Steel Workers Sold Short

Phil Murray, President of the CIO steel workers, carved himself a niche in the halls of infamy the other day when he agreed to extend the present labor contract with U. S. Steel for 2½ months, to April 30th. The agreement says that the question of retroactive pay will be taken up later, but there is no guarantee that the workers will get back pay for those 2½ months. Chances are that they will only get a portion of that back pay, if any at all.

The steel corporation immediately repaid Murray for his good turn by proposing that the new contract provide for an "open shop" — workers can quit the Union or refuse to join. This is the strike-breacking formula that Big Steel used in the 1920's to smash the Union.

CLASS COLLABORATION

That Murray is doing a good job for Wall Street is reflected in the stock market prices. After months of spiraling downward, stocks have been going up for a couple of weeks, based on "optimism" in the market that there will be "labor peace". In other words the employers feel certain that Murray will pull the missiles out of the fire for them this year, just as he did last year—only better. Last year, Murray agreed to an 18½c raise, which cost the steel corporations $350,000,000 in returns; the same companies were given price boosts amounting to $450 million, and their 1946 profits were therefore much higher than the year before.

Today Murray is bending over backward to "avoid a strike". It is safe to assume that this old labor skite will give up everything but the kitchen sink.

Murray's behavior forms a pattern that all labor skites will follow. From the point of view of Wall Street it is like manna from heaven. From the point of view of the steel worker, however, it is a nasty shock in the back. Collective bargaining must be taken out of the hands of the labor lieutenants of capital, such as Murray, Green, Lewis & Co., and put into the hands of the rank and file militants who follow a class STRUGGLE policy.

London Truckers Fight Labor Gov't

The strike of London's truck drivers a few weeks ago is a mere indication of the unrest amongst British workers throughout industry. The truckers engaged in a strike in which "their" Labor Government opposed them, using 8,000 soldiers and sailors as scabs, and their union leaders opposed them by siding with the bosses and the government. The truckers were merely striking for a demand which is current amongst the whole British Labor movement. They wanted a shorter working week of 44 hours and guaranteed pay for that week.

The government which is dominated by many trade union leaders and many self-called"friends" of labor uneasily called out the army and navy to scab. These capitalist agents were fearful that workers throughout the isles would support the truckers with sympathy strikes, and rightly so, for many workers even a few hundred miles away in Glasgow, Scotland went out in sympathy with the truckers.

Slowly the British workers are learning that only through another General Strike can they take the first step towards solving the demands of not only one group or a strike, but the working class as a whole.

The workers of Britain are weighed down by their Labor Party Government in its attempt to suppress the class movements of the working class everywhere.

The Fighting Worker

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Truman's Plan for "Good Times": More Work Less Pay

In Truman's economic message to Congress on Jan. 8, 1947, he spoke about "blending all practical programs in a program toward the goal of ending depression."

Truman's message dealt with many issues among which were housing, social security, rent controls, and world trade. His message was, for the most part, a reiteration of this old stale formula of Franklin Roosevelt, but it lacked the polish of that clever spellbinder and faker per-excellence.

On the question of housing the message is as thin and platitudeous as on every other important problem. Said Mr. Truman: "To reduce the cost of housing . . . we (the government) must start as promptly as possible a long range housing program."

Then, in order to make the program work, Mr. Truman went on to say: "If the government's program turns out to be 1000% more effective than its past performance, it would still supply only 10% of the current income groups with housing."

"INCREASED PRODUCTION"

Truman's comments on labor's demands are on par with most of his other airline observations. For its own advantages as well as that of the country at large, labor should refrain from demands for excessive wage increases that would require price increases . . . ."

It seems that nowadays when a labor faker or an office boy for big business wants to sell labor a reactionary bill of goods it is always for "labor's own good". Truman, ever ready to increase the boasted profits of his business offers labor the advice that the solution to higher living standards lies in "increased productivity"

A glance at a few facts will serve to show that Truman's message is an apology for a capitalist class geared with super war profits and unwilling to give up anything without a battle.

In an analysis made by the National City Bank it was disclosed that for the last quarter of 1946 the first 350 big corporations to report their profits showed an increase of 70% over the corresponding quarter of 1945.

The President of Labor Statistics in a recent release states that consumer prices went up 16.8% (from April 1945 to October 1946) while purchasing power went down 16.7% in the same period. According to these figures wages would have to go up at least 33.5% in order to keep in line with the increased cost of living.

Despite all this Truman, the incompetent office boy of Wall St. has the insufferable gall to tell labor not to ask for "excessive wage increases".

ARGUMENT A MYTH

As for Wall St.'s argument that increased productivity more than balances higher living standards, that is a malicious myth which is not supported by the historical record. Anna Rochester, dealing with this question in her book "Bullies of America" says: "The workers' output per man hour of labor has been sharply increased both during the post war boom (World War II) and since 1929. It has been pushed up by actual increase in productivity and by speeding up and intensifying the worker's labor. Even during prosperity there was no proportionate increase in wages to the individual workers or to the working class as a whole."

The figures of the National Industrial Conference Board confirm her argument to the hilt. According to their estimates (from 1923 to 1929) the average manufacturing output per man increased by 23%; the yearly output per worker increased by 21%, while total payrolls increased only 4%. From 1929 to 1933 the output per worker, because of a sharp decline in average working hours, fell by 3%; total payrolls decreased by 58%. In both these periods, the hourly return to the wage worker bore no relation to his increased output per man hour. From 1923 to 1929, the average hourly wage increased 9%, against a 20% increase in output that increased by 23%; from 1929 to 1931 the wage (Continued on Page 2)

CAPITALIST "PLANNING"

Here is as good an example as one could want of capitalist planlessness. In Washington, D. C., Ralph E. Burleson found a 6 room flat for his wife and seven children. But at the last minute they were barred from moving in. Why? It seems that regulations governing this low-cost housing unit he was to occupy prohibit over-crowding. So Burleson and family remain in their present location—a ONE room flat. God Bless American!
TWO STANDARDS OF JUSTICE

The roles of the courts as an arm of the ruling class were recently illustrated in Elizabeth, N. J., with the utmost clarity. A Union County jury rejected charges against 17 workers and local union officials, based on their activities in the Phelps Dodge strike several months before. Sixteen of the workers were members of the Phelps-Dodge Steel Workers CIO; the other was a young girl who spoke at a strike rally on the subject of "world peace." She is being held for "inciting to riot." Mayor Ray Kellogg also spoke at this strike rally, but for some strange reason he was not indicted. County Judge Edward McGrath slapped $15,000 bail on the 17 workers. The day before, however, this same judge turned loose Anthony Anastasia, notorious member of Murder, Inc., a defunct Brooklyn mob, on a bail of only $2,000. Anastasia was bribed by the Phelps Dodge Company for strike-breaking activities. He had been charged with assault on strike Bert Eckstein, who was wounded during the strike. Another picket,Mario Anastasia, father of three children and ex-serviceeman, had been killed by the strike-breakers.

The same grand jury, however, which indicted the laborers of Local 441 UEL refused to indict the murderer of picket Russo — returning a vague John Doe charge.

TWO STANDARDS

The paid killers of the ruling class are thus either let loose or punished, to Chinle murder get you off with $2,000 bail; but strike picketing and speaking at strike meetings bring charges of "inciting to riot" and large bail! This attitude of the courts is nothing new: it was used in the coal fields, the lead and lumber strikes and many others. The ruling class always use THEIR courts against workers.

The Stalinnist talk of control the IBEW called the Phelps Dodge Co. a "brassen" corporation, in their official paper UE News. They termed the trial a "spite" trial. This is deliberate lying and misrepresentation. All corporations are brassen and will remain so, except where independent workers action forces them to be otherwise.

And these trials are not "spite" trials at all, but are the whole machinery to intimidate workers away from independent militant action.

The Stalinnists talk about "brassen corporations" and "spite" trials paves the illusion that there are "good" capitalists and "bad" capitalists.

The fact of the matter is that the whole capitalist system is guilty of a brassen attitude — exploitation — of the masses, and of constant use of the courts, the government and above all the police and army, against the masses to keep them in subjection.

LONDON STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

Two of the more important workers strikes in recent years have been those of the workers in the shipbuilding and engineering industries. These strikes were fought against the shipowners and the government, and were won by the workers.

The British experience is TYPICAL of all so-called "Labor" Party governments. The Labor parties are trying to extend the service they give capitalism in the unions.

In the face of all kinds of talk about disarmament, it is surprising to note that the DEFEAT-ED nations such as Italy, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania are not permitted to keep substantial armed forces, under terms of the first five "peace" treaties. Italy is to be permitted to keep a military machine of 275,000 men; Hungary 70,000; Bulgaria 63,700; and even Finland, 41,800. This is in addition to various other armed forces.

One can readily understand why the VIC- TORIOUS powers are refusing to disarm: they are evidently bent on preparing for new wars. But why are the DEFEATED nations encouraged to keep substantial military forces?

The answer can be found in a recent speech by John Foster Dulles, leading Republican ad- viser to Arthur Vandenberg and Tom Dewey. Before making this speech Dulles had discussed the matter with these two gentlemen and also with President Truman.

Dulles warned that there is a "double-bartered" challenge from the Soviet Union—"social revolution throughout the world" and "nationalistic expansion. The latter has been effectively carbied this last year, but social revolution "the ideological barrel" is still loaded and aimed. "In most of the world," says Dulles, "effective popular leadership is in the hands of persons with whom I am sympathetic to Soviet Communist dec- trines."

This is the "danger" we face in 1947, according to this bourgeois spokesman. The danger of war is not the most important phenomenon facing us; the danger of Revolution is a potent threat which must be dealt with immediately by the U. S.

Here, therefore, is an explanation of the "peace" treaties. Italy, Rumania, etc. are being armed to fight against their own working masses! The imperialists prove once again their willingness, if not their greed, to subordinate private interest to the public's interest, we shall be driven deeper and deeper into political war which may become a civil war."

And whose interest does he deem the public? The public surely does not mean the working class because their interests are in contradiction to his. No, the public Mr. Richberg represents and refers to is the ruling class, the capitalists, the rich, the powerful. And it is this rich, powerful class that the workers attack the independent labor leaders. This attack, however, is only a smoke screen for the main object of the capitalists. No, not the labor leaders who, as a majority, have been under the control of capitalism and operate in the working class organizations as lieutenants for the ruling class. (Lewis, Murray, Green). Yes it appears that the workers are awakening to the part played by these labor fakers and the capitalist system as a whole. And these labor lieutenants will not be able to control as fully in the future as they have in the past. So Mr. Richberg thinks now is the time to apply the complete force of the state against labor legislation backed by armed forces of the city, state and Federal Government.

Next he mentions this civil or political war. He could be more to the point and say Revolu- tion. But that is a horrible word to the Rich- bergs, Du Ponts, Rockefellers, Fords and the ruling class and their agents as a whole. Yes, the ruling class and their servant Mr. Richberg, see the handwriting on the wall. They are talking of "civil war" in order themselves to prepare for Fascism. In America, the working class will fight Fascism.

Wo, too, must prepare — for communism! Only the Protestant Revolution can Defeat Fascism.

Richberg Predicts "Civil War"

In Philadelphia, recently, Donald Richberg, one time General Counsel of the NRA, said: "Today the workers and their unions are in a position to wage strong curbs are placed on labor. Unless the gigantic power of labor leaders are cut down and the Unions and their officials are cut down to subordinate private interest to the public's interest, we shall be driven deeper and deeper into political war which may become a civil war."

While it is true that historically there has been a parallel development between increased production and higher living standards, the capitalist always demands that the workers should have the increased standards have been and are a by-product of a bitter STRUGGLE between worker and boss.

MILITANT ACTION NEEDED

In the coming period the working class will hear more and more of the virtues of in- creased production and of many incentive plans (prizes, vacations, etc.) If there is no difference between them and the government movement itself. Both Truman and Yufit, by slightly different methods are preparing for this same end.

The coming crisis puts on the agenda of the day the need for (1) a 30 hour week with no decrease in wages. (2) Increases in wages over and above the rise in the cost of living. (3) Every shop a union shop. A united trade union movement on a class struggle basis. (5) The development of a nationwide progressive rank and file movement in the trade union.

A fight for these things will show the working class in life that even these partial demands can't be won and kept under the capitalist system. More and more the workers of America will come to understand that only the socializing of the means of production under working class rule can solve its problems. Every capitalist politician will be the truth that capitalism itself is the obstacle in the way of any social progress for mankind.
Trotzkyites in the Elections for Mayor

In Chicago the Schachtmanites (Workers Part-
y) are running a candidate for Mayor, Albert Goldman. If anyone wants an object lesson in how Marxists should NOT conduct themselves in bourgeois elections, the Goldman candidacy offers that lesson. In a printed circular the WP states that Goldman is running to give workers of Chicago an opportunity to register their PRO-LABOR convictions. This is a typical reformist catchphrase. Revolutionary Marxists participate in elections to give workers a chance to register their ANTI-CAPITALIST convictions. We participate in elections to educate workers to the fact that those who vote are a force and that ONLY the overthrow of capitalism can gain for us our demands.

Marxists emphasize as their main point in all election campaigns that capitalism must be destroyed. That is why Marxists do not support candidates of other parties — we try to make it clear that our programs can NOT be solved by bourgeois elections. Goldman, however, confines his whole program to immediate demands, housing, transit, schools, taxes, Negroes, etc., as if to say that such programs CAN be solved under capitalism.

The program gives that implication through-
out. You are asked to vote for Goldman if you realize that workers must organize polit-
ically as well as economically, and must act independently of the employers and their two parties. “To uninitiated workers this may sound "radical," but those who have been thru the mill of a Goldsmith or advocat-
ing another THIRD CAPITALIST PARTY BASED ON THE TRADE UNIONS AND THEIR LABOR SKATES. Furthermore, the W. P. election program promotes the capitalist government based on such a “Labor” Party.

CENTRISM IN ACTION

The Goldman candidacy is typical of centrist. It even calls on workers to vote for candidates simply because they are “Union men.” It should be recalled that Richard Daly, Democratic can-
didate for sheriff, was a “Union” man, and was endorsed by the labor unions because he was a Teamster. Innumerable Democrats and Repu-
ticans are “Union” men — carry cards in trade unions. Is that a basis for supporting them?

Goldman and his Workers Party are delib-
erately sowing confusion, deliberately dividing workers with the idea that they can solve their problems in bourgeois elections. It is signi-
ficant that while Goldman calls for so-called “In-
dependent” political action, he nowhere speci-
fies the need for strike action, demonstrations, an Revolution as the means of solving our problems. There are a few abstract words about socialism, but these are so few that the real weight of the program is on reformist measures.

A Marxist Party running a candidate would point out that:

1.—The whole electoral system is a farce.
2.—That we are running candidates merely to expose the system.
3.—That the only way to solve the housing crisis, school crisis, wage crisis, Negro crisis, etc., is by INDEPENDENT MASS ACTION.
4.—That if we are elected we would do every-
thing to arm the workers, disarm the police, provide for adequate defense by the working class against their oppressors.
5.—That the only solution to our basic problem is the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

1. Capitalism can not be reformed. The profit system can only bring more misery, war and depression.
2. We are therefore opposed to all reformist parties, including the Labor Party, which strive merely to patch up the present capi-
talist system.
3. We are for independent working class action on all fronts, starting from strike action at the point of production and lead-
ing up to the revolutionary destruction of capitalism.
4. We are for full equality for all oppressed minorities, for the right of self-determina-
tion for all colonies.
5. We defend the Soviet Union. Reestablish a Marxian Party, Soviets, Trade Unions and Armed Workers Militias to accomplish the Political Revolution against the Stalinist bu-
docracy. Extend the October Revolution throughout the world.
6. For a Revolutionary Marxian Party in the United States and a New Fourth Communist Interna-
tional on a world scale.
7. For the establishment of workers control of production for use under a workers council government.

OTHER PEOPLE’S MONEY

The capitalist lickspittles never tire of telling us that America is owned by the people. American Tel & Tel brags in paid advertise-
ments about the fact that its stock is litera-
tly owned by hundreds of thousands of people. “Who says”, they argue, “that the big corpo-
rations are controlled by a handful of people? All the little people, including thousands of workers, own stock in the company.”

This capitalist myth was again exploded re-
cently when the newspapers announced that the up and coming railroad tycoon, Robert B. Young, had just won control of the New York Central Railroad. How much stock did it take to gain control? Only 4.8% of the total number of shares issued. The hundreds of thousands of shareholders own a few shares, but their vote is meaningless. Young, who now owns only one out of every twenty shares is the actual ruler of this gigantic empire.

The story is even more fantastic. Cyrus Eaton, Young’s spokesman, pointed out that the hub of Young’s empire was the Alleghany Cor-
poration. This corporation, in turn owns 6% of the stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio rail-
road (which gives Young control). In turn C & O, by similar shenanigans, owns the Nickel Plate road and Pere Marquette.

Strange things are going on in Local 788 UAW-CIO. The Local leadership, under Stanley Solak and Ernie Herbst, shows a strange reluctance to collect about $5,000 coming to the war, because of the no-strike policies of the “453” leadership and its do-nothing tactics. At that time the Union had a militant leadership under a bricklayer named Joe Zurst. Before the war ended, however, the new Local 788 was given an 18 month run around for wage increases. The UAW international representative, Al Green, helped this process along by first giving up all dollars and wages increases and then stalling matters for months. The result was that the old administration of Solak’s strengthened by returns from the army, got back into the business.

Solak and Herbst are evidently hell-bent on going back to the discredited Local 453. They are doing everything in their power to smooth the way.

The Solak administration is very much like the Local 453 administration. Money is being spent left and right. Solak decided recently to build a Union office. So far $5,700 has been spent on this venture and a one story shack is coming into existence. Even an optimistic estimate would place the value of the shack itself as negligible. It is made of green lumber which will soon warp and its construction is shoddy according to all experts. By some odd coincidence the contractor for the job happens to be Stanley Solak’s own brother! Workers of “788” are beginning to wake up again. The effect of the Solak group can be felt in settlement of grievances, where the workers no longer get the break they previously received. A new and stronger opposition is bound to develop.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIGHTING WORKER $1.00 PER YEAR
METER WORKERS HIT RED TAPE
with Mass Action

Chicago, January 28. — A strong picket line is still the best answer to legal red tape. A few days ago the situation for the Miller Meter, 835 N. Wood St. strikers looked dim. The strike had been on for about two weeks, ever since 12 of the leaders in the plant had been fired. The strikers had been forced to accept an election to the 160 workers in the plant on the flimsy ground that the International Association of Machinists (which is scabbing and playing employer's role) has a contract to next November 1st.

The promised support by the CIO Steel Workers had given the Miller employees a charter after their trouble started, wasn't panning out. Even the picket signs carried by the strikers, made of plain brown cardboard with crayon writing, indicated that the workers were being neglected all around.

About seventy scabs were going into the plant daily now. Each morning and each evening there were 25 parked cars and 50 L.A.M. automobiles to trolley lines and elevated stations in a body. On Friday, however, a mass picket line made the first big dent in the morale of the scabs. The police, in violent anger, arrested 26 of the workers. Yesterday, another mass picket line scared the daylight out of the Company, the scabs and the police. It was not so much the actual scabs as the young men who carried blackjacks—paid strike-breakers. The police arrested 30 strikers, but the Company was forced to close the plant until “further notice.” The 30 arrested strikers, thus have won their first big victory.

TAKE THINGS INTO OWN HANDS

The difficulties at Miller Meter began early in the month. A contract with the L.A.M. provided for recognition as a closed shop, but the workers in the plant were dissatisfied with the way the L.A.M. officials were handling the matter.

They attempted to take things into their own hands, but the L.A.M. and the Company locked heads and fired the leader of the employees. A strike then developed and the strikers went over to the CIO Steel Workers for help. After a few days this strike was settled and the Company agreed to recognize the union for bargaining to the CIO Union. A few days later, however, when a committee of twelve workers (all war veterans) came in to see the Miller management, they were denied access. "They have no right to come," said one manager, and operators "and tighten them without another word.
The second strike then ensued.

The CIO appealed to the Labor Board for an immediate election, but the NLRB ruled that since there was a contract in force it could not order an election. The Company issued a statement that there was nothing it could do—it was prohibited by law from dealing with the CIO under the circumstances. This is just another case to prove that the Labor Board, instead of protecting workers rights to organize into a Union of their own choosing, tightens them.

GIVE OUR FIGHTING WORKER

Two comrades of the B.W.L. distributed FIGHTING WORKERS to the strikers last week and gave them the reception that workers invited the comrades to come in and help in the strike. Unfortunately, however, the CIO bigwigs were informed of this situation and immediately put the company to a black-out. The incident did have one good result, nonetheless: the CIO was forced to become more active in behalf of the strikers themselves, and a year later than three years ago.

It remains to be seen what will happen next. The meter workers, however, have won a big victory: and if they keep it up they will force management to deal with the rank and file leaders, rather than the gang of scabs that the Company wants to impose on them.

JURISDICTION FIGHTS

PROVOKED BY N.L.R.B.

In his "State of the Union" speech, President Truman called for legislation against jurisdictional disputes. Actually, however, the capitalist government is only of creating more jurisdictional disputes than any thousand labor leaders.

In July 1948 the United Grocery Workers, Local 229 AFL, a militant local which has made amazing progress since May 1948, asked the Labor Board for a quick election for a group of 10 candy factory workers at Hillman's. At that time no other Union was involved in the situation. The Bakery and Confectionary Workers AFL claimed jurisdiction of this plant, but they had no members and could offer no proof of an "interest." The duty of the Labor Board very obviously was to order an election immediately and settle the bargaining agent.

But that of course would be too simple. The "liberals" in the capitalist government decided to give the other Union about 8 weeks time to try to organize the place; after two such elections the Board refused an election. The Board then called a conference and asked all parties if they would agree to an election. The Company and Local 229 agreed, but the A.C., a small 20 strong Workers refused — they needed time to try to organize the place.

The matter dragged on from July clear to January 14th, when Local 229 finally won the Labor Board election. In the meantime, however, the Hillman Company saved itself months of higher wages and shorter hours, and the workers were harrased and disunited by the violance of the employers and their hired hands.

If Mr. Truman wants to see what is the cause of jurisdictional disputes let him look to the capitalists who deliberately provoke jurisdictional strife in order to divide workers, and to his own government machinery which likewise aids and abets jurisdictional squabbles.

PORTAL TO PORTAL PAY

During the war the government faced the problem of giving a raise to the 500,000 coal miners, who were out on strike; while at the same time devising a legal clock that would keep the Little Steel formula intact, thus precluding other workers from getting wages in increases.

The formula arrived at eventually was "portal to portal," payment to miners for the time spent going down shafts and getting to their place of work.

The "portal to portal" formula, however, has not worked out in practice to the satisfaction of an responsible bourgeois Judge in Michigan has ruled that other workers — in this case the workers at St. Miliam's Pottery — are also entitled to more for the time spent in preparing for or travelling to work. The result has been an avalanche of labor suits, under the fair labor standards act, to recover 4 billion dollars in back "portal to portal" pay.

There can be little question that workers should be paid for time spent changing clothes, traveling, etc. Such time is obviously spent in the interests of the employer. The chances of workers getting these things through the present law suits, however, is exceedingly remote. The prostitute press is raising a howl from the mining executives who are just back some of the sovven profits of the lush war years. The capitalist Congress is preparing a law to eliminate these law suits, or if that can't be done to keep the workers out of court and the legal bigwigs are appealing the cases to the Supreme Court. Their argument is that workers spend considerable time during the war — going to washrooms, smoking, paid for lunch periods in some places, etc. — that should be DEJUCTED from wages, if the Court rules that portal to portal pay should be added.

NO PROTECTION IN WAGNER ACT

If a landlord wants to evict you from your home, he can get an eviction notice in a couple of days. If a boss wants to fire you, he does it in two minutes — without asking anyone's permission. But if a worker demands that his boss carry out the provisions of the supposed "pro-labor" Wagner Act, it takes him thirteen months before he even begins to get a hearing. In the meantime he can starve to death, for all the legal aid he can get from the courts.

In October, November and December 1945, 70 workers of Samuel Bingham & Sons in Chicago were out on strike for nine weeks. The Company is said to have long been strike-breakers and scabs — in violation of the federal law — but no one did anything about it. One of these men fell down the subway stairs one day and immediately the police picked up the two leaders of the strike. Nielsen and Hoffamin — the former the President of Local 120, United Rubber Workers CIO. At the same time, because of the building of a new building of its of its building, caught fire one night; Hoffamin was immediately arrested and put thru a lie-detector test on charges that an "armed bomb" was thrown. As was to be expected the charge proved to be false and Hoffamin was never prosecuted. The other charge, however, continued to hang over them.

The strike was finally settled and Hoffamin went back to work "without prejudice." Carl Bingham, President of the Company, agreed to drop the charges against Hoffamin, but conveniently forgot to do so, and Hoffamin's lawyer gave him the foolish advice not to appear in court but to accept a plea of technical "guilt." Hoffamin then agreed to drop the charges.

"DISORDERLY CONDUCT"

Bingham, however, immediately seized on this situation to fire Hoffamin on the grounds that he was a "criminal." When the Union committee went in to see Bingham he readily admitted that he himself had instructed of similar "crimes" of "disorderly conduct" and had also been fined $1 for speeding. He went so far as to state that even if the judge he found Hoffamin "not guilty" he, Bingham, would have fired him because he considered Hoffamin guilty.

The upshot of the whole matter was that the case went to the National Labor Relations Board in January 1946. Since that time the board has been deciding whether Hoffamin was properly fired for union activity? Even a fourth grade idiot could answer that question, but the legal wizards in the labor board deliberately cloak the truth with a thousand bits of red tape and legalistic hogwash.

Thus the Labor Board, which is supposed to protect workers rights to belong to a Union, in reality does more to hinder the employers' anti-Union policies a legal cover.