

Foster, In T.U.U.L. Call, Urges United Aid to Toledo Strikers

Growing Demand for Unity in Action in Longshore Strikes

West Coast Strike Is Coastwise Strike in Spite of Maneuvers of I.L.A. Leaders to Divide Port Locals

By HAYS JONES

Although it is too early to give a complete analysis of the longshore strikes, certain trends stand out clearly: the growing demand for unity in action, the increased militancy of the workers, the collapse of the N. R. A. illusions, and the role of the American Federation of Labor officials as supporters of the government and the capitalist. Twenty thousand longshoremen have struck in the last month, on the Gulf, West and East Coasts. The West Coast is tied up now, in spite of all efforts to break down the militant spirit of the longshoremen.

The strike on the West Coast has remained a coastwise strike, in spite of efforts by the government, and the I. L. A. officials to split it up into ports, and settle with each local apart from the others. The longshoremen have resisted this tendency from the start, insisting on a coastwide agreement, and coastwide action. Ryan was more successful in the Gulf. The strike started as a coastal affair, showing that the longshoremen realize the need of covering all the ports at once. But the strike in Mobile failed after a few days, the company unions in New Orleans abandoned the strike for a 10c wage increase, and Ryan himself divided off the Sabine River Ports from the Texas ports in settling the strike.

Moreover, on the West Coast, the seamen joined the longshoremen on strike giving it an industrial character. The seamen came out in response to the call of the Marine Workers Industrial Union, or without any organizational call at all, when asked to work cargo. Later, under mass pressure from their membership, the International Seamen's Union officials were forced to call their members out on strike, but they have consistently refused to join in the Seamen's United Front Strike Committee. The I. W. W. performed its customary function of trying to split the workers ranks, by refusing to join the United Front. I. W. W. members joined it, however. There are now 3,000 seamen and 12 to 15 thousand longshoremen on strike on the West Coast.

The strike marks the collapse of the N. R. A. illusions. The men waited almost a year for the N. R. A. to "help" them. With the "Section 7a" delusion in their heads, they reorganized the I. L. A., which was smashed in 1919, and replaced by Pink Halls,—company unions. After their leaders had double-crossed them out of striking in March, with the aid of a telegram

terror, arresting 47 pickets in two hours, and using the relief system to get scabs. The scabs were overwhelmingly white, and this fact disheartened the striking Negroes to the point where they decided to return to work till they could get better organization and support from other workers.

I. L. A. officials are in the habit of saying that "Negroes will scab on you" when their white members want to strike. In Boston, the Urban League (Negro Reformists) openly threatened to duplicate the attitude of the white charity racketeers in Norfolk, and urge Negroes to scab if the white longshoremen there went on strike.

No better example could be offered of the tactics of reformists, Negro and white, in splitting the working class in the interests of the bosses, and rousing race hatred by their tactics. The I. L. A. and the Urban League belong in the same category of enemies of the working class.

What Are Our Tasks for the Future?

The M. W. I. U. has issued a call for a national United Action Conference to be held September 1. In the meantime a Gulf Coast conference and a Pacific Coast Conference will be held, to take up the problems of those two coasts, prior to the national meeting.

A few months ago, even members of the union thought the M. W. I. U. slogan "Prepare for National and Coastal actions" was premature, thought it a mere dream. Today the perspective for such action is clearer.

Every member of the M. W. I. U., and every member of the rank and file opposition groups in the other marine unions must work toward the goal of these conferences, toward building up rank and file groups on the docks, toward building rank and file groups in the locals of the I. S. U. and I. L. A., to give a mass base to these conferences, and to crystallize the demand for a National Wage Scale, and national working conditions, and national action to win them.

These goals can only be attained by raising struggles on the job to higher levels, by increasing the number and size of actions on ships and docks, by building to the national struggle through company strikes, and coastal strikes.

Organize for action to win the M. W. I. U. code.

Protest Against the Bloody Assaults of Nat'l Guardsmen; Support Steel Fight

Heroic Strikes Directed Against NRA, Terror of Government

The Trade Union Unity League, through William Z. Foster, National Secretary, has called for a united struggle in support of the Toledo and Minneapolis strikers in a statement issued yesterday. The statement calls for a united struggle for the right to organize, against company unions, against the attacks on the living standards of the workers, and against the bloody capitalist terror. The statement follows in full:

To all Trade Unionists organized in the A. F. of L., T. U. U. L. and Independent Unions.

To all Workers. Brothers:

THE battles of the last few days in Toledo and Minneapolis show that the workers will not take the attacks of the capitalists lying down. These heroic battles in the face of the most unprecedented use of open terror against the workers can be seen also in the struggles of the Negro and white coal miners, iron ore miners and longshoremen of Alabama, Texas and New Orleans. This same spirit was shown by the striking marine workers on the West Coast, by the fighting aeroplane workers in Buffalo and in many other strikes.

The strike struggles now taking place, which are characterized by the killing and wounding of dozens of workers by the capitalists and their government, and by the courage and bravery on the part of the workmen and working-women, are being fought on issues that are of immediate concern to every worker.

These issues are the right to organize and join unions of the workers' choice against the fascist company unions, for a living wage, for the right to strike and picket, and against compulsory arbitration.

Strikes in Face of A. F. of L. Leaders

The majority of these strikers, who are organized in the A. F. of L. unions, are carrying on their militant battles for the right of all the laboring masses over the heads of the A. F. of L. bureaucrats, who did everything possible to break up the ranks of the workers. These A. F. of L. misleaders tried to demoralize the workers and have helped to lay the basis for the now most brazen and cynical attacks of the capitalists through their whole class col-



National Guardsmen "persuading" Toledo workers from picketing. The bayonet is the time-honored weapon of capitalist "persuasion" against the workers.

laboration and strikebreaking policy, through their support of the N.R.A. with its legalization of starvation wages, company unions, discrimination against Negro workers, and the taking away of the right to strike.

The workers who were told by the A. F. of L. leaders that the N.R.A. is in their interests have learned the truth by their own bitter experience and are now fighting against the N.R.A. and its compulsory arbitration edicts. They have learned to rely on their own organized strength in the fight for better conditions, in the fight for their rights. These workers who organized themselves only recently, have become tired and impatient with the promises of the government and the A. F. of L. officials. They have come to recognize the N.R.A. as the bosses' instrument bringing untold millions in new profits to the capitalists while at the same time actually reducing the living standards of the workers.

A New Stage of Struggle
A new stage in the struggle—new methods and forms of struggle—this is already the lesson of the strikes now going on. The solidarity strike of the Minneapolis building trades workers shows that the workers are beginning to recognize their power and use it. Kept down and split up by the A. F. of L. bureaucrats, the workers, are in spite of this, forging the bonds of solidarity and moving to more general strikes embracing various industries.

The strike of the seamen in support of the striking longshoremen, the restlessness of the Toledo workers who already are fighting side by side with the Auto-Lite workers

on the picket line, the mass solidarity movement of the workers in Buffalo in support of the striking aeroplane workers, all these are indications of the new stage of the struggle.

The workers of Toledo have also shown that there are abundant methods for the carrying on of the struggle. Not only have they developed militant mass picket lines but they were able through their siege of the plant to drive out the scabs.

The new stage of the struggle, the growing stubbornness of the workers, their courage and self sacrifice can be seen from the fact that neither the police, the armed company thugs or even the National Guard could succeed in breaking the spirit of the workers and their resistance.

Open Government Attacks

With the sharpening of the struggle the bosses and the government are throwing off all their democratic pretense and making open war on the workers. The steel trust already in the most provoking manner, full of contempt for the workers, relying on the armed force of the government announces that it will deal only with the company unions. President Roosevelt and his lieutenants openly side with the bosses. The A. F. of L. leaders are doing nothing to prevent the slaughter of men and women who are fighting for their elementary rights, who resist the attacks of the master class. The bosses and the government are preparing new and more brutal attacks on the workers.

Brothers! We must organize OUR forces to meet this attack. Every struggle of the workers must

Minneapolis and Other Strikers, Betrayed by A. F. of L. Leaders

receive the support of every worker and of every workers' organization. We must organize and develop protest and solidarity strikes to increase the power of resistance of the fighting workers. A defeat at this time of any section of the workers means more severe attacks against all workers. A victory of any section of the workers will have the effect of defeating the attacks of the bosses generally.

Fellow trade unionists, workers organized and unorganized; everywhere adopt resolutions of protest against the murderous terror in Toledo and elsewhere. Demand the immediate withdrawal of all troops from the strike areas.

A. F. of L. workers, send resolutions of protest to the A. F. of L. Council demanding that they take steps to bring the whole of the organized workers into action in support of the strikers. Demand that the A. F. of L. Council place its whole treasury at the disposal of the striking workers to help them in their struggle.

Can Win Through United Front

The workers unitedly through common action can put a stop to the menace of the company unions, can enforce the right to strike, can beat down the compulsory arbitration plan of the bosses and the government, can win the right to organize and strike for better wages and conditions. If the workers would control their own unions and bring them into action they could win their demands.

What stands between the workers and victory is the A. F. L. leadership that serves the interests of the bosses. We urge the workers in the A. F. L. unions, in every industry and locality to take matters into their own hands, and organize the fight for the needs and rights of labor.

We call upon the membership of the T. U. U. L. unions everywhere to come to the assistance of the striking workers, to give them all possible support, through picketing, financial assistance, mobilization of the entire communities in support of the strikers.

We call upon all T. U. U. L. organizations to support the fight of the workers who are fighting for recognition of A. F. of L. unions and to help them gain their demands.

We urge the workers in all the unions, jointly with the unorganized and with all workers' organizations, to call conferences in every locality for the purpose of strengthening the fighting forces of the workers.

Fearing that National Guardsmen will not shoot down the strikers in their own community, the bosses

New Jersey Relief Applications Soar

NEWARK, N. J., May 24.—Relief cases showed a marked increase in New Jersey from March to April according to an announcement by the F. E. R. A. The following statistics on the larger cities give an indication of the situation as it stood last month. At this time it is apparent that relief cases are continuing although the figures will not be available until next month.

	March	April	Percent Increase
Camden	6,080	7,553	24%
Elizabeth	1,172	2,608	123%
Jersey City	7,307	11,822	62%
Newark	16,573	22,688	37%
Paterson	2,256	3,341	48%
Trenton	2,754	4,231	54%

are mobilizing them from other towns. This requires that everywhere where they are being mobilized they be reached and shown how the bosses are using them against their own brothers. Demonstrations should be organized at such mobilization points.

Our immediate concern is the support to and the winning of the strikes now going on.

We must already now mobilize all possible support for the coming strike of the steel workers, which can become a struggle of the greatest significance to the workers of this country.

Brothers, trade unionists, workers everywhere!

Forge the bond of the unity of labor!

For the right to organize!
For increased wages!

Against company unions and compulsory arbitration!

For the right to strike and picket!

Against the bosses' murderous terror!

Organize protests, solidarity actions and strikes in support of the demands!

National Executive Board,
Trade Union Unity League.
WM. Z. FOSTER, Gen. Secy.

Lewis Acts as Speed-up Agent For Coal Bosses

Miners Must Produce 12 1/2 P.C. More or Be Fired

By ANNA ROCHESTER

WHEN the president of the United Mine Workers opened his successful drive for shorter hours at the February conferences for the renewal of the Appalachian wage agreements he held out to the doubting employers the promise that the reduction in the length of the working day would entail neither decrease in efficiency nor in productivity.

"The implication was plain that labor could mine as much coal in seven hours as had been produced heretofore in eight hours. This is by no means inconceivable, and members of Mr. Lewis' organization clearly owe it to their union to redeem the pledge of their chieftain." (Coal Age, May, 1934. Our emphasis.—Ed.)

So that is what Mr. Lewis promised in those private conferences with the coal operators, when no rank-and-file miners were present—that the miners would speed up to produce as much coal in seven hours as they formerly produced in eight! This would be a 12 1/2 per cent increase in the speed-up.

That the operators will try to force miners to carry out Mr. Lewis' promise of speeding-up, is clear from editorials and articles in Coal Age. In an editorial on "scheduling," for efficiency, this trade journal advises:

"Set a day, set an hour—that is the basis of efficiency. By changing the force, work to be speeded can be brought to conform to schedule, if the boss knows just what the job takes with a normal force."

Does this advice mean the firing of older miners who cannot keep the pace? "Changing the force" to "conform to schedule" clearly involves the firing of slower workers.

A BROAD STATEMENT from the President of JACKFIN CO.

For many years, the Jackfin Clothing Co. has manufactured fine clothing for men selling as a wholesaler to the better class stores throughout the country, also, cater-

to assist you in making suitable selection of your clothing needs.

4 The personal attention of the president of this company is offered each pur-