.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henry Ness and family.

Local 574:

Dear Sirs:

I want to thank you so much for the lovely Thanksgiving basket which you gave me. It made me most happy. I wouldn't be had a Thanksgiving if it hadn't been for your kindness. Thanks a lot!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Anna Sanford.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Monday, Dec. 2: Coal Workers.
Thursday, Dec. 5: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Dec. 6: All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Dec. 9: Full membership (closed meeting for nomination of officers.)
Wednesday, Dec. 11: Market Workers.
Friday, Dec. 13: Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Dec. 16: Coal Workers.
Thursday, Dec. 19: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Dec. 20: All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Dec. 23: Full membership.
Tuesday, Dec. 24: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, Dec. 27: Federal Workers.

PACK DENIES UNION RIGHT TO LOCAL 160

(Continued from Page 1)

organization that represents his employees, he has handed in his resignation and re-assumed the role of the hard-boiled employer.

Last week Local 160, feeling that they had been inadequately represented in their previous attempts to deal with the Northern States Power, decided to go outside of their own organization and secure someone as spokesman for their cause. They felt that inasmuch as Mr. Pack of the Northern States Power Company had able and competent legal representatives to speak for him, they assumed that they had the same right.

At the general membership meeting of Local 160, held on November 27th, the Union selected Mr. Farrell Dobbs, Secretary-Treasurer of the General Drivers Union, Local 574, to be their spokesman. On Friday, November 29th, the Executive Board of Local 160, together with Brother Dobbs, their spokesman, went to meet Mr. Pack, in an effort to negotiate a Union agreement. Mr. Pack demanded that Mr. Dobbs leave the room before he would discuss anything. He was informed that Brother Dobbs was the officially selected spokesman of the Union. Despite this clear statement of facts, Mr. Pack continued to stubbornly refuse to recognize that the Union had a right to select a representative of its own choosing.

Such a stand on the part of Mr. Pack constitutes a refusal to recognize that the Union has equal rights of his own company. Mr. Pack's resignation from Mayor Latimer's board can be more clearly understood when we realize that he is neither ready nor willing to deal with the representatives of his own workers. The stand taken by the Northern States Power Company through its representative, Mr. Pack, clearly indicates that they are prepared to fight the Union, which represents their employees.

Local 160 must recognize that the stand taken by Pack on Friday holds great significance for them. His refusal to allow Dobbs to speak for the Union means that he is only willing to deal with such representatives of the employees that he feels he can either fool or betray. It is not an issue of Farrell Dobbs versus someone else.

It is the right of workers to choose their own representatives in dealing with the employer.

mass production and other industries upon industrial and plant lines, regardless of claims based upon the question of jurisdiction.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is expressly directed and instructed to issue unrestricted charters to organizations formed in accordance with the policy herein enunciated. The Executive Council is also instructed to enter upon an aggressive organization campaign in those industries in which the great mass of the workers are not now organized; issue unrestricted charters to workers organized into independent unions, and those organizations now affiliated with associations not recognized by the American Federation of Labor as bona fide labor organizations.

Submitted: Charles P. Howard, John L. Lewis, David Dubinsky, Frank B. Powers, J. C. Lewis, A. A. Myrup.

GOODS MOVED WHEN POLICE STAND GUARD

(Continued from Page 1)

gave the Citizens Alliance time to scurry about the surrounding country to line up a trucking company which was willing to take a chance.

In Winona, 130 miles from Minneapolis, they finally located a non union trucking company, the Winona Dray Line. Friday morning they moved into Minneapolis and started operations. Protected by a score of deputy marshalls and over one hundred police, they succeeded in moving the goods.

Strutwear picketers put up a good resistance. Four of the scab drivers and one deputy U. S. marshal was injured.

The Winona Dray Line whose license was revoked by the Railroad and Warehouse Commission over a month ago now faces prosecution for operating without a proper license. The material, that was moved from the plant, consisted mostly of finished and semi-finished hosiery, underwear, and a few pieces of office equipment.

It is still standing on the side track in box cars where it was loaded.

groups of workers in these industries prevent organization by breeding a fear that when once organized the workers in these plants will be separated; unity of action and their economic power destroyed by requiring various groups to transfer to National and International Unions organized upon craft lines.

To successfully organize the workers in industrial establishments where conditions outlined herein obtain there must be a clear declaration by the American Federation of Labor. It must recognize the right of these workers to organize into industrial unions and be granted unrestricted charters which guarantee the right to accept into membership all workers employed in the industry or establishment without fear of being compelled to destroy unity of action through recognition of jurisdictional claims made by National or International Unions.

It is not the intention of this declaration of policy to permit the taking away from National or International craft unions any part of their present membership, or potential membership in establishments where the dominant factor is skilled craftsmen coming under a proper definition of the jurisdiction of such National or International Unions. However, it is the declared purpose to provide for the organization of workers in

Report of Industrial Union Group To Convention of the A. F. of L.

During the fifty-five years the American Federation of Labor has existed its declared purpose has been to organize the unorganized industrial workers of the nation. The contributions from its numerous affiliates have been made in the belief that organization would be advanced for the purpose of adding economic strength to the various units and that the organization policies would at all times be molded to accomplish the main purpose of organizing the unorganized workers in the industrial field.

During the existence of the American Federation of Labor and since the date many of the charters were granted to National and International Unions upon craft lines, the changes in industrial methods have been such that the duties of millions of industrial workers are of a nature that did not exist at the time many Na-

tional and International charters were issued. This makes it apparent that jurisdiction over these new classes of work could not have been anticipated and included in the jurisdictional outlines of charters issued to National and International Unions at a time when the work that is now performed by these millions of industrial workers did not exist.

We refuse to accept existing conditions as evidence that the organization policies of the American Federation of Labor have been successful. The fact that after fifty-five years of activity and effort we have enrolled under the banner of the American Federation of Labor approximately three and one-half millions of members of the thirty-nine millions of organizable workers is a condition that speaks for itself.

We declare the time has arrived when common sense demands the

organization policies of the American Federation of Labor must be molded to meet present day needs. In the great mass production industries and those in which the workers are composite mechanics, specialized and engaged upon classes of work which do not fully qualify them for craft union membership, industrial organization is the only solution. Continuous employment, economic security and the ability to protect the individual worker depends upon organization upon industrial lines.

In those industries where the work performed by a majority of the workers is of such nature that it might fall within the jurisdictional claim of more than one craft union, or no established craft union, it is declared that industrial organization is the only form that will be acceptable to the workers or adequately meet their needs. Jurisdictional claims over small

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 EAST 6TH STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Subscription Rates

One year in advance	\$1.00
Six months in advance	.65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

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

Seniority Is the Thing

Most workers, newly come to the Trade Union Movement, do not recognize and understand the importance and significance of the seniority clause in their union contract. It is the heart and soul, the bone and sinew and the life of every union agreement. It is their sole and only guarantee against intimidation, coercion and discrimination. It is the thing that protects their rights, guarantees that they will stay on the job according to their length of service and protects them against the whims of the employer. Many other things in a union contract can be given up.

But the rights of seniority must never be surrendered. To understand what a vital part seniority plays in a union contract, we should look for a moment at what happens to a union that does not have this particular type of protection. The union signs an agreement covering wages and working conditions and neglects to specify that seniority shall prevail.

Soon the employer picks out those employees who are active in organizing the union and who took the fore-front in making the fight for recognition of their union and starts to weed them out of the organization. Regardless of their length of service with the company and irrespective of the long years of faithful work they have given him, in his eyes, they committed the unpardonable sin of assisting to organize their fellow-workers.

Unless the seniority clause is written into their contract those active and militant workers are doomed, but when and if they have seniority in the plant the employer is balked in his efforts to discriminate against them.

It is not only that the active members of the union are sacrificed, but their discharge strikes terror into the hearts of their fellow-workers and eventually their organization is destroyed.

It can be set down as a principle of trade union tactics that a fight that is won that does not include seniority as one of its rewards is a hollow victory.

Young Courage

Youth must be served, in the labor movement as elsewhere. The membership of the Hosiery Workers' union is composed of young workers, boys and girls in their teens and early twenties.

Those who watched the actions of these young boys and girls on the day when the trucks were attempting to move goods out of the plant, cannot but testify to the blithe courage with which these young people attack the truck and scab drivers and attempted to halt the delivery.

That they failed to stop the trucks is not to their discredit. It was almost a foregone conclusion that they would move.

But the workers made a brave attempt in the face of overwhelming odds. A salute to their courage.

Top Labor Leaders Strike Out at FLP

There can no longer be a doubt in the mind of any sane trade unionist, but that the top strata of the State Federation officialdom has opened up a deliberate and planned attack upon the Farmer-Labor party.

Lawson's letter to the Leader, the dismissal of Ann McEwen as editor of the Labor World and many other significant happenings indicate that the fight is on.

The Leader drew Lawson's fire when it published a series of articles condemning the actions and activities of Meyer Lewis. The Leader is the official organ of the Farmer-Labor party.

Ann McEwen was blasted from her post as editor of the Duluth Labor World because of avowed sympathy of the F. L. P.

The reactionary parties figure that next year is the time that is most favorable to break the power of the F. L. P. Olson will not be a candidate for the office of governor. The party will be in the weakest position it has occupied for years. The old parties will make a desperate effort to capture the state machine.

The Progressive movement and all labor organizations will have

to stand solidly united if the F. L. P. comes out on top next year. Division and dissension such as is being created by the action of Lawson and other reactionary elements in the labor movement will surely spell victory for political reaction. Every honest worker should protest the actions of these disrupters.

Fargo Unionists Send Organizer Sub Cards

Anyone who thinks the progressive labor movement in Fargo is dead, have another think coming.

Recent visits to Minneapolis by some of the staunch union supporters brings the news that the sentiment for real union organization is as strong as ever.

As further proof that the movement is not dead, one of the visitors took back with him 50 Organizer sub cards. Although less than a week has elapsed we have received about 40 of the cards back containing the names of 40 new Organizer subscribers.

Nice going in Fargo boys, let's hear from you some more.

What downtown labor leader will soon appear in a nice new suit of armour?

The CLU dance was a nice affair. A little damp, though.

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

The mass meeting for the Strutwear strikers will be held next Monday night, Dec. 9th, 8 p. m. at the downtown Eagles Hall. This meeting will be sponsored by the entire organized labor movement. Every worker who believes that workers have the right to organize and bargain collectively should come and lend his support to the courageous Strutwear strikers. They must win the strike they are engaged in. The outcome of their struggle is of the utmost importance to the whole Minneapolis labor movement. Governor Olson will be the principal speaker.

One sure bet. The Winona Dray line won't be back in Minneapolis in a hurry.

Tom Skellet's boys got mad last week.

Pratt's gang, under the leadership of Slim Gardner, met in the union hall Monday night.

Who is the old battle ax K?

That spokesman for Local 160 would have been a honey if the employer would have talked to him.

Mankato sent a call to Local 574 for an organizer to help unionize the drivers there.

The Belt Line boys are still saying no to the non-union Williams Box lunch.

Who said that we had forgotten the Northfield Coal Company?

Tom Mooney is making a great showing before the California Supreme Court.

Everyone is still talking about the Taxi Drivers' Ball. It was a grand affair.

A good time was had by all with the exception of Bill Brown who lost his overcoat, hat and gloves.

Those Hosiery Workers are really going to town.

The Commonwealth Club of Golden Valley, affiliated with 574, is running James Sax, member of the club, for Board of Trustees.

Our Washington correspondent reports that Meyer Lewis has been in that city the last few days. He had no comment to make on the Minneapolis situation.

What is perhaps the most thoroughgoing coal delivery that has been made in this city in recent months was the one on 15th and Chicago by Kunze and Hahn of the Carnegie Coal Company. They put their loaded truck and all into the basement.

Many members of the union did not turn in their Smoker tickets. The committee in charge wish to thank these loyal union brothers.

The little girl that led the march of pickets around the Strutwear plant Friday was short on clothes for a cold day. But she had what it takes. Courage!

Arnold Johnson is back to work at Gilmore's. As they are a plumbing firm I suppose it could be called a fitting settlement.

HARD TO BELIEVE DEPT. Alderman I. G. Scott BOUGHT his Thanksgiving turkey.

Who found Bill, Brule, Beyrl, Man Mountain Ambrose billfold in the clubroom the other night?

Labor Looks at the Press

Tribune Society Page — "A Christmasy atmosphere will prevail at the Women's club for the last meeting before the holiday season, Tuesday, December 17. On that day the Garden club will be in charge of a special morning meeting at which "Holiday Decorations in Other Lands" will be featured and Christmas carols sung. . . . Meyer L. Lewis, representative of the American Federation of Labor who has been sent to Minneapolis "to remove Communist leadership and influences from the labor unions," will talk on "Housecleaning the Labor Unions."

Some one ought to give Meyer Lewis a Christmas sock, so that he would be appropriately decorated for the holiday season.

New York Herald Tribune news item: "Secretary of Labor Perkins and Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, held a secret conference at the Hotel Commodore last night and discussed a method to setting the protracted dock workers' strikes that have affected shipping at Gulf and Pacific Coast ports for the last several weeks."

Another case of the score being 2-0 against the workers.

Minneapolis news item: "The Christmas buying rush is underway in earnest, and it appears that holiday retail business this year would be the greatest since 1929 in Minneapolis. . . Merchants said that a greater feeling of security exists."

Miss Anne McEwen, editor of the Duluth Labor World, after being purged out of a job by

Skellet Transfer Firm Willing to Settle Row

The Skellet Transfer Company, whose drivers have been on strike since the Strutwear moving job, have indicated, by the following letters, that they are willing to settle with their workers. Negotiations are taking place as we go to press.

General Drivers Local Union 574
225 South 3rd Street,
Minneapolis, Minn.
Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we have sent to Mr. George LaBelle, chairman of the Compliance Committee, whose jurisdiction was set up in the agreement signed November 1st.

We would appreciate your getting in touch with Mr. LaBelle so that this matter can be given consideration immediately.

Yours very truly,
SKELLETT COMPANY,
Thos. J. Skellet.

George LaBelle
708 Central Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:
As chairman of the Compliance Committee as regards our industry and the Local Union 574, we wish that you would submit for consideration and arbitration the controversy that exists at the present time between our firm and Local Union 574.

We would appreciate your giving this matter your immediate attention.

Yours very truly,
SKELLETT COMPANY,
Thos. J. Skellet.

Don't make any dates for the evening of Dec. 14th. That is the night of the big dance and Fun Frolic. If you stay away you will be the only one who is not there. Everyone else is going.

Meyer Lewis: "I believe in industrial unions instead of craft. . . Since Meyer Lewis came to Main Street any of us who dare to think such things are reds."

Yah, we all feel secure—secure that we'll continue to be poor as hell for another year.

We know how you feel, Ann. He and Bill Green are great guys, ain't they?

Social Note: "J. W. Schroeder, executive vice president of the Citizens Alliance of Minneapolis, left Saturday for New York to attend a meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers."

Mount Carroll, Ill., news item: "Twenty-two fundamentalists today planned to ask the appellate court to uphold their belief that baptism by immersion is the only true way to salvation."

A darn good trade union is the only way we know to salvation. And we don't have to ask a judge to uphold our belief.

Local news item: "The per capita cost of police protection in Minneapolis is \$2.01."

Hell's bells, I don want any police protection. I'll take a carton of Twenty Grands and a dozen beers, and they can fire my share of the police force.

Local news item: "Labor was invited to run to the Republican party as a means of avoiding the wrong trend of the Farmer-Labor party, in a letter sent the Federated Trades assembly of Duluth by A. B. Gilbert of Mound."

Well, the working man could either do that—or plug up the keyhole and turn on the gas.

Herbert Hoover: "The woof of our form of society was woven into the warp of liberty at the Revolution."

Woof yourself, you warped old fathead!

New York news item: "When a local philanthropic agency set \$2.25 as an adequate weekly food budget for a single person, a girl reporter in Albany tried to follow the menu prescribed, and almost starved to death."

Famous last words: It's probably all right to go to his office and ask when the WPA program will get under way—but I'm opposed to this picketing and so on. After all, we're intellectuals."

From Hearst's New York Evening Journal: "We're in this depression because we all—rich and poor alike—wanted to live too soft and put on too large a front."

Today William Randolph Hearst is worth a measly \$220,000,000—and 30,000 New York school children are undernourished and unfit for school, medical authorities report.

From the New Militant: "French psychologists are conducting extensive experiments with children to find their reaction to eating animals that have been their pets. . . . In Willard, Ohio, Eugene Truschel, 11, despondent because there wasn't a bite of food in the house, offered his pet rabbit as supper to his mother and brothers. He then hanged himself to leave one less mouth to feed."

The New York Economic Council has gone on record as favoring "withholding from all persons receiving unemployment relief the right of suffrage."