

PLEDGE SUPPORT OF FOOD UNION

A.F.L. "Organizer" Is Exposed in Cleveland

At an enthusiastic meeting which packed the hall Friday night, over 150 Cleveland food workers pledged their support to the newly organized local of the Amalgamated Food Workers. Over a score of workers joined the union at the meeting.

Brief talks were made by Jack Rose, organizer of the union, and Tom Johnson, organizer of the Trade Union Educational League, and the floor was then thrown open for discussion. Worker after worker described the terrible conditions of the Cleveland restaurant workers, and of the need for organization.

In the middle of the discussion, Spiegel, business agent of the local Cooks and Waiters Union, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, asked for the floor. It was granted and Spiegel launched into a tirade against the new union. He was quickly howled down by the crowd and member after member of his own union took the floor to point out that Spiegel and his outfit have done nothing to organize the bulk of the Cleveland restaurant workers, confining themselves to organizing a few cooks and waiters in the higher class hotels and downtown restaurants.

One cook told how he had applied three times to join the union and was not admitted because he happened to be working in a small Greek restaurant which the union officials told him was "too small for them to bother with." Spiegel attempted to defend his policy of organizing the Negro workers in separate locals, but was then forced to admit that no attempt was being made to organize the Negro food workers even in separate locals.

A Negro worker took the floor and showed that Spiegel lied when he stated Negro workers would not join the union, and that Negro workers were unorganized because no effort was made to organize them.

At the conclusion of the meeting over a score of restaurant workers signed applications for union membership.

The Cleveland local of the Amalgamated Food Workers was organized May 5 and already has a membership of well over 100. The union meets the first and third Fridays of each month at 226 West Superior Ave., Room 306. Night workers meet the first and third Sundays at 10 A. M. at the same place. The union urges every Cleveland food worker, no matter what branch of the industry he or she works in, to join and attend the union meetings.