

SPECIAL BULLETIN

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, NOV. 19, 1937



P. J. Corcoran Slain; Rites Saturday— TJC Calls Holiday For Morning, 9-12

Governor Benson Offers \$500 for Pat's Murderers

On Thursday Governor Elmer A. Benson offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer or slayers of Patrick Corcoran. In a statement accompanying the offer, Governor Benson said: "The murder of Patrick J. Corcoran of Minneapolis is a challenge to the forces of law and order in this state and no effort must be spared to solve this brutal crime . . . This case cannot be allowed to rest until the killer or killers have been brought to justice."

STATEMENT OF MINNEAPOLIS TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL

Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council No. 32, is horrified at the apparent cold-blooded slaying of Patrick J. Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council.

Pat Corcoran has led an uncompromising fight against Minneapolis employers and has unquestionably by his unswerving loyalty to the interest of the workers incurred the enmity of a large section of Minneapolis employers and their agents. There can be little doubt but that many of the employers who have dealt with Corcoran during the past two years have reason to wish for his elimination. It is obvious that one who fights consistently in the interest of the workers makes enemies. Those enemies are known and threats received over a period of time, indicate how seriously Corcoran's death was desired.

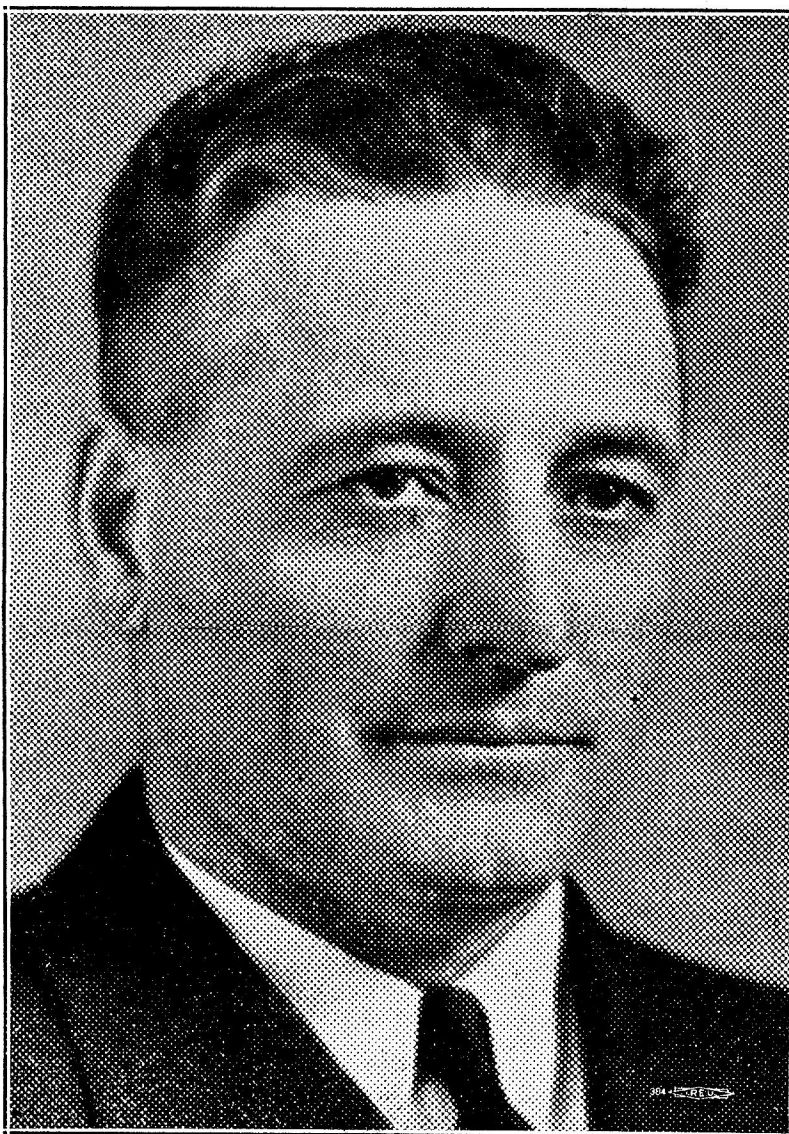
The Teamsters' Joint Council and all of its affiliated locals hold nothing but the highest respect and admiration for the work that Corcoran has carried out. He knew of the danger that confronted him but in spite of this insisted on carrying on his struggle to improve the conditions of those who toil. We are convinced that the dastardly murder of Pat Corcoran will only serve to spur the Drivers' Unions to even greater organizational efforts. His murder will not go unavenged. Teamsters' Council No. 32 pledge themselves to carry forward to a successful conclusion the campaign which was inaugurated by Corcoran. If the employers and their agents think that by murdering individuals they will be able to wreak their will upon the working class, they have murdered in vain.

We will carry on.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL DRIVERS LOCAL 544

Local 544, Minneapolis General Drivers Union, is moved to sorrow as Patrick J. Corcoran, official of the Local Union, falls to his death under assassins' bullets. Pat Corcoran and the Drivers Union at one time were on opposite sides. Since that

Patrick J. Corcoran



"Mourn not the dead who in the still earth lie,
Dust unto dust,
That calm sweet earth that mothers all who die,
As all men must.

But rather mourn the apathetic throng,
The cowed and meek,
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong
And dare not speak."

time, however, and since the time the Local Drivers Union returned to the Drivers' International, there has been no more staunch supporter, or truer friend, than Corcoran. Since the rapprochement between the one-time outlaw union (574) and the A. F. of L. there has been no one who has accorded greater support to the Drivers than Pat Corcoran. He has been our friend and has indicated by his every act that he has been actively interested in furthering the interest of the Minneapolis Teaming crafts. Not only has he actively participated in the organization of the General Drivers Union, but he has in that same period assisted in the unionization of the Bakery Drivers, Laundry

Drivers, Tea and Coffee Drivers and several other hitherto unorganized sections of the Drivers movement.

Corcoran was one of the foremost movers in the formation of the North Central District Drivers Council, a union Council which brought into its fold all of the northwest teaming craft locals. During his fight for unionization of Northwest Trucking Workers, Corcoran had made enemies, who, no doubt, desired his death. If assassination of teaming craft leaders is the answer of the employers, then Local 544 says, you may kill who you may think are the leaders. But we have trained people who will go forward with the fight. When all of the Driving Craft Work-

Teamsters Offer \$10,000 For Corcoran's Assassins

Labor Movement Joins Drivers in Observance of Holiday Saturday; Funeral at St. Mary's Basilica

On Wednesday night around ten o'clock Patrick J. Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council and Chairman of the North Central District Drivers Council, was foully and brutally assassinated near his home.

Earlier in the evening, he had attended a meeting of the Laundry Drivers Local, held at the headquarters of the Council, 257 Plymouth Avenue North. He left the meeting for his home, put his automobile in his garage, and started for the door. It was then that his assailant or assailants attacked him, beat him, crushed his skull, and sent a bullet crashing into his brain. His snow-covered body was discovered by a neighbor at 11:30 p. m.

A Cowardly Act

It was some time before the horrible news of his assassination leaked out. With sorrow, with anger, his trade union brothers, his friends, members of the trade union movement, heard of the cowardly, dastardly act.

The body of the martyred trade union leader was taken to the county morgue. Later, officials of the Teamsters Joint Council and a representative of the Northwest Organizer went to the morgue, identified themselves and asked to see the body. They were refused admission. Representatives of the daily press had no difficulty in viewing the body of the murdered man.

Surviving are his wife, two sons, Edmund and Patrick, Jr., two daughters, Betty and Janet, three brothers, John, James and Alphonse. He lived at 28 Penn Avenue South.

Council Meets Immediately

On Thursday morning at 10 o'clock a special executive meeting of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council was held in the Council headquarters.

ers in the Northwest are organized and operating under union conditions, we will be satisfied.

Pat Corcoran is a martyr and has suffered a martyr's fate, but his martyrdom will only spur us on to greater efforts.

STATEMENT OF YELLOW CAB SECTION, LOCAL 544

The membership of this section wishes to express its deepest concern and sympathy in the loss of a leader who has so ably demonstrated in the past his ability fearlessly and courageously to lead his followers in organization drives . . . In our estimation—Continued on other side

The executive meeting decreed that the Council offers a reward of Ten Thousand Dollars for the apprehension and conviction of those responsible for the murder of Corcoran. It further decreed that a Holiday of all members of the Teaming Crafts in Minneapolis be held Saturday, November 20, to permit members to attend the last services for the martyred trade unionist, to be held at 11 a. m. Saturday at the Basilica of St. Mary. Members observing this Holiday need not fear that either their jobs or their standing in their Union will be jeopardized. Miles Dunne was elected to fill temporarily the post of Secretary-Treasurer of the Council.

Saturday Union Holiday

The rest of the Minneapolis trade union movement is called upon by the Council to join with it in observing the Holiday on Saturday. All unions affiliated to the North Central District Drivers Council, of which Patrick Corcoran was chairman, have been notified of the actions of the Minneapolis Joint Council, and invited to send delegations to observe the funeral. Thursday afternoon, officials of the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316, called upon all of its members to join with members of the Teamsters Joint Council in observing the Holiday. Officials of the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 had already taken similar action. It was believed that many other unions would rapidly follow suit.

After 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, any driver if he so wishes, may take his truck on the street, with the full sanction of the Teamsters Joint Council. Milk and bakery drivers will begin deliveries at midnight Friday, and are to be off the street by 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

PAT CORCORAN'S UNION RECORD

Prior to 1922—Active in the railroad unions.
June 16, 1922—Initiated into Milk Drivers Union Local No. 471.
April, 1932—Elected Business Agent of Local 471.
April, 1935—Elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 471, which office he held until January, 1937. He then became Business Representative and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council No. 32. He was also Chairman of the North Central District Drivers Council; Chairman of the Board of Union Business Agents; Vice-president for the Fifth District of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor.

\$10,000 Reward is Offered for Slayers

SPECIAL BULLETIN

The Northwest Organizer

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1937

We Carry On

With horror and the deepest sorrow all members of the Teamsters Joint Council, and of the North Central District Drivers Council, heard of the brutal and cowardly assassination of one of their bravest and staunchest leaders, Patrick Corcoran.

Loyally and without compromise, Pat Corcoran led the fight against the employers of Minneapolis and the Northwest, so that all workers in the driving crafts might gain more of the good things of life. In this fight, Corcoran made thousands of friends—and many enemies. Because of his part in this consistent struggle, Corcoran incurred the undying enmity of a section of the employers and their agents. Without the shadow of a doubt, many employers who have dealt with Corcoran during the past two years had reason to wish for his elimination. He was honest, he was brave, he would not yield where the question arose of defending the interests of the working class.

Over a period of months, Corcoran received many threats against his life. Knowing of the dangers that one in his position was bound to hazard, he yet insisted on doing his part to carry on the struggle to improve the lives of those who toil.

All talk of tracing his assassination to inter-union warfare is the most outrageous nonsense—studied, insolent, purposeful, deliberate nonsense—inspired by those responsible for the murder, and echoed, hinted at, insinuated, in the daily press. Do not be fooled. The murder of Corcoran was a base blow aimed at the entire trade union movement. Only MORTAL ENEMIES of the trade union movement could have dealt this blow.

Our martyred brother, a leader in the trade union vanguard, gave unselfish devotion to the unions and the progressive labor movement. He was an active worker, an outstanding leader in the movement that he loved and served. His contribution to the workers' cause over a long period of years stands as an inspiration to all working men and women. Only the deepest feeling of concern for the welfare and progress of trade unionism ever found a place in the thoughts of Pat Corcoran. Only sorrow and horror and rage will find a place in the hearts of those who knew him and loved him.

His death will hurt the progress of unionism in Minneapolis and the Northwest, and those who inspired the death-blow know this. But his death will not halt this progress. If those who so bestially murdered Pat Corcoran thought differently, they are mistaken. The movement in which Corcoran played a leading role has trained workers who will carry on the work until the goal is reached, until every worker of the teaming crafts in the Northwest is protected with the shield of unionism. Brutal assassinations of leaders, planned campaigns of terrorism, will not halt this drive.

The Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, of which Patrick Corcoran was a chosen leader, pledges the labor movement, its friends and supporters, that no pains will be spared, that nothing will be allowed to stand in the way of bringing his slayers to justice before the bar of public opinion and the trade union movement.

Hail and Farewell, Patrick Corcoran. We shall carry on.

The Time Is Over-ripe

For many months, rumors have come from Washington that the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee was coming to Minneapolis to investigate employer-employee relationships. The Teamsters Joint Council has welcomed such news. Since Wednesday night, there is no longer any excuse for a delay. The LaFollette Committee must come immediately and do its work.

We also call upon the State Attorney-General to appoint immediately a special investigator assigned to the Corcoran murder.

\$10,000 Reward!

The sum of \$10,000 will be paid by the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council for the apprehension and conviction of those responsible for the murder of Patrick J. Corcoran.

By Executive Order
TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL

Symbol and Beacon



Sign by Kaufman Outdoor Advertising

One of Brother Corcoran's last acts was to request of a member of the Private Chauffeurs' Union that he photograph the large neon sign hanging at the corner of the Teamsters Joint Council headquarters, a symbol of the unity and power of the Council and a beacon to all workers in the driving crafts.

TEAMSTERS' HOLIDAY
All trucks off the street between
9 a. m. and noon
SATURDAY, NOV. 20
To All Members of
The Minneapolis Teaming Crafts

On Thursday morning, the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council decreed that Saturday, Nov. 20, will be a Teamsters' Holiday. No trucks are to be on the streets between the hours of 9 a. m. and noon. Bakery and milk drivers will start deliveries at midnight Friday and will be off the streets by 9 Saturday morning.

This Holiday is called to permit all members of the Council to attend the funeral of Patrick J. Corcoran, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council, foully murdered Wednesday night. Members of the Federal Workers Section and of the Warehouse Union are also to observe the Holiday. The last services for our martyred brother will be held Saturday morning, Nov. 20, at 11 o'clock at the Basilica of St. Mary, after which the burial will take place at the St. Mary cemetery.

No member of the Teamsters Joint Council jeopardizes either his job or his standing in the union by observing this holiday.

The Teamsters Joint Council appeals to the rest of the Minneapolis trade union movement to observe this holiday, and to attend the funeral.

By Executive Order
MINNEAPOLIS TEAMSTERS
JOINT COUNCIL

Statement of Yellow Cab
Section, Local 544

(Continued from front page)
tion the death of Pat Corcoran represents one of the most dastardly crimes ever committed against organized labor in Minneapolis and we will seriously lend whatever assistance we can in bringing to justice the perpetrators of this crime.

STATEMENT OF PRIVATE
CHAUFFEURS

It is with the deepest sorrow that the members and officers of the Private Chauffeur's unit of the Teamsters Joint Council learned of the monstrous murder of Pat Corcoran. The Private Chauffeur's unit is the youngest group affiliated with the Council, and the success we have won in our brief existence we owe to Pat, who so unselfishly gave of his time and efforts to assist us in organizing and bettering the conditions of life of our members. We will never forget it, we will always honor his memory, we pledge ourselves to carry

on the work which has been started until we win through to the complete organization of all private chauffeurs, in the manner that Pat Corcoran would have liked to see us do.

STATEMENT OF LAUNDRY
DRIVERS

The membership of Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131 expresses its great sorrow at the passing of Pat Corcoran, our friend and leader in the union movement.

We have been very grateful for the help he has given us in organizing our Local, and the continual help and advice which he was always eager to give us at anytime we needed it. We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his widow and family in this hour of great tragedy in their lives.

STATEMENT OF BAKERY
DRIVERS LOCAL 289

The Bakery, Pie and Yeast Drivers Union Local No. 289 is more than glad to have this opportunity to ex-

T. J. C. Meets to
Take Action on
Corcoran's Death

On Thursday morning, November 18, the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council held a special meeting at 257 Plymouth Avenue North. At the meeting, the following actions were taken:

1. The Council offers a reward of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the apprehension and conviction of those responsible for the foul murder of Patrick J. Corcoran.

2. The Council decreed a Holiday for all members of the Teamsters Joint Council, on Saturday, November 20, to permit members to attend the funeral of Patrick Corcoran. The last services for our martyred brother will be held at the Basilica of St. Mary. No member of the Council observing this Holiday will jeopardize either his job or his standing in the Union by observing the Holiday.

The Council called upon all members of the Minneapolis Trade Union Movement to join it in observing this Holiday.

3. The Council elected Miles Dunne to serve temporarily as Secretary-Treasurer of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council.

Warehouse, FWS
Unions to Observe
Holiday Saturday

On Thursday morning the officers of Warehouse and Inside Workers Local 20316 appealed to all members of the union to observe the holiday and attend the last services for the martyred leading official of the Teamsters Joint Council.

Similar action was taken by officials of the Federal Workers Section of Local 544.

Leaders of the Council spoke and will speak over the radio on the murder, and on the Holiday on Saturday and the funeral arrangements.

Because of technical difficulties it is found impossible to mail out copies of this special bulletin. Copies of the bulletin are to be distributed by special crews of union men on Friday afternoon.

For want of space, statements from many union organizations and union leaders could not appear in this bulletin. These will appear in the regular edition of the Northwest Organizer next week.

Hundreds of grief-stricken workers appeared hourly at headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council on Thursday and Friday in search of information, and to volunteer their services. Phones buzzed every minute. Story of the crime was carried to all points of the nation by radio and news service.

Farrell Dobbs of Minneapolis and Art Hudson of St. Paul, teamsters' officials, left for Indianapolis, where the Teamsters International headquarters are located, to carry out the mission upon which Brother Corcoran was to have accompanied them.

press its undying gratitude to Pat Corcoran. Through his efforts at Organizer of the Teamsters Joint Council, the transportation workers in the bakery industry are now solidly organized into a real militant, progressive Union. Prior to Corcoran's appointment as Organizer of the Teamsters Joint Council Minneapolis bakery drivers were a small weak, impotent organization. Due to a whirlwind campaign staged by the Teamsters Joint Council, under the leadership of Corcoran, in 1936, every member engaged in the transportation of bakery goods is now a member of Local No. 289. Not only did Corcoran succeed in organizing the workers in this industry but owing to his courageous stand before Minneapolis bakery employers our Union was able to secure a splendid closed shop agreement with all the bakery owners. We joined with the rest of the Minneapolis labor movement to mourn the passing of one of its most active and progressive leaders.