

FILIPINO LABOR CARRIES ON BIG GENERAL STRIKE

Quit Sugar Plantations In Hawaii

By JAY LOVESTONE

(Special to The Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A general strike of all Filipino laborers on the sugar plantations in Hawaii is now in full swing. Jacinto G. Monahan, president of the National Confederation of Tenants and Farm Laborers in the Philippines has been called for help by Manlapit, Filipino strike leader in Hawaii. All the workers and farm tenants in the Philippines are rallying to the support of their Hawaiian brothers.

There are today about 40,000 Filipino workers in Hawaii. Most of these are employed on the sugar plantations and are joining in the wholesale walkout.

According to a manifesto just issued by the workers' leaders, the following are the demands of the strikers:

1. Minimum wage of \$2 for each laborer per day.
2. Eight hours a day work.
3. One and a half pay for all overtime; double time wage for all work on Sundays and legal holidays.
4. Equal compensation for men and women engaged in the same kind of work.
5. Proportionate increase in wages of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.
6. Abolition of all forms of bonus.
7. Recognition of principle of collective bargaining and the right to organize for mutual benefit and protection.

U. S. Governor A Sugar Baron.

W. R. Farrington, United States Governor of the territory, who has been sojourning in Washington, is one of the most powerful sugar barons here. The workers are ruthlessly exploited, tho Farrington, having in mind merely his class interests has just reported Hawaii to be highly prosperous. The workers are compelled to live in hovels and are particularly strong in their opposition to the fake turn out bonus of 10 per cent for laboring 25 days a month and a profit sharing bonus dependent upon the fluctuations of raw sugar on the New York Exchange.

Bonus System Denounced.

Geo. W. Wright, president of the United Workers of Hawaii, has thus roundly denounced this fake bonus system in a letter to the head of the Hawaiian sugar planters' association:

"Your bonus system is all bunk, any you know it. You are forcing them (the workers) to gamble with thier unpaid quota of wages on the fluctuations in the price of sugar. They give their day's labor and you pay them for half a day and let the rest of their wages with yourself that the price of sugar stays down. If it does, you win, and keep their money; if it goes up, you lose the bet and pay them back a part of the other dollar they have loaned! But even that does not come out of your pocket; the consumer pays it many times over in the increased price of sugar! It is safe to gamble for you, like loaded dice, or marked cards. Your bonus system is a crooked, dirty game to rob your laborers!"

The Filipino workers are in a hard struggle. They are counting on the fullest possible moral and financial support from their brothers in the Philippine Islands and in the United States, where the sugar barons have their headquarters.