The Wage-Cut Drive in Full Swing in N. Y.

By JOSEPH ZACK, Secretray

It is quite obvious that the capitalists are quickly following the lead of the U. S. Steel Corporation in all industries. Within six weeks of the announcement of the wage cut in steel, we have the wage-cut move on the railroads, a wage-cut of 30 per cent announced by the Building Trades Employers' Association, to take effect on Dec. 1, wage-cuts in textile trades of 10 to 30 per cent, a move by the printing bosses to eliminate all restrictions on speed-up in this industry in order to reduce costs. In fact, everywhere we have the wage-cuts in one form or another either announced or in effect.

These drives will be affecting the overwhelming majority of the workers in New York before the year is up.

The workers are not accepting the wage-cuts without resistance. Thus far the resistance has been particularly strong among the unorganized workers. We had wage-cut strikes in the food, metal and paper box trades, affecting a total of 4,000 unorganized workers, all of which, led by the T.U.U.L., resulted in the withdrawal of the wage-cuts. The outstanding defeat in the anti-wage-cut strikes in the New York District has been the full-fashioned hosiery workers, who, betrayed by their own officials, had to submit to a wage-cut of 40 per cent. The betrayal in this case was particularly effective, due to the total absence of a T.U.U.L. group in that union.

On the whole, the new wage-cutting offensive which followed the U. S. Steel Corporation, has not yet hit the organized trades with strong T.U.U.L. organizations. The only attempt thus far has been on the waterfront, where the bosses, fearing our influence, signed up with the A. F. of L. union, withdrawing the wage-cut, but getting other things equivalent to it from the International Longshoremen's Association officials, with Ryan at the head.

The A. F. of L. unions in the building, needle and food trades are rapidly declining in membership and morale, while the T.U.U.L. unions have been increasing greatly in influence. The last few months registered an increase of 2,000 members per month, a distinctly favorable sign for our movement, reflecting the new fighting mood of the workers.

Statement of the Trade Union Unity Council of Greater New York