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

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

On the National Picket Line

Over most of the world hovers a black cloud, threatening, ominous. This cloud—FASCISM—has darkened Germany, Italy, and now Spain.

In Germany and in Italy the concentration camps await anyone militant enough to protest. Death stalks those courageous enough to do something about delivering their fellow men from the heel of Fascism.

And in America? In America where most of the workers smugly say to themselves, "IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE"—what of America?

On Monday night, protected by 1,700 police, TWENTY THOUSAND FASCISTS, the same brand as the Germans and the Italians—held a mass meeting in New York's Madison Square Gardens.

They heard the national leader of the German American Bund, Fritz Kuhn, hurl out epithets against the Jews and "Jewish Communists." One young Jewish worker, unable to endure the vicious slander against his race, leaped to the platform and hurled himself at the speaker.

Mayor LaGuardia refused to revoke the license for the meeting. Mayor LaGuardia "Labor's friend," provided the meeting with the entire facilities of the New York police force to ensure the fascists "right to free speech."

"Another sort of intolerance." The intolerance of the workers. Their honest hatred of Fascism and its consequences. Concentration camps. Militarization. Labor camps. Abolition of labor unions.

Outside the building another sort of "intolerance" A hundred thousand workers! A hundred thousand people picketed the meeting. Seventeen hundred police, led personally by Police Commissioner Valentine, protected the fascists and their "constitutional rights to free speech and assembly."

Independent truck owners throughout the state of Minnesota are directly faced with loss of their livelihood as a result of an order sent out last Saturday to all district directors by WPA State Administrator L. C. Glotzbach and E. B. Curry, director of the WPA Division of Operations.

ICC Makes Rotten Ruling vs. Drivers

Would Leave Many Loopholes in Hour Clause, Sanction Sleeper Cabs; ICC Ruling "Turns Clock Back Twenty Years;" International Brotherhood of Teamsters' Representatives Walk Out of Hearing, Blast Commission

If the nation's over-the-road drivers had to depend upon the Interstate Commerce Commission for protection, they would indeed find themselves in a sorry condition.

The court made this statement a few days ago, after hearing the important case of "The H. P. Welch company versus New Hampshire."

Sanction Sleeper Cabs Drivers who have taken consolation in the fact that state laws abolishing sleeper cabs will still protect them, are due for a shock, also. For the United States Supreme Court has just declared that "we assume that when the Federal regulations take effect, they will supersede state regulation."

The state had taken away Welch's license to operate trucks after he was found guilty of violating the state 12-hour law on runs between New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Welch appealed to the Supreme Court, citing the Motor Carrier Act passed by Congress in 1935 and claiming it superseded the state law.

Previously the motor carrier division of the Interstate Commerce Commission had set 15 hours daily and 60 hours weekly as the maximum hours for drivers. Pressure from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the AFL on the Commission had forced a reduction to 10 hours daily. Labor considers this maximum still entirely unsatisfactory.

Loopholes in Law Labor spokesmen declare that the ICC ruling contains many loopholes, which make even the 10-hour limit inoperative, since the ruling does not count any time but that actually spent at the wheel. All time spent loading and unloading, or in the inevitable waiting periods, or time spent in sleeper cabs where the driver "rests" while the relief driver takes the wheel, are not counted in the 10-hour limit.

Indeed, so biased was the ICC against the interests of the high-

FWS Youth to Meet Stassen, Demand Jobs

The Youth Section of the Federal Workers Section, Local 344, will hold another meeting on Monday, March 6th, 8 p. m., at the Drivers Hall.

A report will be given to the meeting on the results of the meeting between a delegation from the Youth Section and Governor Stassen, to be held on Friday, Feb. 27th. The Youth Section will present the facts to Stassen on youth unemployment in the state and demand an immediate minimum appropriation of \$5,000,000 to start state-wide youth projects.

Women--Get Out of The Kitchen!

Akron, Ohio—"If women would only realize the tremendous power they have, and exert it, every family could have a high standard of living."

This is what Mrs. Genora Johnson, leader of the Women's Emergency Brigade in the great Flint General Motors strike of 1937, told wives of milk drivers in Akron, now organizing in a Ladies Auxiliary.

"Get out of the kitchen and take an active interest in union and political affairs," Mrs. Johnson urged. "Forget about the children needing a bath, the supper which must always be on time, your ill health, fear of speaking and all the other things that have kept you away from meeting in the past. We are not fighting to keep up with Mrs. Jones, but to keep up wages and working conditions. AND THERE IS NO BETTER EXERCISE THAN WALKING THE PICKET LINE."

The women of the Milk Drivers Union Local 497 Auxiliary demonstrated they meant business by forming a mass picket line around the Lawson Dairy company, which is being struck by Local 497.

Others who spoke at the organizational meeting were Chet Smead, business agent of Local 497; Sam Pollack, of the Meat Cutters; E. C. Schaeffer, head of the Milk Producers Association, and John Ellis, of the Mechanics Union.

The Auxiliary of Local 497 is open to all women relatives of milk drivers. Mrs. Herbert Lusby is temporary president.

Milk Drivers To Select Negotiators

On Tuesday night the Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 held one of its largest meetings in many months, packing the third-floor auditorium to capacity.

With the special order of business the selecting of a negotiating committee, nominations were held.

5 to Be Elected A negotiating committee of five—two drivers, two inside workers and one relief man—will be elected to work in conjunction with Local 471's business agent on the new agreement.

One person is to be chosen from the following relief nominated men: Fred Thompson, Clarence Schwab, Ed Bowman, Vernon Eckblad, Conrad Ordeman, Paul Jeachie, and Harold McLoughlin.

Two will be chosen from the following drivers: Ernie Zinke, Burt Nelson, Joe Morris, Joe Sherman, Mike Rusnik, Martin Rasmussen, Harry Warham, Roy Golden, George Bergquist, Glen Corbet, Al Raymond and Selby Tennis.

Two will be chosen from the following inside workers who were nominated: O. D. Dahl, John Berg, Axel Williams and Aage Koldberg.

Elections are to be held at the meeting Tuesday, March 7th, during the meeting. Printed ballots will be used.

A guest speaker at Tuesday's meeting was Mr. Ray Waters of Chicago, representing the Atlas Educational Film company. Mr. Waters, who is thoroughly familiar with the problems of the milk industry, presented facts on the present system of milk distribution. He told of the unsatisfactory experience the Chicago milk companies have had with the milk stores. Over 3,000 milk trucks are now resting idle in Chicago and there is much unemployment.

"It is a known fact," stated Waters, "that the quality of milk is adversely affected when it is sold through milk stations and cut-rate stores."

New Hall For Drivers In Waterloo

The Drivers Union Local 650 of Waterloo, Iowa, which has made solid organizational gains during the past months, has now rented a meeting hall in the building where, before, they have used only an office. Besides the meeting hall and office, there is a consultation room.

Gerald Putnam, Gamble-Rob driver, has been added to Local 650's organizational staff.

Cab Strike Solid, 2 Companies Sign

Important

Mass Meeting In Robbinsdale Thursday, March 2

All citizens of Robbinsdale—union and non-union—are invited to attend a mass meeting to be held next Thursday night, March 2nd, 8 p. m., in the High School auditorium at Robbinsdale. This meeting is sponsored by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, and a number of prominent union speakers will present labor's side of the story about recent events in that town.

Speakers will include Roy Weir, organizer of the Central Labor Union; Walter Frank, of the Building Trades Council; John Boacos, of the Printing Trades Council; and Miles Dunne, secretary of the Teamsters Joint Council.

All members of organized labor, all friends of labor, all persons who want to hear the truth, are cordially invited to this meeting.

Des Moines Cab Drivers Join Union

Des Moines, Iowa—By a vote of 66 to 31, Yellow Cab Drivers voted February 13th to have the Truck Drivers Union Local 90 represent them as sole bargaining agent. About 85 Yellow Cabmen have already signed up with Local 90, and a union agreement is being drawn up for presentation to the company in the near future.

It is now possible to ride in cabs manned by union drivers in Des Moines.

City County Unions Fight Charter Plan

All City and County trade unions will be invited to a special meeting in the near future, where details of a campaign to combat the plans of the "Charter Union" to foist the reactionary council-manager form of government on the city will be discussed.

Harold H. Seavey, head of City and Sanitary Drivers Union Local 664, has been placed in charge of arrangements for the meeting and will announce the details shortly.

20316 Members To Bring Their Attendance Cards

The regular membership meeting of the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union Local 20316 will be held next Tuesday, February 28th, at union headquarters. All members are instructed to bring attendance cards and have them ready as they enter the hall, for presentation to the sergeant-at-arms.

Yellow and Terminal Cabs Operating Under New Union Pact—Leach Blocked in Move to Revoke Licenses—New Pact Shortens Hours, Brings \$18 Weekly Plus Commissions

After many weeks of negotiations, the Yellow Cab company signed up with Taxi Drivers Union Local 958 on February 10th for the 1939 contract. The pact reduces hours from ten to nine daily, and guarantees a weekly salary of \$18 plus 40 per cent of the proceeds over \$45.

The other cab companies continued their refusal to sign with the union. One hour before the deadline—midnight, February 15th—attorneys representing the independent companies appeared before the union committee and threatened revocation of licenses if they were not granted an extension of time. The union replied the revoking of licenses was a company problem and would in no way effect signing of the union agreement. Local 958 of course demanded the same conditions embodied in the agreement with the Yellow Cab company.

City, County Employees in State Meet

Attended by delegates from throughout the state, the semi-annual meeting of the Minnesota Council of City and County Employees, AFL, was held in the Andrews Hotel, Minneapolis, on Sunday, February 13th.

Encouraging organizational reports were delivered from the district vice-presidents, indicating the rapid growth of the Council. The meeting voted to press for the passage of the entire legislative program of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. Eling Munkeby of Duluth, president, presided.

The following officers were elected for the year: Munkeby of Duluth, president; Frank O. Corcoran of St. Paul, secretary; treasurer; and the following vice-presidents: Grant Fellows of Rochester; Otto Gierke of Mankato; Herbert Jurisch of Minneapolis; John Ravenscroft of St. Paul; William Dwyer of Minneapolis; Elmer L. Dahl of Brainerd; and J. H. Wenberg of Hibbing.

In attendance at Sunday's meeting were James M. Clancy, vice-president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Robert Olson, president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor; William Wright, district AFL representative, and other prominent labor figures.

At a special meeting of the License Committee of the City Council held last Friday, a motion passed that every cab would be required to maintain two 9 1/2-hour shifts for at least 26 days out of the month. Failure to comply would bring about revocation of the cab license. The independent companies had indicated to the City Council that they would sign up with the union if this move were made by the License Committee.

FWS Youth Quint Has Eye on Cup

Coming from behind in the last three minutes of play, the FWS Youth basketball team squeezed out a victory over the rugged Augsburg Whites team, 30 to 25, last Wednesday night at North High gym. Captain Stan Broadard, Andy Simso, Dayhart Jacob and Ken Flakne starred for the union five.

Again on Friday night, the FWS Youth played the Augsburg team, and this time the issue was never in doubt. Though Manager Jack Herman kept throwing in subs, the union team was not to be denied, and trounced Augsburg, 43 to 17. Bill Murphy played an inspired game, netting 20 points.

With only four games to go, it looks as though the FWS Youth team will hold on to first place and win the cup in the first year of play.

B. F. Nelson Workers to Meet Saturday

Workers at the B. F. Nelson company will hold an important meeting next Saturday, February 25th, at 4 p. m. in the third-floor auditorium, 257 Plymouth Avenue, it was announced by the Warehouse Workers Union Local 20316. All members are instructed to attend this important meeting without fail.

ITO Rallies Drivers vs. WPA Threat To Start Competitive Bid System

Independent truck owners throughout the state of Minnesota are directly faced with loss of their livelihood as a result of an order sent out last Saturday to all district directors by WPA State Administrator L. C. Glotzbach and E. B. Curry, director of the WPA Division of Operations.

The order announces that the present procedure for rental of trucks and teams will be reversed, the uniform hourly rates will be abolished, and after March 15th, 1939, all equipment will be rented on a competitive bid basis.

Harrington's Order Glotzbach's letter quotes a telegraphic order received from Colonel Harrington, national WPA administrator: "In accordance recent

decision comptroller general of the United States, rental of all equipment including trucks will as soon as practicable, be procured on a competitive bidding basis as prescribed by Section 3709 revised statutes. Consequently rental of equipment of any kind at fixed or scheduled rates, including rentals of owner-operated equipment paid on payroll, will not be permissible as soon as competitive contracts can be awarded. In the case of equipment rented with operator, all contracts awarded under competitive procedure must specify rate of pay which owner will pay operator, which rate of pay must be the prevailing rate," etc.

According to Glotzbach's order, "requisitions prepared, as at present, on the uniform hourly rate basis shall continue in force only through the payroll period on which the opening date is between March 1 and March 14, inclusive."

Would Be Disastrous If WPA succeeds in putting this order into effect, individual owners of trucks, whose only means of livelihood consists in operating that equipment, will be forced on the relief line. Owner-operators cannot meet the cut-rate bids that will be offered for this sort of work by the large contractors, by men who assemble makeshift trucks from junk piles, etc.

ICC Makes Rotten Ruling vs. Drivers

(Continued from page 1)
way drivers that representatives of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters demonstratively walked out of the recent Washington hearing.

Unionism the Answer
But the highway drivers still have the drop on the operators. If, as the Supreme Court hints, the new Federal regulations will supersede the state laws, over-the-road agreements signed between locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the operators will supersede the Federal regulations. Union contracts backed by a strong fighting union will supersede the barbarous boss-made laws.

There is only one answer to the new ICC ruling, and the U. S. Supreme Court's interpretation. That is to extend the work already so well done in the North Central 11-state area, carry the standard over-road pact to every one of the forty-eight states.

If the ICC and the Supreme Court won't protect the drivers, the drivers through their own strength, organized in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, can win the protection they need.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Stating "We cannot see any advantage to the public or to the organized workers in the industry by participating in this hearing, since the clock has been turned back" over twenty years insofar as the interests of the workers and the public in the transportation industry are concerned," Tom O'Brien and Fred Tobin, representing the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, left the recent ICC hearing after first making and filing the following statement with the Commission:

"We question the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission to proceed with this hearing within the scope and to the extent which we are advised this hearing will take. To clarify our meaning . . . the scope of it is parallel with the scope of the hearings recently conducted in the matter of common and contract carriers. We take the position that in the matter of common and contract carriers the conclusion reached by the Commission indicates that it did not confine itself to the limitations prescribed in the law, but that the convenience of the carriers and not the promotion of safety of operation, was the controlling factor in the decision. Such hearings are not conducive in their results to the best welfare of organized labor, the workers engaged in industry and the public.

"Aside from the foregoing, the law provides that 'need' for establishing requirements shall exist. Since there has already been an extensive inquiry in the common and contract carriers' cases, which has established all the necessary facts, and from which it is clear there is no need for this hearing, we can see no purpose in conducting the same.

Cite Union Contracts
"Through the efforts of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, we have secured numerous contracts for an eight hour day throughout the country. This is the maximum. It may be well to state that the eight hour work period is a TRUE eight hour work period and NOT a period of hours as provided for in the order of the Commission which, in truth and in fact, is far in excess of the number of hours set forth in the order. The hours provided in the order of the Commission pertain to driving time only, and therefore will permit working hours way beyond that set forth in the order and which is contrary to those prevailing in the transportation industry where Congress has legislated in such industry. Further, the hours set forth in the order of the Commission do not foster sound economic conditions and are not in the public interest.

"In many instances, the International has secured a 44 and 40 hour work week, with pay at the rate of time and a half for overtime beyond the daily maximum. We cannot conceive that the orders of

the Commission will be of greater benefit to the organized workers in this country and to the public in general than the benefits they derive from their own collective bargaining agreements. The orders of the Commission now pertaining to a major portion of this industry has already resulted in incalculable harm to workers in this industry. They have proved and will prove an inducement to private carriers with which the International has contracts, to demand a change when such contracts expire to conform to the orders of the Commission. All such orders of the Commission obstruct and prevent further organization among common, contract, and private carriers because of the refusal of the Union to enter into collective bargaining agreements upon terms and conditions equivalent to the unjust ones contained in the order of the Commission.

Sioux City 383

By Don Casper

Farmer-Labor cooperate: Max Smith and myself drove to Brainerd, Minn., last week. Snowed in for three days. A farmer invited us to stay at his house, and he pulled us out, all free gratis. They are sorry Stassen was put in office.

Stepped at the union in Minneapolis and they treated us like old friends. They are a swell gang of fellows.

The bosses of this town don't like to negotiate, in fact one went to Texas.

Someone took the marbles to the Chinese Checker game. When spring rolls around we'll find out who it was.

I wonder who it was that sent some of the boys comic valentines.

One man gang: Bill Kissling of Holdcroft had a surprising experience last week. Returning from Chicago he stopped down the line for a bite to eat. He left and was well on his way when he looked back in the sleeper and found his helper gone, and that meant just turn around and go back.

Can anyone tell what there is about an appendix operation that makes a man's hair curly—ask Percy Langford.

A certain Holdcroft driver had a call from the garage in Chicago to go out on a run, and in all his haste he got his sweater on in place of his shorts. What a surprise he got when he stopped at the filling station on the way out.

Who was the member who paid twice to have chains on?

We've been out 24 weeks, and Bos Lester hasn't been in the kitchen once. Nice record, Bob, keep it up.

Fred Linhardt, owner of Quality Bakery, who has furnished us with bread for 24 weeks, is ill and we sincerely hope he recovers real soon.

That is all for this week, in the meantime, boys, don't forget to tell your friends to vote against the City Manager plan.

Since men have become so intelligent, so responsible, so cooperative, and can be entrusted in great numbers with the care of the great properties owned by others, why can't they be entrusted with their own state, with the mills, the mines and the stores owned in the interests of all?—WILLIAM DEMAREST LLOYD.

If a man has to work like a beast, he will drink like a beast.—JACK LONDON.

MINNEHAHA GREENHOUSE

4258 40TH AVE. S.
Flowers, Plants, Floral Designs
Members of The Seters and Truck Drivers Union
DRexel 4402 DRexel 0974

Jos. W. Du Four Coal & Oil Co.

100% Union Concern
COAL - COKE - WOOD
FUEL OIL
DUPont 9331
COAL IS 50c LESS
FOR CASH
2919 Hiawatha Ave.

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Union Printers for 40 Years
2335 Central Ave.
GR. 3531

Independent Truck Chatter

By Ways and Means Committee

Flash!

The WPA is now out in the open with its plan to force all trucks to go on a competitive bid basis, on or before March 15th.

We urge every ITO member to attend the meeting on Thursday, March 2nd, 8 p. m., 257 Plymouth Avenue North, where this matter will be discussed.

With the Limousines

By "Home James"

The weather the last week or so has been so cold, it has just about froze all the news out of "Home James."

We are glad to know this column is read by a lot of our good friends from other Unions, especially by the "boys" who had to plow so much snow last week.

To our good friends Curly and Lunde of Taxi Topics: Curly and Lunde a Taxing did go, Looking for "Plowed Ground Ave."

They got stuck in the snow; "Home James," very busy as you all know, Won't tell them where said Ave. is.

Till the Sun melts the snow.

How am I doing, "fellars?" Good luck to you all, say hello to all the boys for me.

We hope to be able to give all you members attending the meeting March 7, 1939, some very important "details" about said contract.

How many of you read the "write up" we had in Cedric Adams' column last week?

In appreciation, Cedric, we all wish to extend our heartiest thanks, and we suggest you leave your car license number at our office. Some one of these cold mornings you may need a lift to the office, I'm sure any of our members would be glad to lend a helping hand, don't be bashful now Cedric, we hope to hear from you in the near future. Good luck to you.

Two of our good members from 77th Plowed Ground attended a special meeting last week, the night was one of the stormiest nights we have had this winter. Our hats go off to these members for "loyalty." (Take notice Curly and Lunde.)

Jerry Cremers tells us we are going to have a number of new members in the very near future.

Our member Jack Kartes is ill at his home. We all hope Jack has a hasty recovery. Some of you members go out and visit Jack, address, 5522 Pleasant.

Symphony night keeps a number of our members working so you members who have to work on said "Musical Night" be sure and attend meetings when not working; very important topics coming up which affect you one and all.

News about the dance in the next issue, we're all tired out now. We'll be a seeing you.

The tenant farms maintain a peasantry, white and colored, whose lives are poorer and more drab than those of the Balkan peasants; the norm of domestic architecture is not much better than the temporary huts of the refugees deported from Turkey into Greece.—ANNE O'HARE McCORMICK.

The Ladies' Auxiliary is sponsoring a card party Saturday.

Olsen
Clothing, Furnishings and Tailoring
100% Union Merchandise
West Broadway at Lyndale
Tony Olson

Wolk Transfer Co., Inc.
Commercial Hauling and Moving
538 8TH AVE. N.
Main 4434

PROTECTION
For Your Papers and Valuables
New \$35 Wall Safes \$14.95
We Buy, Sell, Exchange
New and Used Office Furniture
Jacobson Fixture Exchange, Incorporated
219 S. 5th St. MA. 6828

Trailing 544 Bowlers Take 2 Games Monday

Local 544's bowlers snapped back into form Monday at the Lincoln bowling alleys to take two games from the Soft Drinks in the union bowling league. E. Klein, with a score of 535, led the Liberty Cabs to a double victory over the Meat Drivers, and Minkins took the odd game from Local 289.

With the Gold Bubble team on the sick list, the Ice Drivers rolled a score of 1020 for the Bubbles to shoot against. This score is a new high for the league and was made possible by R. Heinin's 639.

Tom Ramsey, Cab Driver, Dies

Organized labor mourned the death of Thomas J. Ramsey, 48, Liberty Cab driver and member of Local 958, who died suddenly Saturday night from a heart attack while attending a meeting of cab strikers held at 257 Plymouth Avenue.

Ramsey was at one time a member of former Cab Drivers Local 125 which merged some months ago with the Cab Section of Local 544 to form the present Cab Drivers Union Local 958. He was favorably known as a loyal union man. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, a brother and a sister. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Knaeble mortuary.

Watt Notes

Brother Frank Appleton of the Kelvinator Department spent two weeks in California recently, being called there because of the serious illness of his father. Orange blossoms and backless bathing suits looked pretty good, we understand.

Frank A. Daire Jr. of the Kelvinator Department jumped into double harness last Saturday. We understand Frank has had a corner on union made cigars for the last three months, with this event in mind.

Remember — Keep Saturday night, April 22nd, open.

Brother Rivkin in the Meter Department has had a big grin on his face these last few days.

Many of our brothers had a big smile for everyone last pay day.

With all this back pay and these wage increases, it's funny our dues have not been raised.

Brother George La Ferriers is still doing a mighty fine job as Chairman of the Sick Committee.

Anybody notice that "Bank-Eyes" has got rid of the "Ark" and is wheelin' around in an "Olds" with a complete set of running boards and fenders.

"Hasey" McCabe is holding open house in his new mansion in northeast Minneapolis. It's all paid for, too. You can quit bending nickels now, Hasey.

Now that the dances given by our brothers in St. Paul and Local 292 are over, don't forget our own hop on . . .

Brother Scott's (from Riverside) old disease is getting him again. He was lately observed making a fly rod case out of airplane tubing.

Brother "Dick" Gilbertson of the Trouble Department is in Fairview hospital. Glad to report "the old Ranger" is doing nicely.

The Ladies' Auxiliary is sponsoring a card party Saturday.

ICE COAL
Cedar Lake Ice & Fuel Company
Henn. & Oak Grove MA. 8201
100% UNION CONCERN
COAL ICE

MONEY TO LOAN
No Loan is too big or too small. We loan money on Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Clothing, Shotguns, Rifles, Field Glasses, Cameras, Typewriters, Musical Instruments, Golf Clubs, Outboard Motors, Electric Drills, etc.
JACK PRELL
32 Washington Ave. S.

Al. Friedlund's Cafe and Bar
1231 Washington Ave. N.

Scissorbill Sam, The Boss's Man



My employer said it was un-American of me to ask for a raise, so to prove my patriotism I told him he could cut my wages any time he feels like it.

2,000 Sharecroppers Still Starving Out on Highways

Though hundreds of the demonstrating sharecroppers of Missouri have been forced back to their former "homes," over 2,000 of these viciously exploited farm workers are still encamped near highways of southeastern Missouri, living in scattered tent colonies, exposed to the severe weather conditions of winter, and eating the meager fare doled out to them by begrudging relief authorities of the locality and state. Health authorities, on the

On WPA Projects

By Vic W. Nicholas

The Federal Workers Section of Local 544 inaugurated a membership drive in November and during that one month the organization recorded a sizeable increase. In December and January the rolls still increased, but not as much as in the month of November. The logical explanation of that is that the stewards didn't keep up the good work. Every steward's report should show at least a few new members. The membership drive should be continued diligently until every WPA worker is a member of the Federal Workers Section.

Last week the FWS received a letter from a superintendent of a WPA project employing 180 men, thanking the organization for the support given him in getting through a reappropriation so that his project could continue to employ these workers. Checking on this job I learned that of the 180 men employed, about four belong to the FWS. We gave our aid in keeping these people on the job and off the relief rolls. Now it is only logical for us to expect that they will support the organization by signing up 100 per cent.

The Youth Section basketball team is still setting a torrid pace in their division and without a doubt are headed for the championship. The Youth Section of FWS is comprised of sons and daughters of workers who haven't the money to continue school and are locked out of private industry. Showing the fight that is bringing them a championship in basketball, they have organized and are demanding jobs at a living wage and an opportunity to continue their schooling.

A meeting of the Veterans section is held every Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. If you are a Vet and are interested in bettering relief and WPA conditions, you are urged to attend.

An organization of all workers two bits worth. Remember the date and place. Your friends are welcome.

We are sorry to report that Albert Glaser of the Generation Department was at home several days with tonsillitis and flu. Here's hoping you're on your feet again now, Brother.

February Sale
Record Radios
\$2.50 to \$9.95
Complete Home Furnishings
Over 50 Years
Knaeble's
513-515 PLYMOUTH AVE NORTH

SERVICE AND QUALITY
Humboldt Fuel Co. Inc.
COAL, COKE, WOOD AND FUEL OIL
4615 Humboldt Avenue North
100% Union Cherry 2473

R. E. JONES
Plumbing and Heating
126 East 26th Street
RE. 0556

MOLER BARBER COLLEGE
K. W. Krausmann
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BUY WITH CONFIDENCE
NORTH MINNEAPOLIS Leading LIQUOR STORE
THE HYMAN CO.
514 WEST BROADWAY
Near Third Street Since 1907
FREE PARKING LOT IN REAR

Western Badge & Novelty Company
Bro. John A. Iethert, Prop.
ST. PAUL, MINN.
90% of all the Union Buttons used in Minnesota are made by us. Tel. Enterprise 3650. No Toll Charge.

ANOTHER LOAD From City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664

By Wally Raze

February 17th was the day that most of the Park Board employees will remember for some time to come. The axe was swung and the annual spring layoff went into effect on that day. However, the layoff is not as extensive as last year—some fifty men being retained who were laid off in '38.

A special meeting of all park employees was held on the eve of the 17th, during which a grievance committee was named for '39, and yours truly was launched on a literary career—writing a weekly column for the Organizer. Several loud squawks were aired during the meeting and arguments, pro and con, curdled the atmosphere. However, it was an entirely progressive and orderly session—John Barleycorn having no voice in the proceedings, whatsoever.

Brother Seavey, our business agent, put us hep to the financial condition of the city and urged us to stay cool and calm during '39 or until such time as conditions will permit for their demands for improvements in our working conditions, wages, etc.

For the benefit of those who have little or no faith in our local and those who are chronic squawkers and backbiters, let me say that you are either remarkably shortsighted, misinformed, or just plain ornery. Any legitimate beef from any brother in good standing has had and always will have prompt and just consideration from your grievance committee and on the floor during our meetings. So bring your squawks out in the open. Incidentally, brothers, far too many of you have never requested the floor for the purpose of expressing an opinion on anything—leading one to believe that possibly you haven't any to express. Discussion and impersonal arguments bring better understanding and fosters progress, so don't be bashful or self-conscious.

The brother in charge of Jackson Square rink has changed his name to Ole Jackson but he still looks like an Irishman.

Your correspondent, along with a couple others of the more dis-

is a necessity to existence and the unemployed should be the first to see that necessity. The purges taking place in WPA rolls are an indication of the coming struggle for existence and if the workers are to survive, organization is their only hope. Many workers have learned the value of unity, but there are still some who don't know that in a few short weeks the slogan of the unemployed will be: 544 or fight!

reputable gear-clasher with whom he associates, met Sam, "the tree-trimming man," on Washington Ave. after the meeting. Sam says he's still single and has plenty of time to pick up a wife, whereupon we three solemnly warned him against picking up anything "too hot to handle." After listening for several minutes to Sam's verbose assurance that he'd be on his guard against any such eventuality, we wished him happy daze even though he was knee deep in one at the moment, and herded the jalopy homeward, at the same time figuring out an alibi for being out till 12:30. Oh me!—You benedicts will doubtless understand. It has been waffled to my shell-like ears that Bro. Borkoski engaged in verbal combat with a WPA straw boss recently. From all accounts, the locale would have been ideal for Grandpa Snazzy's egg-frying talents; both of them burned plenty.

Bro. Wanglely was viciously attacked last week by an 18 ft. two-by-six in the Isles warming house. The plank made the mistake of hitting Martin on the bean. As the result of this brash behavior, the plank is in cold storage but Martin is still around—again proving that ivory is still one of the world's most durable substances.

Being somewhat addicted to the practice of trying to unscrew the inscrutable, the thought just hit me: "What's in a name?" Now I'm wondering if Bro. Kitchen is any good at cooking.

If you're looking for a laugh ask big Axel to tell you about playing the organ in the auditorium.

As this is my first attempt in the journalistic field it probably sounds somewhat "wacky," but bear with me this once—possibly it will improve with age. If not, one can get used to anything. So be brave, brothers.

See you next meeting night, I hope, I hope, I hope, and in the meantime, phone all the news, anecdotes, and gossip from the other departments.

While there is a lower class, I am in it. While there is a criminal element, I am in it. While there is a soul in jail, I am in it.—EUGENE V. DEBS.

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Vital Pamphlet Now Here!

Fascism and the American Scene. By Dwight MacDonald. Ten cents.

(A limited number of these vital booklets are now available in the Northwest Organizer office. Come in and get yours now!)

Trade unionists, attention! Here's a little ten cent pamphlet which serves up the facts you've been waiting for. It deals with the beginnings of fascism in America, and how the super-bosses who dominate American heavy industry are trying to put it over.

The author, Dwight MacDonald, is a journalist and author who uncovers the news behind the news. In this booklet, he shows point by point where the danger of fascism lies here in America, and how to fight it.

I. The Pattern

Point Number One Author MacDonald makes immediately: fascism does not come from the outside of a country. It is not the creation of Gestapo agents or the German-American Bund.

Fascism is a movement springs from WITHIN the country. Its seeds are latent in the economy itself. It grows as a 100 per cent nationalism. Nothing "foreign" or "alien" about it. In fact, its cancerous growth feeds on prejudices against minority groups.

What It Takes

Point Number Two sets forth the conditions. Without these conditions fascism cannot get going. When these conditions are present, fascism grows rapidly and can only be prevented by equally strong working class action.

Here are the conditions:

- 1 Heavy financial backing from Big Business.
- 2 Large sections of the lower middle class going bankrupt. Large numbers of unemployed. Large sections of penniless, jobless youth.
- 3 A high-powered sales talk that sounds radical, even revolutionary. A sales talk that attacks the government, attacks capitalism in a sham battle of words. High-powered orators who blame the troubles of the middle class and the unemployed upon an invisible minority group instead of upon the boss system at home. To this carefully planned "line" is added some kind of mystical faith, which the Leaders represent.

The author produces evidence that in America the "sales talk" will be different from the European kind.

In Europe, the fascist dictators posed as semi-religious, heaven-sent Leaders. They posed as divinely appointed Men of Destiny.

In America, the appeal is more likely to be the Common Man. Eugene Talmadge, Huey Long, Lemke and Coughlin have been careful to represent themselves as "Just Folks: plain, ordinary, one-gallon, shirt-sleeves, grass-roots Americans, simple as so many old shoes. . . Behind the scenes, the big industrialists who finance the demagogues watch to see how far they get, and keep on experimenting to find the right sales talk.

Proof of Business Backing

Here are several examples of American experiments so far, and who backed them:

"Father Coughlin's crusade against Wall Street was in part subsidized by certain Wall Street silver speculators who had a natural interest in the good Father's monetary doctrines.

"The Atlanta 'Grass Roots' Conference, a gathering of Southern farmers and small-town folks led by Governor Gene (One-Gallon) Talmadge, was financed by such RUSTICS (?) as Pierre DuPont, John J. Raskob, Ogden Mills, and various executives of General Motors, Continental Can, National Steel, Associated Gas, Standard Oil of N. J., and Detroit Edison.

"Huey Long . . . had intimate connections, backstage, with the 'soulless corporations' he attacked, and with Standard Oil in particular. And the last example brings it up to date:

"Last fall a drastic anti-union amendment was voted into the Oregon constitution. This legislation was sponsored by the Associated Farmers of Oregon, which spent \$32,440.65 in its successful campaign. Of this sum, all except \$4.45 was contributed by the Oregon Business Council."

II. The Method

The author now deals with fascism in action. He outlines the step-by-step process of fascism's clutch for power.

"At first, big business maintains the fascist gangs merely as anti-labor militia, whose job is simply to terrorize and demoralize the workers organizations. They help break strikes, make swift, bloody attacks upon working-class demonstrations, beat up and murder the workers leaders, wreck union offices and left-wing newspaper plants.

"As capitalist crisis intensifies, big business finds that this is not enough; it launches its fascist troops toward the conquest of state power. Now the strong-arm squads function more actively than ever, but they are hidden behind demagogues, who . . . try to win mass support from the middle classes.

Reformists Turn Traitor

"The workers, the only force capable of smashing fascism, is rendered weak by reformist leaders, who tirelessly preach respect for 'law and order' and faith in the 'liberal' government." When the masses are deceived, and the fascist movement gets strong enough, then the reformist hypocrites and reactionary labor leaders scramble out of the way. And then there is a fascist PUTSCH or a "March on Rome."

MacDonald states that we in America are now in the first phase: assault and battery through armed finks, thugs, gangsters, police and detectives.

"An armed anti-labor militia in the pay of big business is an American tradition extending from the use of Pinkertons to break the railway strike of 1877 all the way up to the most recent revelations of the LaFollette Committee."

Now, however, the crisis is deepening. Public reaction is not so favorable to brutal murder of strikers by thugs. The government needs the votes of the masses and makes concessions like the Wagner Act, the LaFollette Committee, etc. Therefore the crude old tactics of the bosses must be hidden under a political sales talk.

Thus, America is entering into the second stage of the struggle against fascism.

Some Symptoms of New Stage

The main symptom of this change is in the experiments with politics quoted above; and another main symptom is the experimenting with vigilantes. These experiments took place in the San Francisco General Strike and in the big CIO strikes.

"The bosses dealt their heaviest blows not with professionals but with home talent recruited from the lower middle classes. Although these vigilantes were usually paid by the corporation whose interests they defended, most of them did not serve primarily for pay. They sincerely believed they were defending the American Home and Fire-side, the Right to Work, from the onslaught of barbaric hordes of 'reds'—a phony delusion encouraged by skillful and expensive propaganda."

The next job of the bosses is to form a permanent boss guard of some kind, usually called a "Citizens Committee." This is not easy to do, and takes a lot of money. The author cites several attempts. So far, they have failed.

III. A Horrible Example of Etrayal: Little Steel

The role of reformist politicians and of trade union top bureaucrats in the process of furthering fascism is brought out in a careful study of parallels between the strikes of pre-fascist Italy and the great American strike movement of 1936.

For this study alone, every trade unionist worth his salt cannot afford to be without the booklet reviewed here. Just a few facts will be cited, about what happened here in the United States.

How It Happens Here

Here are the steps, briefly:
1 The rank and file of the workers take the initiative under their own leadership and without benefit of the top labor bureaucracy. They devise certain militant and original tactics. These tactics are effective because they are not inhibited by respect for the forms of boss "law and order."

Example: The Akron rubber sit-downs began the American strike wave. That started the ranks. The great CIO auto strikes followed.

2 The trade union bureaucracy and political reformist leadership gets scared. They fear for their own positions. They try to keep the movement down, persuading the workers that the struggle is "impractical," "radical," "dangerous;" that the workers should "leave it to them" to mediate in "orderly" fashion.

Example: The CIO chiefs began to discipline "unauthorized" sit-downs. The friendly "White House" grew suddenly cool. Emphasis was laid on a "safe and sane, responsible" union. Not a single steel worker was able, for example, to penetrate into the SWOC top bureaucracy. The CIO chiefs then worked on the political front to steer the workers away from all moves toward a political labor party of their own, and swung the labor vote EN BLOC to the New Deal. "This played a big part in FDR's victory in the fall elections. We shall presently see how Roosevelt repaid this loyalty."

3 While the bureaucrats are rousing down the workers, the employers make a powerful counter-attack, using desperate measures of money, propaganda and terrorism.

EXAMPLE: In the sit-down strike year 1936, the income of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) doubled from \$600,000 to \$1,200,000. This was spent on NAM's "Public Information Program."

EXAMPLE: "During the great Goodyear strike in Akron, Pearl Bergdorf, the strike-breaking king, organized for the rubber companies the 'Law and Order' League, a vigilante group on a particularly heroic scale. The workers replied with an eleven-mile mass picket line, the longest in the history of American strikes. They also organized their Union Defense squads of ex-service men." Because of the strong rank-and-file leadership, Bergdorf's fink club collapsed, and the strike was won.

Mohawk Valley Formula

EXAMPLE: Remington-Rand smashed a strike with the famous "Mohawk Valley Formula—the most systematic dovetailing of terror and propaganda this country has yet seen." It was studied by employers and later used partially in the Little Steel Strike.

4 While this counter-attack goes on, the workers either find militant leaders and win, or else their hands are tied by the bureaucrat-leadership, which preaches non-resistance (lest "public opinion" be alienated); and preaches faith in the "friendly" government. Taking advantage of this, the employers ruthlessly smash down the workers.

Tragic Defeat: Little Steel

EXAMPLE: We quote the author in full:
"The counter-attack by big business reached its climax in the Little Steel strike. The CIO bureaucracy kept a firm hand on the throttle all through this tragic episode. There were no sit-downs, no militant demonstrations, no defense squads to protect the strikers against terrorism. The CIO theme song was: 'Have confidence in the New Deal . . . Trust in the Wagner Act . . . Do not be 'provoked' into violence . . . Trust in the NLRB, in the political influence of Lewis at the White House, in the LaFollette Committee, in Governor Earle, in anything, in short, except your own power!' The old refrain. And the old results. The steelmasters mobilized an unparalleled campaign of propaganda and terror to break the strike. While the John Price Jones Corp. was spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of the steel companies' money on a nation-wide publicity campaign, the strikers were being beaten up, jailed and killed. When it was all over, EIGHTEEN strikers had been slaughtered by police, guardsmen, vigilantes and strikebreakers, not ONE of whom was killed."

FDR Lets Them Down

"President Roosevelt rewarded the workers' faith in the New Deal by ostentatiously washing his hands of the whole business in his famous 'Plague on both your houses' statement. Lest the strikers grow disillusioned too rapidly, however, and get out of 'control,' Roosevelt appointed a Federal conciliation board to settle the strike on a 'fair' basis. This three-man board, headed by a Republican, Charles P. Taft, was shocked by the ruthless attitude of the steel

Local 131 "Gas and Suds"

Your Executive Board met with the Executive Board and Stewards of Local 131 last Tuesday night and considered ways and means of helping them to organize the employees in a few of the plants where they are not very well represented. Also advised them how to collect dues from those of their number who are willing to let their Union get better working conditions and more wages for all but do not want to help pay their share of the expense of maintaining an organization to accomplish those things. In our own organization we also have a few members who are willing to accept all the benefits of collective bargaining plus the other benefits our Union offers, but pay their share of the expense in the form of dues either grudgingly or not at all.

Some of these and others will actually enter into collusion with their employer to defeat the contract that we have obtained through our collective efforts. Such procedure could very well be compared to paying for health and accident insurance but failing to make a claim for benefits when sick or injured; a person like that needs the service of a psychiatrist instead of insurance.

On the sick list now and drawing benefits: Earl Elmer and Julian Aave of G. and K.; H. S. Parker from the Calhoun; D. J. Rothenberger from the Model; and Donald Eckerman from American Linen. Julian Aave is at St. Barnabas, and H. L. Parker is at the city hospital. The others are at home. I'm sure all of these fellows would appreciate visitors. Those of you who can, stop in and see them.

The fair trade practice bill for the D. C. industry to be introduced in this session of the legislature is in the process of being revamped and we (the Unions) are a part of the group doing the re-vamping.

We wonder what caused Local 131's basketball team to get plastered by the Plasterers, 38 to 28, last Monday night.

We're going to have a hearing this week on a grievance involving the discharge of a driver.

This is the time of year when sickness is quite prevalent. Keep yourself eligible for benefits by paying your dues and penalties by the fifteenth of the current month. After you get sick it is too late.

Every worthy movement has to pass through three stages. First, people say it is ridiculous, second, that it is contrary to religion, and third, everybody knew it before.—DEAN WILLIAM RALPH INGE.

bosses, especially by the foul-mouthed tirades of Tom Girdler, and issued a report which largely backed up the demands of the strikers.

The Whitesash Works
"The bosses paid no attention to this document, and the White House made no effort to enforce its recommendations. The strike was a disastrous failure. If the March on Washington has not yet taken place, it is no fault of the labor leaders and the reformist politicians, but simply because the situation is not yet ripe. The taming of the CIO, and how respectably bureaucratized the CIO has become anyone who saw its recent convention can testify—for the moment, was enough. But the drama will be played through again, on a larger stage. . . . Thus we see the horrible and traitorous role played by weak and reformist leaders, and the overwhelming need for militant and bold leadership that knows where it is going."

The Only Known Way to Win
The author concludes his booklet by showing that the only way for the workers to preserve themselves and the nation from the clutch of fascism is by militant, BLOW-FOR-BLOW working class action. Not to depend on the reformist politicians or the government or anybody except their own militant power: this is the lesson taught by the experience of the past. The middle classes will follow the strongest force that holds a way out for them, and they will follow the workers when the workers' leadership is strong.

Fascism is the problem of every worker in the world today. Not a small step toward fighting fascism is to get this booklet, study it and talk over its lessons with fellow workers.

Great American Labor Struggles

Unionism Meets South at Gastonia

The many threads that tie the sporadic Southern textile strikes in the spring and summer of 1929 with today's labor headlines make doubly interesting a study of those struggles. The strikes were rooted in the extensive migration of the textile industry from New England to the South during the 1920. Whereas in 1921 the southern states produced 54 per cent of the nation's total yardage of woven cotton goods, in 1927 they produced 67 per cent. Southern towns encouraged this migration by stressing, above all, an abundance of cheap labor—"wholly native American, individualistic, religious, untouched by the doctrines of unionism."

Conditions of Work
Whereas in 1927 the average weekly textile wage in the four leading New England states was \$19.16, in the South it was only \$12.83. In contrast to the 48 and 54-hour week in the North, South Carolina allowed a 55-hour week, North Carolina and Georgia had a 60-hour week, and Alabama set no legal limit whatsoever. The longer hours were intensified by the greater prevalence of night work in the South, and even more by the killing speed-up, or stretch-out, as it was called. The stretch-out gave the workers additional machines to operate without a corresponding increase in pay.

Lack of Organization
Of the nation's 600,000 textile workers in 1929, only 40,000 were organized. All were in the North. It was not union penetration, but the slow accumulation of legitimate grievances that brought about the Southern textile strikes. In March, 1929, three strikes broke out spontaneously in Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, involving some 17,000 workers. The strikes were for pay increases rather than union recognition, though after the struggles began the strikers appealed to the United Textile Workers for help. AFL leaders who answered the call were kidnaped, taken across state lines, and threatened with death if they returned. The strikers were tricked back to work, and all militants were arbitrarily fired. If that didn't finish the union, state troops were called out.

On April 1, another strike broke out at the Lory Mill near Gastonia, North Carolina. Here Fred E. Beal of the National Textile Workers Union, had secretly organized the workers. The National Textile Workers' Union was one of the independent unions organized by the Communist Party, then in its ultra-left phase. As soon as the management discovered the strike, it called in the police and the National Guard. The police arrested 71 strikers; the local grand jury indicted 16 for murder.

The United Textile Workers followed the "red" National Textile Workers' Union into the South, and quickly succeeded in establishing a local at Marion, North Carolina. The union demanded the 10-hour day and 55-hour week with no cut in wages, and the reinstatement of 22 workers fired for union activity. When the company refused to consider the demands, the entire force of 650 walked out on strike on July 11, 1929. The company employed the customary measures to suppress the strike—an injunction forbidding picketing, the National Guard, mass arrests, thuggery, kidnapping, etc.

Slaughter at Marion
The strike was settled with a compromise on September 11. When the workers returned to work, they found 102 union members had been refused reinstatement. A re-strike was immediately called. The next morning 250 strikers gathered at the mill gate, where the sheriff, special deputies and foremen were lined up. The sheriff, seeing the crowd refused to disperse, exploded some tear gas. A deputy shot and killed one striker, whereupon the deputies fired volley after volley into the crowd of strikers, killing six and wounding 18.

Thirty-two strikers were arrested on charges of insurrection and riot! The strike continued for several months, but was finally crushed by a combination of bosses, church, daily press, and the armed forces of the state. The United Textile Workers Union fared no better than the "red" union at the hands of the bosses and authorities.

Next Week: Read about the Toledo Auto-Lite Strike of 1934.

Coffee Cries Local 275

By Bill and Don
The regular meeting will be held next Friday, March 3. A good attendance is urged. Let's all attend.

Don't forget the Jewell Tea Co., alias the Deibold Tea Co., is still fink. All union members are asked to cooperate by not patronizing this company until they have signed a union contract.

The fair companies are: Twin City Tea, Japan Tea, Grand Union Tea, Crescent Coffee, Standard Coffee, Globe Tea.

The Japan boys had a party last Saturday night out at Walter Nelson's home. Outside of everybody getting lost on their way out, a good time was had by all.

Walt Nelson thought he had a tough time in the last snowstorm when on his country run. But the real problem was in finding the coffee on his next trip around that he had left in the wrong mail boxes.

Joe Schmidt says he'll come to the meetings anytime as long as we let him win the two bucks.

Gassing With 977

Your local enlisted the cooperation of the Musician's Local not to patronize the Husky station at 10th and Glenwood until such time as the attendant there is a 977 man.

Consider yourselves fortunate: Larry Davidson received a letter from Ralph Morsted, who is working in a parking lot in Miami, Florida, in which he states he is working long hours for very small pay. Despite the long hours and small pay, however, Larry says he is jealous of Ralph each time he attempts to start his car in sub-zero weather.

G. Christianson, attendant at the Phillips station, 3724 W. 50th St., is recuperating from an appendicitis operation.

Newly initiated members are: Don Peterson, Pure Oil station, 1824 Lowry Ave. N.; Gordon Church, Erickson station, 7th and E. Hennepin; Fred Blabaum, Shell station, 2948 Portland Ave.; and Francis Callahan, Freeman Oil station, 805 7th St. N.

Robert Stor, Firestone employee, paid the \$2.50 reinstatement fine this week, and will be a member in good standing.

Two days' back pay and Union hours will be enforced for Einar Larson, attendant at the Erickson station at 28th and Lyndale Ave. S.

The wage scale will be enforced and union discrimination will be prohibited for Clarence Johnson at the Nelson Bros. Garage.

Dec Mantz was returned to full time work at Goodyear Tire Service and his seniority standing enforced.

A conservative government is an organized hypocrisy. — BENJAMIN D'ISRAELI.

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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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.

It All Depends—

When Roosevelt cut the relief appropriation to the tune of a billion dollars, he told us—NO FUNDS.

When Congress cut the relief appropriation by another \$150,000,000, they told us—NO FUNDS.

When the bill to increase the Army Air Corps to 5,500 war planes came up a few days ago in the House of Representatives, a bill involving the expenditure of about \$376,000,000—there seemed to be PLENTY OF FUNDS. The House voted almost unanimously for the bill.

NO FUNDS for the hungry and homeless unemployed. PLENTY OF FUNDS to finance the coming imperialist war.

Since November 5th, 1938, the WPA enrollment has gone down from 3,262,000 persons to 2,985,881. In three months, over a quarter of a million persons have been tossed off the rolls.

With the present \$725,000,000 WPA allotment, at least one million more workers will be forced off the rolls by April 1st to starve.

The unemployed of America today face the blackest prospect they have ever confronted—darker even than the days of the stuffed shirt, Herbert Hoover. Because then many families still had a little something saved up to fall back on. Today they haven't a crumb.

No miracle will save the unemployed. They must answer the phony "NO FUNDS" line of Washington by organizing and demanding ALL THE WAR FUNDS TO THE UNEMPLOYED! EXPROPRIATE THE "60 FAMILIES"! FOR EVERY WORKER, THE RIGHT TO A JOB AT UNION WAGES!

Why the Workers Alliance Has Gone to Seed

If any worker wants to know why the nation's unemployed, by the hundreds of thousands, have left the Workers Alliance in disgust, he won't have to look further than the lickspittle letter sent out by one Chester Watson, president of the Minnesota Workers Alliance, on February 4th, 1939, to the chairmen of the various boards of county commissioners throughout Minnesota.

If one didn't see the letterhead and the signature, he would really believe the letter was issued from a Civic and Commerce Association, and not from an organization that pretends to represent the interests of the unemployed.

"From our numerous meetings with Welfare Boards and County Commissioners throughout the state," reads this unbelievable communication, "we realize that the problem of unemployment and relief is the most serious one facing each county and the cities within that county. It has been our experience that county officials do not wish to have their unemployed neighbors starve, go hungry, lack medical care or be reduced to a standard of living so low that health and decency are endangered. However, the problem of providing adequate relief is always curtailed by lack of finances, property taxes which are already too high, and lack of sufficient help from the State and Federal government. The Minnesota Workers Alliance wishes to state very frankly that we are sympathetic with the problem facing the counties in this regard," blah, blah, blah.

The rest of the letter is in exactly the same vein, and only considerations of space prevent us publishing it in full. The Workers Alliance timidly suggests that more of the burden of relief must be taken off the local subdivisions of government by the state, bewails the fact that twelve rural counties are bankrupt, bemoans again the fact that "property taxes are already too high and should be reduced," and humbly requests that a Workers Alliance spokesman be permitted to speak at a state meeting of county commissioners.

Now, isn't this a h— of a letter for an organization to write that pretends to work for the advancement of the unemployed and the working class!

All the sympathy in the world for the reactionary Welfare Boards and the county commissioners. But where is the sympathy for the unemployed who are taking it in the neck?

Plenty of tears for the rich property owners. But where is the concern for the propertyless unemployed who have lost their all?

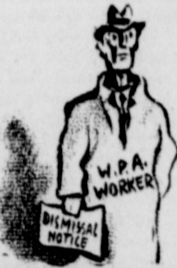
The very phrasing of the letter is that usually used by political hacks and Chamber of Commerce fat-boys seeking to divert the rightful wrath of the unemployed into useless channels.

Not one word of criticism is directed at the root source of the present desperate plight of the unemployed—the present wage system and the politicians who administer relief.

The Workers Alliance today stands branded as the company union of the unemployed. It can't and won't fight the boss politicians in the interests of the unemployed.

No wonder WPA workers and the unemployed are turning away from the Alliance by the tens of thousands—in New York, in Pennsylvania, in Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, California, etc.—and turning to the difficult but necessary task of building up new militant organizations of the unemployed that really function for the unemployed, and not in the interests of the boss politicians.

Taking Care of the "National Interests"



Keeping Step With 544

By Micky Dunne

The cab strike is still on although two of the firms have signed the agreement. This time the union has nothing to do about the settlement. It is a fight between two of the companies as to how many cabs there shall be in the city and WHO shall own them. Local 958 says, sign the contract and fight it out among yourselves afterwar.

The WPA and ITO set-up looks worse and worse all the time. State WPA officials say that they are going to make it stick. We'll see.

The CLU Executive Board and the Hennepin County Big Shots met Sunday morning. The corpse of the drivers was left on the floor.

Tom Ramsey, striking Liberty cab driver, died suddenly Saturday evening at union headquarters. Death was due to heart failure. He was buried at 2 p. m.

Coal drivers and yard workers should note that the evening of the coal season is at hand. Remember your withdrawal cards!

Jack Smith was a welcome

visitor at union headquarters Tuesday.

According to a new ruling by the Teamsters Joint Council, all requests for political endorsement will be referred to the Executive Board of that body.

HEART NOTES

Skoglund is on fire.

The Farmer-Co-op-Labor council is engaged in a vital work. It is imperative that the unions and co-op groups continue to give support.

To receive free medical care your dues MUST be paid. Why not plan to keep union fees paid in ADVANCE?

Many striking independent cab drivers are working for Yellow. And making good dough, too.

Keep your eye on the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party. Something may happen there. And soon.

FEBRUARY 22

I cannot tell a lie, father. Well, not today, anyway.

TAXI TOPICS

By Curly and Lunde

Ira Bingham suffered a bad fall while on the job the twelfth of February, and will be off indefinitely.

Hizzoner George the Leach must have a license revoking complex. Last year, you remember, he wanted to cancel all the licenses because the cabs were off the street. This year he wants them cancelled because the cabs are working. Must be a new kind of game, huh, Georgie?

Famous last words: guarantee them anything but insist on a single-shift clause in the contract.

Some "soused" strap-hanger must have gotten hold of our phone receivers by mistake.

Ain't those lights pretty these cold days?

This week's daffydill goes to Merton MacLean for resourcefulness and sacrifice. He "sold" a customer on the idea he could safely transport a bride's trousseau, so he lined the back of his hack with his morning paper and delivered the precious garment intact.

Cliff Berg was "entertained" at a bologna luncheon (baloney to you) "under the clock" on account of a misunderstanding about an old, old parking tag.

The reason Bennie E. and Two-Ton Taylor are gazing at new billboards: they're seeking the first harbinger of spring, bock beer signs.

The local "smoke eaters" are riled by false alarms. We know just how they feel after we've had

plenty no loads, for instance, the mileage-thief who calls three different hacks and takes the first one that comes. The so-and-so that goes to the nearest street-car and bus line then calls a cab for a corner load and climbs aboard the first conveyance going his way.

The "loony" hitch hiker that gives you the familiar "cab hail" but wants to ride free . . . The blankety blank that gets nervous waiting for a friend to come after him then calls a cab and cancels after the driver has been on the way for long minutes . . . the saloon keeper who calls a hack to get rid of some customer that went broke and "passed out" at the same time . . . somebody's brat that calls a taxi to show the other kids at a party how to have fun by sending us to every house in the block and we mean all apartments too.

ASSESSMENTS? SURE, HOW MUCH? We're asking to share your plenty And you bitterly complain No doubt you'd like it better To be shivering in the rain.

They are always asking "Money" Is the burden of your whine Would you rather give it gladly Or be in the hunger line?

So quit your dismal wailing And be glad it's yours to give The Lord has blessed you richly It's a lucky life you live.

Put your hands into your pockets Glad you got the coin to spend For you would not like it, Brother, On the sad receiving end.

KARIGER and BROWN

Card of Thanks

Teamsters Joint Council: Your kind expressions of sympathy are gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Sincerely, Mrs. Tom Ramsey and family

More Omaha Firms Deal With 554

Omaha, Neb.—With the major companies now signed up with General Drivers Union Local 554 and operating under the area agreement, a number of smaller firms, hold-outs, entered into negotiations with the union this week. It is expected that most of these companies will be signed up shortly.

Farrell Dobbs, secretary of the Area Negotiating Committee, is in Omaha aiding officials of Local 554 in the negotiations.

The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogren

Next Meeting: Retail Drivers meet Thursday evening, March 2, 8 p. m. sharp.

Jimmie Hanna, newly elected trustee, is in the hospital for a thorough examination.

Art Larson, Zinsmaster's, has been laid up for the past five or six weeks with a sore back and expects to be off for a few more weeks before he'll be able to be back on the job. He's missing some nice cold weather. Brrr. Lucky stiff.

Scare note for the week: Harry busts into the office and excitedly announces: "I received a threatening letter this morning." "For land sakes, who from?" asks Joe.

"From the finance company," comes back Harry, as he takes a powder through the door, ducking the ink pot.

New way to get sales: A salesman, after trying unsuccessfully to sell a grocer an order finally hands him a card on which is written, "If you don't give me an order today I'll vote for Stassen again." He gets an order, too.

Loren Johnson reported for the dance as follows: Total receipts were \$240.60. Expenses were \$107.50. Leaving a net profit of \$27.50. With \$5.50 still outstanding for tickets.

Which would make the net \$33. Loren further reports that he had about 99 1/2 per cent cooperation from ticket sellers, one man still evading him for one reason or another.

"Rabbi" Stanchfield, Monahans, rolled his truck over down around Farmington the other day, making twice since he had the route. Better watch out, "Rabbi," three times and out, you know, is the old saying.

Harry spent Thursday, February 23, in Omaha helping out the Bakery Drivers there.

Seems like we have an epidemic of price-cutting the last few weeks. I don't know but the best cure for that would be a \$45 a week fat salary.

"Bing" Crosby, Zinsmaster, is the first man to get a two-week vacation this year which he spent fishing on the St. Croix.

Workers Committee At Sears to Meet With Management

The Sears, Roebuck Committee of Thirty-Five, representing the employees, will meet with the Sears management next Tuesday, February 28th, at 11 a. m., to discuss problems that have arisen during the past month.

With the Dairy Workers Local 471

By George Bergquist

The following is a letter from the Relief Officials pursuant to complaints governing relief clients having their accounts transferred from one Creamery to another on renewals.

We also are informed that any driver who does not comply with Section 2 places his respective creamery in a position where they will not be allowed relief orders in the future. We must demand that the drivers cooperate with the relief officials. It might be a suggestion that you clip this notice and carry it with you in case you are approached with any demands along those lines.

Executive Board, Local 471

Mr. W. V. Sinnott
257 Plymouth Avenue
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Sinnott:

I am writing to furnish you with a statement of the policy of the Division of Public Relief in the matter of distribution of milk orders.

1. The choice of the milk company who is to receive the order must be made by the person receiving the milk. Our employees are instructed not to make the selection.

2. The orders which we issue for milk are redeemable only for milk. Butter, cheese, chocolate milk, or other dairy products carried by the milk drivers cannot be furnished on these orders.

Every effort is being made to distribute these orders on a fair and equitable basis and the cooperation of the milk drivers will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,
SPENCER E. BRADER
Administrative Assistant

SEB:AS

It has become a jinx with us to have cold weather for our annual dance. Doubly so this year, because the Marigold was as cold as a barn. A capacity crowd turned out, however, and we had a swell time. We are sorry to say but our beauty shop Brother evaded us; he was not there. Walter Johnson, (single) a Northland driver and his girl friend, Estelle, were the best dancers. Ed Bowman from North Franklin received individual honors. Marion Mack of L.O.L. is the prettiest girl. There were so many of our dear Brothers that wound up in the dog house, that due to a lack of space we cannot print their names now. Who were the two Brothers, both wearing derbies, that sat on the davenport and leaned one against the other?

Local 977 under the direction of Larry Davidson is busy organizing the lessee oil stations of our city. The major oil companies instituted this set up to evade fair wages and short hours. Each lessee became a small employer. Now they are being organized for their common good and we can all help by encouraging them and explaining some of the benefits of unionism.

Conrad Ordeman refused to wear his "Chairman Badge" which was recently presented to him. This column would appreciate some sort of explanation. Possibly the color was wrong or maybe there was not enough ribbon attached. We promise to print your explanation in our next issue.

For the next couple of months, all the members of Local 471 should do a great deal of thinking about wages and working conditions.

Wanted: One school bus roaming around selling cream house to house. It reads District No. 29 on the side. Please notify Gene Larson at once if you see said bus.

At our last regular meeting Local 471 decided to furnish you and me with two weekly labor papers throughout 1939. We hope you will make the most of this privilege and use these papers to an advantage. Make a habit of passing them on to an unorganized worker after you are through with them.

I'm not in business to make steel, but to make money. — CHARLES SCHWAB, the steel boss.

On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)
Did the police and Mayor LaGuardia, champions of free speech, allow the assembled pickets on the outside of the building free speech? No. For them only jail and sluggings, and the gentle caress of the well-trained hooves of the horses of New York's famous mounted police.

What then is Free speech? And to whom is it granted?

Fascism is the last stand of a crumbling capitalism. The fact that late last year there were one hundred and forty-four Fascist organizations in the United States; and the fact that in a city like New York, predominately working class, the Fascist forces were able to rally twenty thousand people to their meeting—do not these facts put the stamp of actuality on the Fascist menace here in America?

To fight that menace—what weapons have the workers? There are two infallible weapons, both of which are in need of rapid development.

The first weapon, readily organized, is the Union Defense Guards. Local 544 of Minneapolis has one. Every local union in every city in the country ought to organize Union Defense Guards for the protection of their organizations against the Fascist gangsters, and for the preservation of the very life of the trade union movement.

The other necessary weapon is INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION BY THE WORKERS. The boss parties, Democratic

and Republican, have demonstrated through the years their absolute lack of value FOR THE WORKERS, their complete lack of ability to do anything for the workers, and their absolute dependability to do everything FOR THE BOSSES.

It is time the American worker realized the need for his own political machinery. INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTION by the workers, and the immediate organization of militant UNION DEFENSE GUARDS are an absolute necessity if we are to be able to say, much longer, "It can't happen here, because . . ."

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

\$100 Back Pay Won for Worker At Pink Supply

As the result of negotiations with officers of the Warehouse Workers Union Local 20316, the Pink Supply company has agreed to pay back pay of approximately \$100 to a girl who was laid off out of seniority. Part of the back pay has already been paid, and the rest will be paid shortly. The girl has been returned to her job.

The cases of two other employees laid off out of seniority are now being discussed with the company. Only one day's back pay is involved in these cases.

COMING EVENTS

Workers Sunday Forum—V. R. Dunne speaks on "Twenty Thousand Fascists Meet in Madison Square Garden—What This Means to You," at 919 Marquette, February 26th, 3 p. m.

No country in the world today is so conservative in thought and so revolutionary in action as the United States.—ANNE O'HARE McCormick.

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LOCAL 471 The Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p. m.	LOCAL 160 General Membership—First and third Thursday. Seniority Board—Every Monday. Executive Board—Every Tuesday. Stewards — Wednesdays preceding first and third Thursdays.
LOCAL 131 Second Thursday each month, 8 p. m., third-floor.	LOCAL 1859 Casket Industry—Feb. 14. J. R. Clark Section—Feb. 15 Puffer-Hubbard Section — Feb. 16 American Excelsior—Feb. 21 Twin City Stewards—Feb. 13 and 27 Grievance Board—Feb. 13 and 27 Executive Board, Local 1859—Every Friday night, 8 p. m. General Membership—March 1 Executive Board, Local 20481 —Feb. 6 General Membership—March 1
LOCAL 259 Second Monday of each month.	LOCAL 958 Night Drivers — 1:00 p. m. third Thursday each month. Day Drivers—7:00 p. m., third Thursday each month.
LOCAL 664 The City and Sanitary Drivers will meet the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Park Board Grievance Committee — Monday night preceding the last meeting of the month.	LOCAL 544 Wednesday, March 1 — Sausage; Petroleum Thursday, March 2 — Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners Friday, March 3—Job Stewards Monday, March 6 — Package Delivery; Department Store Wednesday, March 8—Market; Wholesale Liquor Friday, March 10—Wholesale Grocery; Meat Drivers Monday, March 13 — General Membership Wednesday, March 15—Building Material Thursday, March 16—Tent and Awning; Printing, Newspaper 10 A. M. Friday, March 17—Job Stewards Sunday, March 19—Over-the-Road 10 A. M. Monday, March 20—Furniture Store; Coal Thursday, March 23—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug Friday, March 24—Cold Storage Monday, March 27 — Spring Water Tuesday, March 28—Sand and Gravel Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 P. M. in Hall No. 3 Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 P. M. in main office The Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 10 A. M. in the large hall on the first floor. All regular meetings start at 8 P. M. unless otherwise indicated.
PETROLEUM DRIVERS Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	LOCAL 346 Regular Membership Meeting 2nd Monday each month, 8:30 p. m. 4th Monday each month, 1:30 p. m.
LOCAL 977 General Membership — Second Monday each month, 9 p. m. Grievance and Seniority Boards —Each Monday, 8 p. m. Stewards—Fourth Monday, 9 p. m.	LOCAL 103 Regular Membership Meeting—2nd Tuesdays. Executive Committee Meeting —On call.
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
LOCAL 289 Retail Drivers—First Thursday. Wholesale Drivers — Second Thursday. Yeast Drivers—Third Tuesday. Cake and Pie—Third Thursday. General Membership — Fourth Thursday.	LOCAL 221 Day Laborer Section — First Tuesday each month. Independent Truck Owners Section—Second Tuesday each month.
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	LOCAL 20316 Stewards — First and third Tuesday. Regular Membership Meeting—Fourth Tuesday. Executive Board — Regularly every Monday.